



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 Early Career Researcher (ECR) grant!

Introduction

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

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

Opportunity

ACADI's research aligns with the three key 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).

ACADI is offering Early Career Researcher grants to Early Career Researchers (ECRs) whose work aligns with the above priority areas.

Objectives

The objectives of the funding are to:

- Support ECRs in the early stages of their career in research related to diabetes and its complications, who demonstrate clear evidence of high research potential and motivation to make a difference to the field of diabetes.
- Provide small grants to assist with the establishment of an ECR's career.
- Build an ECR's track record to enhance competitiveness in bidding for research funds.
- Provide an ECR with the opportunity to establish connections with industry partners and accelerate the development of research from bench to bedside
- Provide funding for ECR's 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.



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Funding available

\$40,000 allocated for a 12-month period. The grant will contribute directly to the specified research activity specified in the Research Proposal and Budget submitted with the application, in accordance with the grant conditions.

Applicant eligibility

This scheme targets ECRs who have been awarded a PhD within the last 5 years, from the date of 30 December 2017, and before submission of this ECR application. The award date of a PhD refers to the date specified in the letter received notifying that a PhD has been passed, and must be uploaded with the application.

Applicants who have had career interruptions or who have worked in an academic research organisation for less than 5 years FTE and received their PhD before 30 November 2017 may submit an eligibility exemption request (EER).

Applicants can apply from any field, though they must:

- Be working on a research project related to ACADI's three key priority areas.
- Be an Australian citizen or Permanent Resident.
- Be either an honorary member of an ACADI core partner, *or*
- hold or have a confirmed future appointment for a salaried (fixed-term or continuing) academic appointment of at least 0.4FTE at an ACADI core partner, that begins 1 March 2023 or earlier;

ACADI's core partners are:

- 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



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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).

Application Process

Applicants will be required to submit:

- A 2-page Resume/CV
- A 2-page research project plan.
- 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 grant funding sources (existing and pending).

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 ECR 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.



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- 3. Track record and work experience (20%):** The employment history with relevant work experience of the candidate will 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.

The selection committee will rank and list these 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

Budget Items

Budget items supported:

Items that directly support the research program may be funded, including:

- Personnel;
- Relief from other duties;
- Equipment;
- Maintenance;
- Travel;
- Conference registration fees when presenting or meeting with collaborators;
- Publication fees – only for peer reviewed PubMed listed journals.

Budget items not supported:

Funding may not be sought or used to fund the ECR's salaries and/or on-costs.

Funds will not be provided for the following purposes:

- Fees for Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) or Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) liabilities;
- Costs not directly related to research or the project;
- Funds that duplicate or supplement another current grant or research contract;
- Salaries for research collaborator(s). This does not include salaries for research support staff or technical support staff.



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- Society membership fees.

Conditions of grant

- Grant offers must be accepted by the ECR and their Head of Department/School by means of a fully completed and signed Acceptance Form.
- The ECR is responsible for the project, its concept, the strategic decisions called for in its pursuit, and for the communication of the results.
- The ECR will be the contact person for all administrative matters to do with the project.
- The grant should be regarded as a 'one-line budget'. The ECR is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of the grant is broadly in accord with the budget presented in the application and consistent with the nature and aims of the specific project approved and the objectives of the scheme.
- Funding is for one year only. Funds must be expended 12 months after the award date.

Reporting requirements

- The successful ECR will be required to provide a written report to ACADI on the outcomes of the funding within 1 month of completion of the ACADI ECR 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).
- ECRs are expected to demonstrate how the funding built their research capacity and contributed to broader research themes and linkages.
- The final report must be approved and co-signed by the recipient's supervisor before submission.
- ACADI will follow-up with an annual request for a career update by the ECR for up to 3 years post-funding.
- Summaries of ECR grant projects and final reports may be used externally or published by ACADI.
- The ECR is required to provide a financial report. Any unspent funds at the conclusion of the grant period must be relinquished.
- 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?

acadi-grants@unimelb.edu.au