

Centre of Research Excellence in Ear and Hearing Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children

2016 Scholarship Guidelines

The Centre of Research Excellence in Ear and Hearing Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children (CRE_ICHEAR) is a national research collaboration that brings together leading researchers and Indigenous health care providers from around Australia to improve ear and hearing health of Indigenous children. The CRE_ICHEAR is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) from 2014-2019. The CRE_ICHEAR aims to inform Australian policy and practice to reduce social and educational disadvantage linked to childhood ear disease and hearing loss.

Purpose of the Scholarship

Hearing loss associated with persistent middle ear infection (otitis media – OM) during a child's formative years causes language and speech delay, auditory processing disorder, social isolation and educational disadvantage. For Indigenous children across Australia, hearing loss is having a devastating impact on social development and educational achievement.

The CRE_ICHEAR is offering scholarships to support Honours, Masters and PhD students to undertake research in the field of ear and hearing health. Working as part of the CRE_ICHEAR research team, scholarship holders will be supported by Australia's leading researchers and medical practitioners in the field of child ear and hearing health.

Value of the Scholarship

The annual financial value of the scholarship is equivalent to the Australian Post-graduate Award (APA) stipend (\$26,288 in 2016).

If external funding is secured, CRE_ICHEAR may elect to offer students additional top-up funding and research support grants on a case-by-case basis.

Scholarship Provisions

In addition to the financial provisions of the award, scholarship holders will benefit from a range of professional development opportunities throughout their CRE_ICHEAR scholarship tenure. The scholar will have access to academics and practitioners at participating institutions of the CRE, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mentors. Students may also be supported to undertake fieldwork and placements at other sites.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in, or satisfy the admission requirements for entry to, an Honours, Masters (by Research or Coursework) or PhD program at an Australian university
- The student must have one of the Chief Investigators (CIs) or Associate Investigators (AIs) of the CRE_ICHEAR as their supervisor or co-supervisor. A list of CIs and AIs can be obtained by emailing CRE_ICHEAR@menzies.edu.au
- Applicants holding other scholarships or funding support may still be eligible for CRE top-up support, but are required to declare all other forms of concurrent funding support
- Be a citizen or permanent resident of Australia or a New Zealand citizen living in Australia.
- **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander candidates are strongly encouraged to apply**



Selection Criteria

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Relevance of the research to the ear and hearing health priorities of the CRE_ICHEAR
- Academic merit of the applicant

Scholarship Conditions

Candidature

The scholarship is contingent on scholars maintaining their enrolment as per the policies and requirements of their university.

Commencement

Unless otherwise agreed, scholarships are to be taken up by the date specified in the CRE_ICHEAR offer letter. This would usually be January or February in the year for which the scholarship is awarded.

Applications will also be accepted for mid-year entry, provided the university and supervisor support mid-year entry.

Duration of Tenure

Scholarships may be awarded for up to three years, subject to satisfactory annual review. Scholars are required to apply for additional external funding each year, with the support of their supervisor.

Other Funding

The scholar is required to inform the CRE_ICHEAR in writing of any other funding they are receiving. Scholars successfully awarded other funding may still be eligible for top-up support from the CRE_ICHEAR.

Reporting Requirements

- The CRE requires the scholar to provide annual progress reports as per the offer letter
- The scholar is occasionally required to participate in CRE_ICHEAR research transfer activities, such as meetings and events
- The scholar is occasionally required to provide information to the CRE_ICHEAR for press releases and other media purposes

Finance

- All amounts quoted are inclusive of GST.
- The scholar is advised to contact the Australian Taxation Office for advice on any tax implications of the scholarship.

Intellectual Property (IP)

The scholar's IP will be subject to the policies of the Formal Agreement between Menzies School of Health Research and the scholar's administering institution.

Ethics

Ethical approval for the project must be obtained as necessary from the Human Research Ethics Committee of the scholar's administering institution.

Publications

- While supported by the CRE_ICHEAR, scholars are required to acknowledge the "NHMRC CRE in Ear and Hearing Health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children" as their affiliation on all publications, presentations or medical publicity.
- Copies of publications resulting from this scholarship are to be sent to the CRE_ICHEAR

Termination

The CRE reserves the right to withdraw or suspend funding if:

- the scholar's progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory
- the scholar does not comply with the scholarship conditions
- the scholar has committed serious misconduct including, but not limited to, provision of false or misleading information

Application Process

For all enquiries, application forms, and application submissions, please contact the CRE_ICHEAR Research Program Manager at:

CRE_ICHEAR@menzies.edu.au

Applicants will receive email confirmation once their application has been received.

Key Dates

Applications open:	14 th December 2015
Applications close:	10 th January 2016
Results announced:	25 th January 2016
Commence study:	February 2016

