

NATIONAL ASTHMA RESEARCH PROGRAM

HONOURS FUNDING: APPLICANT GUIDE

Contents

General information for applicants	2
Assessment Process	3
Application Guide	4
Research environment and supervision team (50%).....	4
The Project (quality and feasibility) (30%).....	4
Impact (20%).....	4
Review Guide	5
Research environment and supervisor (40%)	5
Quality and feasibility of the research proposal (30%)	6
Impact (30%).....	6

General information for applicants

Over the past ten years the Asthma Australia National Asthma Research Program has made significant contributions to important discovery science, clinical, and population health research projects, as well as honours Scholarships and research fellowships to promote emerging researchers in the field.

Asthma Australia invites research supervisors to apply for Honours Scholarship funding to seed new asthma research and/or support current asthma research programs, as well as inspire an asthma research pathway for promising scholars in the early phases of their careers.

Applicants for Asthma Australia's honours scholarship must:

- Be suitably qualified to supervise an honours student at an established NHMRC registered research institution
- Ensure the appointment of an Honours candidate for the scholarship
- Be conducting research in Australia.

Please refer to the advertisement for specific eligibility requirements.

Submission process

- Applications should be submitted to research@asthma.org.au. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Applications must be lodged electronically in Microsoft Windows Word or PDF format, using the application form. Applications not received in this format will not be accepted.
- Left margin should be at least 2.5cm with content aligned text left
- Font (body) should be Calibri 11 point
- Applications should be in two documents and named as follows:
 - SURNAME OF APPLICANT_HONOURS_APPLICATION_YEAR

Reporting expectations

If successful, the applicant (and appointed Honours candidate) will provide a 5-page report (and attach the submitted thesis) on completion of their honours project (within 6 months) to Asthma Australia. A template will be provided. The report should be provided in language appropriate for a lay audience.

Affiliation and acknowledgment

Successful applicants must ensure (wherever possible) Asthma Australia's contribution and support of the Project is acknowledged in publications or presentations related to the research.

Assessment Process

Eligibility

Applications are assessed for their eligibility by Asthma Australia staff. Eligible applications will undergo assessment by peer and consumer reviewers from Asthma Australia's Research Advisory Committee or delegate/s. All applications are assessed against standardised assessment criteria which are described in this document.

Peer Review

Peer reviewers assess applications on the extent to which they address the criteria below. Applications will be assessed against the domains described on the following pages.

Peer Review Categories	Weight
Research environment and supervision team	50%
Quality and feasibility of the research proposal	30%
Impact and priority alignment	20%

Application Guide

Research environment and supervision team (50%)

This section should demonstrate the quality and suitability of the supervisor (applicant), including resources and infrastructure available to the applicant and necessary for the completion of the research and the suitability of the wider research team.

It should also detail how the project team will effectively appoint an appropriate Honours candidate.

The Project (quality and feasibility) (30%)

This section should clearly demonstrate the need and rationale behind the Honours research project, aims and objectives, scientific quality of the methodology, expected outcomes, timeframes and feasibility of the research. In the outline of the research proposal, applicants should address the following:

1. Background of the research including the need for the proposed research proposal.
2. Aims, objectives and hypothesis
3. Methods, techniques and analyses that will be used for the research
4. Identification of potential risks or anticipated challenges, as well as how these will be addressed
5. Expected outcomes of the research
6. Timelines of the research project
7. A description on how the proposed research will be feasible

Impact and priority alignment (20%)

This section relates to the potential knowledge gain about asthma and the proposed impact on people with asthma of the Honours project. Applicants can also detail the potential impacts of the research carried out by the wider team, to which the Honours project will contribute.

Applicants should indicate how the research will address any of Asthma Australia's [research priority area/s](#).

Applicants should consider and address the following in each section:

Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential impact of this project for people with asthma • The potential knowledge gains or fundamental outcomes of the research • How the Honours project contributes to the wider impacts of the research team's research and how this relates to asthma
Research priority area	<p>Outline how the project meets the Asthma Australia National Research Program Priority/ies. If a specific priority area has been outlined in the application information, this criteria must be addressed adequately for the application to be eligible.</p> <p>The priority areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention • Vulnerable groups • Models and system • Environment • Influencing policy <p>It is not required that all priority areas are addressed in the application.</p>

Review Guide

Peer reviewers should assess applications on the extent to which they address the criteria below. Applications will be assessed against the domains described on the following pages. While the described domains provide peer reviewers with some benchmarks for appropriately scoring each application, **it is not essential that all descriptors relating to a given score are met.** The domains are a guide to a 'best fit' outcomes. Peer reviewers will consistently refer to these domains to ensure thorough equitable and transparent assessment of applications.

Peer Review Categories	Weight
Research environment and supervision team	50%
Quality and feasibility of the research proposal	30%
Impact	20%

Research environment and supervisor (40%)

Applicants should clearly demonstrate how the research supervisor and wider environment will recruit an appropriate candidate to the project, support successful outcomes of the Honours project, positively impact the career development of Honours candidate.

Descriptions	Mark
The research environment and supervision team demonstrate evidence that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are well matched to the proposed project • Offer outstanding quality research support systems and mentoring for the applicant • Offer outstanding potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills • Will be able to successfully recruit an outstanding Honours candidate to the project 	Outstanding (10-9)
The research environment and supervision team demonstrate evidence that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is suited to the applicants proposed project • Offer good quality research support systems and mentoring for the applicant • Offer very good potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills • Are likely to be able to recruit an outstanding Honours candidate to the project 	Very good (8-6)
The research environment and supervision team demonstrate evidence that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is somewhat suited to the applicants proposed project • Offer satisfactory research support systems and mentoring for the applicant • Offer satisfactory potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills • Will be able to recruit a Honours candidate to the project 	Satisfactory (5-3)
The research environment and supervision team demonstrate evidence that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is not suited to the applicants proposed project • Offer limited research support systems and mentoring for the applicant • Offer limited potential to extend the applicant's knowledge and skills • Are unlikely to be able to recruit a Honours candidate to the project 	Poor/limited (2-1)

Quality and feasibility of the research proposal (30%)

Applicants should clearly demonstrate the need and rationale behind the research, aims and objectives, scientific quality of the methodology, expected outcomes, timeframes and feasibility of the research.

Descriptions	Mark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has objectives that are well-defined Is very well designed Is highly feasible 	Outstanding (10-9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has objectives that are clear Is well designed Is feasible 	Very good (8-6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has objectives that are adequately defined Overall clear research design, but raises some concerns Raises some concerns with respect to feasibility 	Satisfactory (5-3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has objectives that are unclear Raises major concerns with respect to the research design Raised major concerns with respect to the feasibility 	Poor/limited (2-1)

Impact (30%)

Applicants will provide responses which describe the potential impact of this research for people with asthma, how the research addresses one or more of Asthma Australia's research priority areas and how the scholarship will contribute to the applicant's career or future career aspirations.

Peer reviewers should consider the five Asthma Australia research priority areas in their assessment. If applicants are asked to address a specific priority area to be eligible for the grant, reviewers will be advised. Otherwise, applicants can address one or more area.

- Research that focuses on primary and secondary **prevention**
- Research, interventions and other methods of enquiry which seek to address the inequity of asthma impact on **vulnerable groups** in Australia.
- Research or design and testing of **models and systems** which seek to address the systemic contributions to asthma health or illness.
- Research which explores and minimises the impact of the changing **environment** on asthma health.
- Influencing policy** through the consolidation of experience, evidence and consultations with the wider research community.

Descriptions	Mark
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will result in a highly significant advance in knowledge in this field which addresses an issue of great importance to people with asthma Has a strong focus on one or more of the National Asthma Research Program priority areas Will make an excellent contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations 	Outstanding (10-9)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> will advance knowledge in this field which addresses an issue of importance to people with asthma Has a focus on the National Asthma Research Program priority area/s 	Very good (8-6)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will make a good contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may incrementally advance knowledge in the field which addresses an issue of some importance to people with asthma • Has some implications for a National Asthma Research Program priority area • Will make a satisfactory contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations 	Satisfactory (5-3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addresses an issue of some concern to people with asthma • Has no implications for a National Asthma Research Program priority area • Will make a limited contribution to the applicant's future career aspirations 	Poor/limited (2-1)