

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://aoarf.grantplatform.com> to apply.

Early Career Researcher (ECR) Grant

ECR grants are for AOA trainees and Fellow members in their first seven years of consultant practice. ECR grants are capped at \$10,000.

Applications for the 2026 grant and scholarship round open at **1 April 9:00am AEDT** and close at **5.00pm AEST on 30 April 2026**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Important: Applications are only open to AOA members (full, affiliate or associate/AOA trainees). Please ensure the person listed under the "Applicant Full Name" field is an AOA Member and Lead Investigator.

[2026 Grant Application Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria](#)

[John Owen PhD Pathway Scholarship Guidelines \(AOA Trainees\)](#)

[AOARF PhD Scholarship Guidelines \(AOA Fellows\)](#)

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact us on (02) 8071 8021 or email research@aoa.org.au

Applicant full name

AOA Member ID

Please enter your AOA Member ID. If you have forgotten your ID, please contact research@aoa.org.au

I confirm that I meet the eligibility criteria for this grant/scholarship

Application Guidelines are updated annually, please ensure you have carefully checked the eligibility criteria and guidelines as applicable here: <https://aoarf.org.au/aoarf-research-grants/>

Applicant information

Applicant email address

Applicant phone number

H-score

H-score proof

Please provide a link to your H-score on Google Scholar.

CV



Please upload a PDF copy of your CV, including research experience, publications, presentations and qualifications.

Hours per week devoted to this project

Hours per week devoted to other research projects

If you are involved in other research projects, please list those projects here. (optional)

Do you grant permission for the AOARF or VOF to make your grant application available to view on the AOARF or VOF website?

Yes

No

The AOA Research Foundation maintains an online repository of high quality applications to help new researchers develop grant-writing skills. Applications are only accessible to AOA members and all contact information is removed prior to upload.

Project description

Project title

Please note: To ensure a fair and transparent assessment process, applicants must not submit the same or a substantially similar project under multiple applicants during the grant round.

Duplicate or overlapping submissions will be deemed ineligible.

Project type

Administering Institution

Please enter the institution that will be administering the grant if successful.

Institution at which the research will be conducted (optional)

If different to administering institution

Department/Faculty (optional)

Project start date

Estimated project end date

Aims of the project

500 words

Project background

1500 words

Research plan

1500 words

Please ensure that your research plan includes participant inclusion/exclusion criteria and a plan for identification and mitigation of potential risks.

Relevant references

1000 words

Supporting documentation may include figures, charts and other visual materials. (optional)



Applicants may upload graphical material here to support their application (i.e. figures, charts and other visual materials). Please do not upload any further written material as the reviewers will not consider it. The written component of your application should be fully explained within the provided form fields. Please do not exceed 1 page. Maximum file size is 5MB.

Research team

Please list all other investigators on this application. Click the green 'Add Investigator' button below to add an investigator.

In order to be eligible for funding, at least one other investigator (aside from the lead investigator) MUST be an AOA member.

Please be sure to spell names correctly.

Research team members

Investigator name	Investigator job position	Email address	AOA Member ID (if applicable)	H-score	Role on the project
1					

Team quality and capability

1000 words

Please outline the quality and capability of the research team in relation to the project.

Relevant information includes:

- Relevant expertise and qualifications of team members
- Previous research outputs, awards and grants
- Contributions to the research discipline (e.g. committee or policy work, speaking invitations, journal reviewing or editorial positions)
- Representation of diverse groups and early career researchers

Budget

Total funding amount requested

Regular grants = up to \$30,000

Early career researcher grants = up to \$10,000

In general, funds can be allocated for:

- a part-time salary of a research assistant but not for salaried employees of research institutions, and
- consumable items and inexpensive items of equipment essential to the conduct of the research, and
- publication fees (proof of publication will be required).

Expensive pieces of equipment (greater than \$10,000) **cannot be funded** unless it is shown they will be used by an orthopaedic research group over a long period. At least two quotes for the purchase of such items must accompany the grant application.

Funds are **not** available for:

- full-time personal secretarial assistance
- personal computers
- items considered standard equipment for any research institution
- any on costs from the grant administering institution will be required to come out of the total amount awarded by AOARF, which is the responsibility of the recipient and the administering institution to manage.
- travel expenses.

Budget breakdown

Item category (personnel, lab, equipment)	Brief item description	Amount	Priority
1			

Justification of budget

1000 words

Please provide justification for each budget item requested. Items without sufficient justification may not be funded.

Other funding

Funder name	Amount	Other funding (requested or received)
1		

Please list any other funding that has been received or requested for this project, including any previous funding from the AOA Research Foundation.

Applicants who fail to declare other funding sources on their application will be deemed ineligible.

Ethics and Intellectual Property

Does this project involve experiments on human subjects?

Yes

No

Please upload proof of ethics approval (optional)



Please note that provision of funding is contingent on provision of proof of ethics approval for the project.

Important: Evidence of ethics approval will need to be supplied by the grant recipient within one year of receiving the grant offer. If approval is not supplied within one year, the grant offer will be referred to the AOA Research Foundation Board for review and may be withdrawn.

Does this project involve experiments on animal subjects?

Yes

No

Have you or do you intend to seek intellectual property rights in research?

Yes

No

Will the research institution concerned, if any, apply for the intellectual property rights in the research?

Yes

No

Will the research institution concerned be amenable to discussing intellectual property rights arising from the research with the AOARF?

Yes

No

Supporting material and Certifications

How to complete and upload your certifications:

1. [AOA Certification Template](#) - please download this template, complete and upload in the space provided.
2. Only ONE certification document is required to be submitted with the application.
3. Applicants are required to use the supplied AOARF certification template. No other templates or letter certifications will be accepted. **Failure to use the supplied template will result in the application being marked as ineligible.**
4. Upload as JPEG or PDF file. Maximum file size is 5MB per file uploaded.
5. Please do not upload any further written material as the reviewers will not consider it. The written component of your application should be fully explained within the provided form fields. Supporting documentation including figures, charts and other visual material should be uploaded under the section titled: "Project Description".

Important certification requirements:

1. **The certification document must be signed by EITHER the Head of Department OR Head of Institution (OR nominee) at the applicants University or Public or Private Hospital.**
2. **Private institutes are not acceptable. The letter cannot be signed by any of the investigators listed in the application.**
3. **Acceptable nominees:** If the Lead Investigator/Co-investigator/s as listed on the application form is also the Head of Department/Institution then a supervising officer (e.g. Program Director or Laboratory Director) or a Chair of an Ethics committee or Institution where operations are performed (if any) may act as a nominee.
4. **No follow up of certifications will take place** once your application has been submitted. Applicants will need to ensure that all certifications have been checked for accuracy and completion prior to upload. Any applications that do not provide correct or complete certifications will be deemed ineligible and will not proceed to the marking stage.
5. As guidelines are updated annually, please also ensure you have carefully reviewed the current [AOARF Guidelines](#) prior to submitting your application.



Head of department OR Head of Institution (or nominee) certification

Please download, complete and upload the certification template linked [HERE](#)



Each application **MUST** upload ONE signed certification document using the AOARF letter template provided [HERE](#).

- Only one certification letter is required.
- The letter must be signed by either the **Head of Department OR Head of Institution (or nominee) at the applicants University or Public or Private Hospital.**
- **Private institutes are NOT acceptable.**
- **Exclusions:** The letter cannot be signed by any of the investigators listed in the application.
- **Please note:** no follow up of certifications will take place once your application has been submitted.
- Applicants will need to ensure that all certifications have been checked for accuracy and completion prior to upload.
- Any applications that do not provide correct or complete certifications will be deemed ineligible and will not proceed to the marking stage.

Applicant Declaration

In submitting this application, I declare that:

- The information submitted in this form is true and accurate.
- I have read, understood and agree to abide by the [2026 AOARF Grant Application Guidelines, Eligibility and Assessment Criteria](#).
- I have read and understood the [Grant Agreement](#), which I will be asked to execute if this application is successful.
- If and where any personal details of a third party are included, the third party has been made aware of, and given their permission for, those details to appear in this application.
- I give consent to the AOARF to publicise the name of the applicant and the research project, should this application be successful.
- I acknowledge that if successful in being awarded a grant by the AOARF, I am required to submit annual progress reports (by 31 August) to the Foundation.
- I acknowledge that if successful in being awarded a grant by the AOARF that I am required to present my research project at the Australian Orthopaedic Association Annual Scientific Meeting or Australian Orthopaedic Association Branch Annual Scientific Meeting or other such forums/meetings, as deemed appropriate by the Foundation.

I have read and agree to the terms above