

NACE PhD Scholarship Submission Package for research commencing in 2027

OBJECTIVES

Hosted at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE) is Australia's peak allergy research body. Australia is considered the allergy capital of the world with eight million people living with drug, food, insect and respiratory allergic disease. The NACE aims to generate the tools and resources needed to accelerate allergy research and improve the lives of Australians living with allergic disease. Four pillars underpin the NACE national plan of action: Transforming Allergy Care, BioRepository and Discovery, Evidence and Translation, and Training and Innovation. Within three years of inception, NACE has been recognised as an Advanced Research Centre by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and a Centre of Excellence by the World Allergy Organisation.

Under the Training and Innovation Pillar, the NACE are fostering the next generation of allergy researchers. NACE support for PhD students is for scholarship stipend combined with training through NACE/CFAR training days, opportunities to strengthen their PhD projects and presentation skills through NACE leadership including stream co-chair feedback as needed, Consumer Advisory Group input, Stream and NextGen (early career research network) opportunities and the opportunity to access travel grants to present PhD project outcomes to conferences and workshops.

The NACE are offering PhD scholarships to applicants to complete a high impact PhD project developed by a NACE Pillar and/or Project Lead that addresses a critical knowledge gap in allergy research, and that are aligned to and leverage existing NACE projects.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a NACE PhD scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Graduates with minimum Honours degree - or equivalent - in the fields of molecular, biological and medical sciences, population health and statistics, data linkage, health economics and health care policy OR
- Healthcare professionals, including - but not limited to - allergy/immunology or respiratory trainees/fellows, general paediatricians, dietitians, pharmacists, nurses and other allied health professionals
- Successful completion of Honours or Master by PhD start date
- Be eligible to enrol in a PhD program at the proposed host institution
- Be an Australian citizen, or hold an eligible Australian residency status
- Driven to be part of Australia's next generation of allergy researchers
- Be a NACE member – [join here](#).

Applications for all candidates will be shared with the Primary Supervisor of each project to assess the applicant's suitability score. This score will contribute 20% of the overall application score, with the review panel assessing the remaining 80%. Refer to the Assessment Criteria section for more information.

NACE_PhD Submission Package 2026_25AUG2026

National Allergy Centre of Excellence
Murdoch Children's Research Institute
50 Flemington Road, Parkville, Victoria 3052 Australia

www.nace.org.au | nace@mcri.edu.au | +61 399 366 752 | @NACEresearch



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The applications for all candidates will be reviewed by a single review panel comprising of the Pillar 4 Lead and two independent experts.

Table 1: NACE PhD Scholarship – Independent review panel assessment criteria.

Criteria	Points
Academic Record (including) - Undergraduate/graduate degree, i.e. WAM, GPA - Honours result (Honours H1, H2) - Master by Research/Coursework Degree - Relevant professional qualifications including specialist medical qualifications	40
Research Experience and Track Record (Including publications and professional references)	20
Personal statement on interest in topic	20
Suitability scoring by Primary Supervisor	20
TOTAL SCORE	100

A summary of reviewer ranking will be compiled by the NACE Program Management Office (PMO) and shared with the Pillar 4 Lead with recommendation for the highest ranked candidate for endorsement.

In the event of very close candidate ratings, between 1%-3%, further discussion and endorsement of the final candidate will be facilitated by the Pillar 4 Lead with the Primary Supervisor and Pillar Lead.

The Primary Supervisor will confirm their acceptance of the recommended candidate, prior to final approval by the NACE Director.

Where the Primary Supervisor does not accept the candidate recommended through the competitive assessment process, they must advise the NACE PMO in writing within 5 working days of receiving the panel's recommendation for endorsement, stating the reason for their decision.

In this event, the NACE Director and Pillar 4 Lead will determine, in consultation with the Primary Supervisor and Pillar/Project Lead, whether to readvertise the same project for a new selection round or substitute an alternative project.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

NACE PhD Scholarship funding will only be awarded following the approval of candidature at your enrolling institution. NACE PhD scholarship stipends will be awarded for a maximum duration of 3 years full-time. Additional student support available, such as travel grants and training opportunities will end on the day the thesis is submitted for examination or at the end of agreed period; whichever is earlier. The award may be terminated if the award holder fails to make satisfactory progress and is unable to provide reasonable explanation.

For funding commencing in 2027, the NACE PhD Scholarship stipend rate is in line with NHMRC guidelines and outlined below. The stipend for full-time enrolment is provided tax-free under Section 23(z) of the Income Tax Assessment Act. Please note that NACE PhD Scholarships only provide a stipend, no funding for consumables, software, activity costs etc.

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Salary Support Packages for funding commencing 2027	\$ per annum
Postgraduate Scholarship Stipend	\$53,299

Once granted, successful applicants are encouraged to apply to competitive funding bodies such as NHMRC for scholarship support. If successful, NACE PhD scholarships may be converted to a top-up of up to \$10,000 annually.

Should your application be successful, NACE PhD Scholarship recipients are required to:

- Submit progress reports annually, or more frequently if requested. Reports will be assessed to ensure satisfactory progress.
- Acknowledge the NACE on all arising research outputs including but not limited to, publications, conference abstracts, presentations and media related to the NACE supported PhD work as per the NACE Publications Guideline.
- Contribute to relevant NACE meetings/working groups, as required.
- Attend NACE training and capacity building days remote or in person (NACE will provide additional travel funding, if required).
- Present research findings at a minimum of one relevant conference (NACE will provide additional travel funding, if required).
- NACE PhD Scholarship recipients are permitted to:
 - Obtain external funds for fieldwork, equipment or other research expenses not covered by the award.
 - Obtain external funding for travel or training related to your research.
 - Submit grant application/s for PhD support or associated PhD research project costs
- Send NACE copy of your thesis examination certificate upon completion of your PhD studies.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, candidates must complete the NACE PhD Application Form ([click here](#)) by **12 October 2026**.

Candidates will be required to upload the following as part of the application form:

- Evidence of Australian citizenship or Australian residency status (scan of original document or certified copy)
- Copy of academic transcript
- Copy of CV
- Additional supporting document detail (optional)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to: nace@mcri.edu.au.

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