



# Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists

Guidelines

Research Engagement Grant Scheme

*Bursary and Grant Funding Opportunities*

FIDE ET DILIGENTIA

## Contents

1. The AIMS Research Engagement Grant Scheme .....	2
2. Priority Themes and Topics of Investigation .....	3
3. Eligibility Criteria.....	3
4. Grant Review Panel.....	3
5. Funding Opportunities, Application Requirements and Final Outcomes.....	4
5.1. Grants Supporting Final Year Students and Recent Graduate Members.....	4
5.1.1. Scientific Communication Bursary.....	4
5.2. Grants Supporting Undergraduate and Postgraduate Research Degrees .....	5
5.2.1. Honours Research Bursary .....	5
5.2.2. Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Master (by Research) Seeding Grant.....	5
5.2.3. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Researcher Seeding Grant .....	6
5.3. AIMS Fellowship Bursaries .....	6
5.4. Clinical or Research Laboratory Grants .....	7
5.5. Education and Leadership/Management Grants .....	7
6. Ethics Approval .....	8
7. Acceptable Use of Grant Funding.....	8
8. Incomplete Funding Outcomes .....	8
9. Intellectual Property (IP) Ownership .....	8

## 1. The AIMS Research Engagement Grant Scheme

The Australian Institute of Medical and Clinical Scientists (AIMS) is the peak body for medical laboratory scientists and pathology staff in Australia. In this role, AIMS has a long history of providing and financially supporting quality education and continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities including the AIMS Fellowship Program. AIMS offers conferences, scientific meetings and workshops at the international, national, branch and division levels. AIMS also produces a quarterly publication, the Australian Journal of Medical Science (AJMS) which has been in continuous circulation since July 1936, making it the longest running journal in Australia that uniquely covers all fields, disciplines and professions in medical laboratory science with contributions spanning clinical and scientific research, technical and professional aspects of medical laboratory science and pathology. In 2017, the AIMS membership classifications were expanded to include a Member (Research) category to recognise members with or working towards a higher degree qualification (PhD), who conduct research within a medical laboratory science or pathology related field. Rapid advances in medical science, instrumentation and technology, combined with the acceleration of translational research into routine practice is compelling members, employers and the wider pathology sector to acquire and develop research skills for the workplace, through postgraduate research programs, attendance of workshops or advanced training opportunities. In response, the Research Engagement Grant Scheme (REGS) was introduced by the AIMS Executive. It aspires to engage and support scientific communication, AIMS Fellowship candidates and research-oriented medical laboratory scientists through annual bursary and grant opportunities to encourage pathology-related research and CPD.

Funding Opportunity	Eligibility	Value (AUD)
Scientific Communication Bursary	Graduate or final year student enrolled in an <a href="#">AIMS accredited program</a>	4 x \$500
Honours Research Bursary	Candidates enrolled at a university preferably offering an <a href="#">AIMS accredited program</a>	3 x \$1,000
Master of Philosophy or Master by Research Seeding Grant	Candidates enrolled at a university preferably offering an <a href="#">AIMS accredited program</a>	2 x \$2,500 or 1 x \$5,000
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Research Seeding Grant	Candidates enrolled at a university preferably offering an <a href="#">AIMS accredited program</a>	2 x \$5,000 or 1 x \$10,000
AIMS Fellowship (Stage 4) Bursary	Candidates enrolling in or undertaking Stage 4 of the AIMS Fellowship	3 x \$2,000
Clinical or Research Laboratory Grant	Medical laboratory scientists with an acceptable* science degree	2 x \$5,000 or 1 x \$10,000
Education or Leadership & Management Research Grant	Medical laboratory scientists with an acceptable* science degree	2 x \$5,000 or 1 x \$10,000

\* Acceptable science degree as defined in the [Guidelines for Membership of AIMS](#)

## 2. Priority Themes and Topics of Investigation

Applications are invited from members studying, working and researching any aspect(s) of medical laboratory science and pathology practice, at any level or stage of study or career (student, graduate, early-, mid- and late-career). While all applications and project proposals will be considered, preference will be given to those intending to conduct research in the areas listed below:

- Employment outcomes for graduates of Australian MLS programs and AIMS accredited overseas programs.
- Inappropriate use of pathology services, e.g., under- or over-utilisation.
- Workplace training and staff competency, e.g., program evaluation, systems and approaches.
- New ways to provide CPD and education opportunities, particularly in rural settings.
- Development and evaluation of new assays and test methods.
- Pre-analytical and post-analytical processes and reporting.
- Incorporation of new technology and tests into routine testing; or
- Application of new molecular testing platforms into the routine laboratory.

## 3. Eligibility Criteria

### 1. All applicants ***must meet the first criterion below:***

- You must be a member (Fellow (FAIMS), Clinical Scientist (CSAIMS), Member (MAIMS), Member (Research), Member (Single Discipline), Graduate, Intermediate, Technical Associate or Student) or eligible for AIMS membership in at least one of these classifications.

**Note:** The applicant does not have to be the Project Leader or Chief Investigator, however, they must be a key member of the proposed team conducting the research, and if successful, must provide supporting documentation from the Project Leader or Chief Investigator acknowledging and confirming acceptance of the grant outcome requirements and conditions.

### 2. And ***meet at least one of the below criteria***, i.e., you are;

- A final year student, enrolled in an AIMS accredited degree (Bachelor or Master), or you graduated from a relevant degree no more than 12 months ago.
- Enrolled in an Honours degree program, a Master (by Research), a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program, or enrolled in an Honours program, and undertaking or planning to undertake a research project related to medical laboratory science or pathology. The project would ideally be conducted at, or in collaboration with, a university offering an AIMS accredited program.
- Planning to enrol or already enrolled in Stage 4 of your AIMS Fellowship.
- Conducting research at, or in collaboration with, a recognised pathology or allied-health laboratory with direct service links to a pathology laboratory.
- Conducting research focused on education, leadership and / or management, including ongoing CPD and staff competency assessment, either in the pathology laboratory or an AIMS accredited program.

## 4. Grant Review Panel

Applications received for grants and bursaries will be assessed by the AIMS Research Engagement Grant Scheme Committee. This committee is established under the AIMS By-Laws and is comprised of the AIMS CEO, a Chairperson and an assessment panel. Appointment to the committee is made by invitation of the AIMS Board. The committee and their decisions are independent of the AIMS Board. Committee members are appointed for two (2) year terms.

## 5. Funding Opportunities, Application Requirements and Final Outcomes

AIMS is seeking to develop, support, and foster research engagement in fields and disciplines related to pathology, across all clinical and research experience and career levels. As such, the grants and bursaries have been designed to be inclusive and provide opportunities for all member categories or for those eligible for membership, from students to senior scientists, clinical scientists and laboratory managers. Each grant has outcome requirements appropriate for the career stage, research project or experience level of the applicant. All recipients will be required to submit at least one (1) article for publication in the AJMS within six (6) months of project completion. The categories proposed, number and grant / bursary amounts are detailed over the following pages, and annually total \$45,000AUD, dependent on the number awarded each year. If a suitable applicant for a grant category is not received, the Grant Review Panel may withdraw the grant that financial year or reallocate the funds to support additional grants in the other categories.

### 5.1. Grants Supporting Final Year Students and Recent Graduate Members

Funding in this category will be awarded in the form of (writing support) bursaries and are open to AIMS student members in their final year of university and / or are graduate members who have completed their degree within the previous 12 months. These writing support bursaries are intended for early-career medical laboratory scientists who want to develop their scientific communication skills and publish in a peer reviewed journal the case study they investigated during clinical placement or write a literature review on a disease or disorder (i.e., the final diagnosis for the case study) or a review on a new or emerging diagnostic technique or technology related to pathology. Each year, two (2) bursaries will be awarded to support manuscript writing, each worth \$500AUD, which may be used as per the 'Acceptable Use of Grant Funding' clause. Successful recipients will submit a final manuscript to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of being notified of a successful bursary application.

#### 5.1.1. Scientific Communication Bursary

- Individual value – \$500AUD
- Number to be offered = four (4) per year
- Bursary Funds will be remitted on acceptance of the final manuscript.
- Application requirements:
  - Cover letter introducing yourself, your academic history and a brief description of the topic of the manuscript (*literature review* OR *case study report* OR *review*) including a proposed table of contents or outline of the manuscripts sections / title headings (maximum of 2 pages).
  - If you are currently enrolled in your final year then an up to date copy of your academic record.
  - Your resume
  - If you plan to submit a case study report from your laboratory placement, you must include a letter or email from your Placement Supervisor, on company letterhead, with approval to publish in the AJMS and the outcome required, i.e., manuscript with the student / graduate as the first author.
- Mandatory outcome:
  - Final manuscript submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of the date that the bursary was awarded. The final manuscript must be in the form of a 2,000-word *literature review* OR *case study report* OR *review* (choose one).

## 5.2. Grants Supporting Undergraduate and Postgraduate Research Degrees

Funding available in this category is open to any AIMS member or those eligible for membership, completing a higher degree research program, i.e., Honours, Master (by Research), Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), with a project related to medical laboratory science or pathology conducted at, or in collaboration, preferably with a university offering an AIMS accredited program. For Honours level students, three (3) bursaries will be awarded annually, each worth \$1,000AUD. For Masters and PhD students, up to two (2) research seeding grants will be awarded to a maximum of \$5,000AUD and \$10,000AUD respectively, which may be used as per the 'Acceptable Use of Grant Funding' clause. Successful recipients will submit their final manuscript to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion.

### 5.2.1. Honours Research Bursary

- Individual value – \$1,000AUD
- Number to be offered = three (3) per year
- Application requirements:
  - Enrolled in Honours preferably at a university offering an AIMS accredited degree.
  - Copy of your academic record and resume.
  - Budget and Project Proposal (maximum of 2 pages plus references).
  - Approval from your Principal Supervisor acknowledging and accepting the outcomes, including the Honours student as the first author for the AJMS publication.
- Mandatory outcome:
  - Final manuscript to be submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion. The manuscript may be in the form of an *original article*, *literature review*, *case study report*, *brief communication* OR *technical note/s* (choose one).

### 5.2.2. Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Master (by Research) Seeding Grant

- Individual value – \$2,500AUD up to \$5,000AUD
- Number to be offered = up to two (2) per year to a maximum of \$5,000AUD
- Application requirements:
  - Enrolled in a Masters program preferably at a university offering an AIMS accredited degree.
  - Copy of your academic record and professional CV.
  - Budget and Project Proposal (maximum of 4 pages plus references).
  - Approval from your Principal Supervisor acknowledging and accepting the outcomes, including the Masters student as the first author for the AJMS publication.
- Mandatory outcomes:
  - Written report to be submitted at the half-way point of your degree. You may elect to submit a research project progress report to the Grant Review Panel (maximum of 2 pages plus references), or, you may submit an *original article*, *case study report*, *brief communication* OR *technical note/s* (choose one) for publication in the AJMS. Please ensure your choice is clearly stated in your application.
  - Final manuscript to be submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion. The manuscript may be in the form of an *original article*, *literature review*, *case study report* OR *technical note/s* (choose one).
  - Poster OR oral presentation at next AIMS National Scientific Meeting (NSM).  
(AIMS NSM day registration will be provided to the recipient at no cost).

### 5.2.3. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Researcher Seeding Grant

- Individual value – \$5,000AUD up to \$10,000AUD
- Number to be offered = up to two (2) per year to a maximum of \$10,000AUD
- Application requirements:
  - Enrolled in your PhD preferably at a university offering an AIMS accredited degree.
  - Copy of your academic record and professional CV.
  - Budget and Project Proposal (maximum of 6 pages plus references).
  - Approval from your Principal Supervisor acknowledging and accepting the outcomes, including the PhD student as the first author for the AJMS publication.
- Mandatory outcomes:
  - Written report to be submitted at the half-way point of your degree. You may elect to submit a research project progress report to the Grant Review Panel (maximum of 3 pages plus references), or, you may submit an *original article, case study report, brief communication OR technical note/s* (choose one) for publication in the AJMS. Please ensure your choice is clearly stated in your application.
  - Final manuscript to be submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion. The manuscript may be in the form of an *original article, literature review, case study report OR technical note/s* (choose one).
  - Poster OR oral presentation at next AIMS National Scientific Meeting.  
(AIMS NSM day registration will be provided to the recipient at no cost).

### 5.3. AIMS Fellowship Bursaries

Funding in this category is awarded as a bursary and applications are open to candidates planning to enrol, or already enrolled in Stage 4 of the AIMS Fellowship Program. Its purpose is to provide financial support to help the candidate complete the final stage of their Fellowship and publish their work in a peer reviewed journal. Three (3) Fellowship bursaries will be awarded each year, each worth \$2,000AUD which may be used as per the 'Acceptable Use of Grant Funding' clause. Successful recipients will submit their final manuscript to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of completion.

- Individual value – \$2,000AUD
- Number to be offered = three (3) per year
- Application requirements:
  - You are enrolled or planning to enrol in Stage 4 of AIMS Fellowship Program.
  - Budget and Project Proposal (maximum of 3 pages plus references).
  - Letter or email of support from your Project / Workplace Supervisor, on company letterhead acknowledging and accepting the outcomes, including the Fellowship candidate as the first author for the AJMS publication.
- Mandatory outcomes:
  - Final manuscript submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of completing the Fellowship Program. The manuscript may be an *original article, literature review, case study report OR technical note/s* (choose one).
  - Poster OR oral presentation at next AIMS National Scientific Meeting.  
(AIMS NSM day registration will be provided to the recipient at no cost).

## 5.4. Clinical or Research Laboratory Grants

Funding in this category is open to those planning research in the pathology laboratory context. It is open to all who are employed in an appropriate casual, contract, part-time or full-time pathology laboratory role. Up to two (2) grants will be awarded each year, to a maximum of \$10,000AUD, which may be used as per the 'Acceptable Use of Grant Funding' clause. Successful recipients will submit a final manuscript to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion.

- Individual value – \$5,000AUD up to \$10,000AUD
- Number to be offered = up to two (2) per year to a maximum of \$10,000AUD
- Application requirements:
  - Budget and Project Proposal (maximum of 4 pages plus references).
  - Copy of a professional CV for all of the research group / team members.
  - Letter or email of support from your Project / Workplace Supervisor, on company letterhead acknowledging and accepting the outcomes, including the grant recipient as the first author for the AJMS publication.
- Mandatory outcomes:
  - Written research progress report to be submitted to the Grant Review Panel at the half-way point of your project if it is >12 months in duration. This report will consist of up to 2 pages (plus references).
  - Final manuscript to be submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of the project completion. The manuscript may be an *original article*, *literature review*, *case study report* OR *technical note/s* (choose one).
  - Poster OR oral presentation at the next AIMS National Scientific Meeting.  
(AIMS NSM day registration will be provided to the recipient at no cost).

## 5.5. Education and Leadership/Management Grants

Funding in this category is open to those planning research that focuses on aspects of undergraduate and postgraduate education, leadership and / or management, including ongoing CPD and staff competency assessment, either in the pathology laboratory or an AIMS accredited program. This grant is open to those employed in appropriate casual, contract, part-time and full-time, scientific, laboratory and university academic roles. Up to two (2) grants will be awarded each year, to a maximum of \$10,000AUD, which may be used as per the 'Acceptable Use of Grant Funding' clause. Successful recipients will submit a final manuscript to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion.

- Individual value – \$5,000AUD or up to a maximum of \$10,000AUD
- Number to be offered = up to two (2) per year
- Application requirements:
  - Budget and Project Proposal (maximum of 4 pages plus references).
  - Copy of a professional CV for all of the research group / team members.
  - Letter or email of support from your Project / Workplace Supervisor, on company letterhead acknowledging and accepting the outcomes, including the grant recipient as the first author for the AJMS publication.
- Mandatory outcomes:
  - Written research progress report to be submitted to the Grant Review Panel at the half-way point of your project if it is >12 months in duration. This report will consist of up to 2 pages (plus references).

- Final manuscript to be submitted to the AJMS by or within six (6) months of project completion. The manuscript may be an *original article*, *literature review* OR *case study report* (choose one).
- Poster OR oral presentation at the next AIMS National Scientific Meeting.  
(AIMS NSM day registration will be provided to the recipient at no cost).

## 6. Ethics Approval

The applicant should clearly state if the research project requires ethics approval. If ethics approval has already been received, then the applicant must provide the allocated Research Ethics number. If ethics approval has not been obtained, then the applicant has 12 months from the date the grant was awarded to produce evidence it has been approved. If ethics approval has not been obtained within the 12 months, the grant recipient will be required to reimburse and return to AIMS, 100% of the grant value awarded.

## 7. Acceptable Use of Grant Funding

Acceptable use of grant funding includes the:

- Purchase of laboratory equipment, reagents and / or consumables.
- Computer software / programs, e.g., statistics / data analysis, online journal or database access.  
**Note:** *electronic devices, laptops, tablets and computers are excluded.*
- Funding of contract research, e.g., testing performed off-site or in a specialist laboratory up to a maximum of 75% of the grant value
- Work release or employment of a research assistant up to a maximum of 50% of the grant value.  
**Note:** *Scientific Communication and Honours Research bursaries are ineligible for this criterion.*
- Travel support to attend a relevant seminar, conference, workshop or training program, up to a maximum of 50% of the grant value, e.g., registration or co-contribution to a leadership or advanced laboratory techniques course, including but not limited to, AIMS events.  
**Note:** *Scientific Communication and Honours Research bursaries are ineligible for this criterion.*

## 8. Incomplete Funding Outcomes

AIMS is a not for profit organisation and operates using funds obtained mainly from member subscriptions and as such, is accountable for the responsible use and distribution of those funds. AIMS recognises that for some projects there may be delays caused by circumstances beyond the grant or bursary recipients' control. For cases where a grant recipient does not complete their outcome(s) within the required time frame, the AIMS Grant Review Panel will consult and work with the recipient, in good faith, to enable a mutually acceptable outcome to be met. If this approach is unsuccessful or the recipient is unable to complete the project or refuses to finalise the work and the outcome(s) remain incomplete, the grant recipient will be required to reimburse and return to AIMS, 100% of the grant or bursary value awarded.

## 9. Intellectual Property (IP) Ownership

Ownership and the associated rights of all IP generated as a result of AIMS competitively funded research will initially be vested in the research institution/s receiving and administering the grants as a way of recognising the inventive contribution made by the research institution/s. IP generated as a result of collaborative endeavours between research institutions will vest as agreed between those institutions. AIMS will not hold a stake in direct ownership of any IP or directly benefit from commercial outcomes of the research funded through their financial support. The recipient of any grant or bursary must acknowledge AIMS as the funding body in publications and presentations.