

Eligibility Criteria and Conditions of Awards

We cannot consider your application if you do not satisfy all eligibility criteria and conditions of MS Australia awards.

We cannot provide a grant if you receive funding from another source for the same purpose (see section 1.4).

1. Who is eligible to apply for a grant?

To be eligible, research must be conducted within an Australian institution, although up to 10% of the research can be conducted at an international research institute (e.g. to learn a new technique). This ruling excludes the Ian Ballard Travel Award.

The Chief Investigator and Supervisor must hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency and be based within Australia prior to the funding period commencing. This is typically 01 January of the next calendar year, except for Round 1 Incubator Grants, which typically commence 01 August of same calendar year. Co-Applicants and Co-Supervisors do not require Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency to be eligible.

2. Who is not eligible to apply for a grant?

Your application will be ruled **ineligible** if:

- 2.1. A researcher is named as Chief Investigator on **more than one MS Australia grant** application within the calendar year (i.e. a researcher can only be named as Chief Investigator on one application to MS Australia per calendar year). This includes applications for Project Grants/Trish Translational Research Project Grants*, Postdoctoral, Senior and Paired Fellowships, and Ian Ballard Travel Awards. *This limit does not apply to Incubator Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships or Targeted Call Grants.*
- 2.2. The researcher is named as a Chief Investigator, Co-Applicant or Supervisor/Co-Supervisor on **more than three** MS Australia grant applications within the calendar year. This includes applications for Project Grants/Trish Translational Research Project Grants*, Postdoctoral, Senior and Paired Fellowships, and Ian Ballard Travel Awards. *This limit does not apply to Incubator Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships or Targeted Call Grants. Additionally, this limit does not apply to Associate Investigator roles on any grant application, or Referees providing a recommendation for an application.*
- 2.3. Researchers named as Chief Investigator who do not have Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency, or an applicant listed as Supervisor does not have Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.
- 2.4. The Chief Investigator will be conducting the research overseas for the duration of the grant.

- 2.5. The Chief Investigator and/or any Co-Applicant proposes to use MS Australia-awarded funding to support overseas research activities, including funding projects or salary costs outside of Australia.

3. Chief Investigator

Chief Investigators who are based overseas for the duration of the grant are **not** eligible to apply. However, the Chief Investigator can spend up to 10% of the funding period overseas (e.g. to learn a new technique). Please note that funding **cannot** go towards travel, with the exception being the Ian Ballard Travel Award.

As Chief Investigator, you are responsible for ensuring that you, Co-Applicants and Supervisors/Co-Supervisors adhere to the following:

- 3.1. The Chief Investigator listed has not been listed as Chief Investigator on any other MS Australia grant application submitted within the current calendar year. *This limit does not apply to Incubator Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships or Targeted Call Grants.*
- 3.2. Each researcher has been named as Chief Investigator, Co-Applicant or Supervisor/Co-Supervisor on a total of no more than **three** applications within the calendar year. *This limit does not apply to Incubator Grants, Postgraduate Scholarships or Targeted Call Grants.*
- i. Example 1: A researcher may wish to be named Chief Investigator on **one** Project Grant/Trish Translational Research Project Grants*, Co-Applicant on **one** Project Grant/Trish Translational Research Project Grants* and Supervisor/Co-Supervisor on **one** Postdoctoral Fellowship. If a researcher is named on these **three** applications within the calendar year, they cannot be named on any other applications as Chief Investigator or Co-Applicant within the calendar year. If the researcher is found on **four or more** grant applications within the calendar year, the application will be rejected and not considered.
 - ii. Example 2: Alternatively, a researcher may wish to be named Co-Applicant on **one** Project Grant/Trish Translational Research Project Grants* and Supervisor/Co-Supervisor on **two** Postdoctoral Fellowships. If a researcher is named on these **three** applications within the calendar year, they cannot be named on any other applications as Chief Investigator or Co-Applicant within the calendar year. If the researcher is found on **four or more** grant applications within the calendar year, the application will be rejected and not considered.
- 3.3. The Chief Investigator actively working on the project must hold Australian or New Zealand citizenship or permanent residency.

3.4. * **Project Grant/Trish Translational Research Project Grants ruling:**

- 3.4.1. The Trish Translational Research Project Grant may be applied for as a **joint submission** under the same application as MS Australia's Project Grant, provided the application meets the Trish Foundation Selection Criteria (see section 5.2 below).
- 3.4.2. The Trish Translational Research Project Grant and MS Australia's Project Grant **must not be submitted separately**. Submissions made under separate grant IDs will not be considered.
- 3.4.3. A joint submission of MS Australia's Project Grant and the Trish Translational Research Project Grant will be counted as **ONE (1) application** towards the maximum of THREE (3) applications permitted per calendar year.

Please note that the two named researchers for a Paired Fellowship application are **both considered Chief Investigators** and this counts towards each person's single Chief Investigator limit and the researcher's three application limit.

4. Additional Eligibility Requirements and Conditions of Awards

Your application may also be ineligible and not considered if it breaches other requirements as set out in each grant award. This includes the following:

- 4.1. The application is not submitted by the specified date.
- 4.2. The application is not approved by the host institution's Grant Office by the specified date. **Please note:** *It is the Chief Investigator's responsibility to ensure that the Grant Office receives the grant application in time to submit it before the deadline.*
- 4.3. The research proposal and CVs do not comply with the formatting requirements and page limits.
- 4.4. The proposed research duplicates research that has been previously funded by MS Australia or another source.
- 4.5. The application includes any incomplete, false, or misleading information.
- 4.6. The research proposal is not consistent with the strategic aims of MS Australia's research program.

5. Eligibility and Conditions by Award

The eligibility requirements and conditions for each award are different. Please see specific award conditions below.

5.1. MS Australia Project Grant

5.1.1. Funding Details: The MS Australia Project Grant is awarded for up to three years to support research that advances the understanding, prevention, treatment and cure of MS. The grant seeks to enable researchers to pursue innovative projects that can lead to breakthroughs in MS research.

- **Eligibility:** Chief Investigators actively working on the project must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (permanent residency status to be confirmed by January of the year the grant is commencing).
- Be undertaking research at an Australian research institution.
- Use the grant for salaries, project costs and consumables essential to the project within Australia. Funds may not be used for travel expenses or conference attendance.

5.1.2. Funding limit: Maximum awarded funding of \$400,000 in total for up to three years, with an annual range of \$50,000 to \$200,000.

5.2. Trish Translational Research Project Grant

5.2.1. Funding Details: The Translational Research Project Grants will be awarded to Australian researchers undertaking high-quality translational MS research which demonstrates clear evidence of translational research capacity and is aimed to address the unmet needs of people living with progressive MS. This grant is specifically a Translational Research Project Grant, which must address the Selection Criteria below:

- Applications must be aligned with the funding principles of the Trish MS Research Foundation.
- Applications will need to include at least one collaborator with a strong track record in MS research and/or the clinical management of MS, and the collaborative team will need to demonstrate the required multi-disciplinary expertise to complete all elements of the study.
- Applications involving commercial partners, where relevant, are encouraged.
- Applications involving investigators from other disease fields are encouraged.
- The Translational Research Project Grant must demonstrate direct relevance to the prevention and/or reversal of disability in MS, and be aimed to address the unmet needs of people living with progressive MS. Applications solely addressing the

control/suppression of inflammatory relapses in MS **will not be considered.**

- Applications must demonstrate a clear, feasible pathway for clinical implementation.

5.2.2. Eligibility:

- Chief Investigators actively working on the project must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (either of these conditions must be fully met before taking up the grant in January of the following calendar year).
- The research must be conducted within an Australian institution.
- Chief Investigators who are based overseas for the duration of the grant are not eligible to apply.
- The project is to be consistent with the Trish MS Research Foundation's goal of pursuing a cure or preventive strategy for MS and with the selection criteria described in the funding application.

5.2.3. Funding limit: Maximum awarded funding of \$400,000 in total over two-three-year period.

5.3. MS Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship

5.3.1. Funding Details: The MS Australia Postdoctoral Fellowship is awarded for up to three years and provides salary support for early career researchers working in the field of MS.

5.3.2. Eligibility:

- The Chief Investigator and Supervisor must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (permanent residency status to be confirmed by January of the year the fellowship commences).
- Undertaking research at an Australian research institution.
- Within 10 years post-PhD at the start date of the fellowship, calculated from the date of the PhD acceptance letter and considering relative to opportunity.

Final-year PhD students may also apply, provided they have officially received their PhD by January of the fellowship start year.

5.3.3. Funding Amount: Salary of \$40,000 to \$100,000 per annum available for up to three years.

5.4. MS Australia Senior Fellowship

5.4.1. Funding Details: This prestigious award is available to established researchers who are potential leaders in the MS research community. The goal is to provide the security and funding support for these individuals to lead a team in MS research. Candidates are expected to have an established and verifiable track record in MS at a national and international level.

5.4.2. Eligibility:

- The Chief Investigator must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (permanent residency status to be confirmed by January of the year the fellowship commences).
- Be undertaking research at an Australian research institution.
- Have completed a PhD or MPhil.

5.4.3. Funding Details: This grant provides a full-time salary for a Senior Research Fellow, with a maximum of \$130,000 per annum for up to five years.

5.5. MS Australia Paired Fellowship

5.5.1. Funding details: The MS Australia Paired Fellowship facilitates innovative clinical research by providing salary support for a Senior Research Fellow and dedicated research time for a Clinical Fellow. This collaborative initiative aims to accelerate translation of research outcomes into clinical practice. Within the three-year period of the grant, the research should identify or validate at least one intervention that will significantly improve the lives of people living with MS and demonstrate significant progress towards clinical translation and/or implementation of an intervention.

5.5.2. Eligibility:

 Applicants must:

- Be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (permanent residency status to be confirmed by January of the year the fellowship commences).
- Be undertaking research at an Australian research institution.
- The Senior Research Fellow must have completed a PhD or MPhil and the Clinical Fellow must have completed a medical degree (MD, MBBS, or equivalent).

5.5.3. Funding Amount: A pro-rated \$250,000 per annum for three years. For example, this can be allocated as \$150,000 per annum for the Senior Research Fellow full-time, and \$100,000 per annum for the Clinical Fellow.

5.6. MS Australia Postgraduate Scholarship

5.6.1. Funding Details: These scholarships are granted to students who plan to undertake a PhD or are currently undertaking a PhD at an Australian university, working in the field of MS. Successful Postgraduate Scholarships for both rounds will commence in January the following year.

5.6.2. Eligibility:

- The applicant and Supervisor must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (permanent residency status to be confirmed by January of the year the scholarship commences).
- Be planning to undertake a PhD or are currently enrolled in a PhD program at an Australian higher education provider.

5.6.3. Funding Amount: The scholarship stipend is up to \$40,000 per annum for up to three years.

5.7. MS Australia Incubator Grant

5.7.1. Funding Details: Incubator grants provide seed funding for the early stages of innovative new research efforts, with the aim of generating preliminary data needed to support future grant applications. There are two rounds of Incubator applications. The research is expected to be completed within a year from the date that the grant is awarded. Successful grants from Round 1 will commence funding in August/September of the same year, while successful grants from Round 2 will commence in January the following year.

5.7.2. Eligibility:

- The Chief Investigator must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents (permanent residency status to be confirmed by time the grant commences).
- Be undertaking research at an Australian research institution.
- Have research experience.
- Use the grant for project costs, consumables and personnel essential to the project within Australia. Funds may not be used for travel expenses or conference attendance.

5.7.3. Funding limit: Maximum awarded funding of \$25,000 for one year.

5.8. Ian Ballard Travel Award

- 5.8.1. Funding Details:** Ian Ballard Travel Awards are intended to enable recipients to undertake an international travel tour with the aim of extending and collaborating on their MS research specialty. This award cannot be used to fund attendance at conferences.
- 5.8.2. Eligibility:** This award is specifically for MS researchers. Applicants must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand.
- 5.8.3. Funding Amount:** The award is up to \$25,000 and travel is expected to be completed within one year of receiving the award. Duration of travel is typically 8 weeks or less.