



Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations

Are you passionate about a career in diabetes research?

Want to access a world-class network of research professionals, and training resources?

Apply for an ACADI PhD grant!

Introduction

The Australian Centre for Accelerating Diabetes Innovations (ACADI) is a virtual collaborative diabetes centre, initiated in 2022, uniting over 70 partners spanning all Australian States and Territories and four international sites.

Our purpose is to deliver novel interventions for the timely diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diabetes and its complications. We want to improve the quality of life for the 1.8 million Australians living with diabetes by enabling innovations addressing priority diabetes complications.

Opportunity

ACADI is offering two PhD grants to students enrolled full-time in a PhD at an ACADI core partner institution, whose work aligns with ACADI's three research priority areas:

1. Diabetic kidney disease
2. Peripheral neuropathy and diabetic foot syndrome
3. Short-term complications of hypoglycaemia and/or hyperglycaemic hyperosmolar syndrome (HHS) and diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA).

Objectives

The objectives of the funding are to:

- Support PhD students at the beginning of their careers in research related to diabetes and its complications, who demonstrate the motivation to make a difference to the field of diabetes.
- Provide small grants to assist with the establishment of a PhD student's career.
- Build a PhD student's track record to enhance competitiveness in bidding for research funds.
- Provide a PhD student with the opportunity to establish connections with industry partners and accelerate the development of research from bench to bedside
- Provide funding for PhD students working on projects that are strategically aligned with ACADI's three priority areas.
- To help achieve ACADI's vision to deliver novel interventions for timely diagnoses, prevention and treatment of diabetes and its complications.
- Grow a national network of diabetes researchers.

Funding available

\$31,200 allocated for a 12-month period. The grant will be paid directly to the PhD student to contribute to living expenses.



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Applicant eligibility

Applicants can apply from any field, though they must:

- Hold or have confirmed PhD candidature at an ACADI core partner – listed below:
 - Australian National University
 - Deakin University
 - Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd
 - Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
 - Menzies School of Health Research
 - Queensland University of Technology
 - RMIT University
 - University of Adelaide
 - University of Melbourne
 - University of New South Wales
 - University of Queensland
 - University of South Australia
 - University of Sydney
 - University of Tasmania
 - University of Western Australia
 - Western Sydney University
- Be working on a research project related to ACADI's three key priority areas.
- Be no further than two years (FTE) into a PhD candidature by February 2023
- Be an Australian citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Have written confirmation from the Supervisor that the project, and related consumable expenses, has pre-existing funds allocated.

Application eligibility

Applications must be submitted via ACADI's SmartyGrants application portal.

Selection committees will only assess application material that adhere to word or page limits. Any excess material will not be provided for review by selection committees.

Successful applicants will not be eligible in future years.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received funding from any sources, however applicants (with some previous or current funding are eligible to apply and the significance and relevance of any previous funding held will be considered by the selection committee).



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Application Process

Applicants will be required to submit:

- A 2 page Resume/CV.
- A 2 page research project plan, including references.
- Answers to the following questions:
 - Research proposal – what is the research trying to achieve?
 - How will the project accelerate diabetes innovations?
 - How does the project intend to work with industry, academic or health partners?
 - The potential and timeline for the project to be translated into clinical practice.
- Two written academic references, including contact details.
- Details of other PhD funding sources (existent and pending)
- Academic results

All documents uploaded must be in Times New Roman size 12 font, with single line spacing.

Applications will not be checked after submission for completeness or eligibility; this is the responsibility of the applicant. Ineligible or incomplete applications will be excluded and not considered by the Committee.

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed on:

- 1. The Quality of the Research Project Plan (60%):** The primary assessment criterion for an ACADI PhD grant is the quality of the project plan, and how successfully a candidate has addressed the specified subheadings. Consideration will be given to the likelihood that the research proposed will lead to:
 - A demonstrable conceptual advance
 - An important discovery, innovation or solution to the treatment of diabetes or its complications
 - A contribution of economic or social benefit to Australia
 - Ongoing research collaboration with an external government organisation or industry.
- 2. Alignment with ACADI's three key priority areas (20%):** The relevance of the candidate's research project to ACADI's three key priority areas will be considered.
- 3. Academic record of the student and work experience (20%):** A copy of the university academic transcript must be uploaded. Relevant work experience will also be considered.

Evaluation and assessment

ACADI recognises that diversity is critical to driving successful organisations, and more specifically that diversity is critical for ACADI activities to be developed appropriately and delivered to benefit all of those impacted by diabetes and its complications.



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The selection committee will review the applications based on the merit of the applications in accordance with the selection criteria.

The selection committee will decide on the final recipients to be awarded the grants.

Timetable

- Friday 11 November 2022 – Applications open via SmartyGrants
- Friday 16 December 2022 - Applications close via SmartyGrants
- March 2023 - Notification of grant outcomes

Reporting Requirements

- The successful PhD grant recipient will be required to provide a written report to ACADI on the outcomes of their research project within 1 month of completion of the award (unsatisfactory final reports will be referred to relevant Heads of Department/Schools and/or Associate Deans for comment or follow-up action. Please note that failure to provide this report by the deadline may result in future applications to ACADI research programs being ruled ineligible).
- The final report must be approved and co-signed by the recipient's supervisor before submission.
- Summaries of PhD grant projects and final reports may be used externally or published by ACADI.
- Successful applicants are expected to provide appropriate acknowledgment of ACADI support when communicating research outcomes, including all publications related to research carried out during the term of ACADI award.

Contact us

Any questions?

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