

RIO TINTO CHILDREN'S DIABETES CENTRE

A Breakthrough T1D Centre of Excellence



TOP-UP PHD SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDE TO APPLICANTS/CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Applications close 19 December 2025 at 5 pm AWST

Introduction and purpose

The Rio Tinto Children's Diabetes Centre; A Breakthrough T1D Global Centre of Excellence, ("the Centre") based at the The Kids Research Institute Australia and Perth Children's Hospital in Western Australia is an integrated clinical and research centre conducting research into childhood diabetes.

Our goal is to improve the lives of all young people living with diabetes, their families and community by bringing together research, education and clinical care. The Centre is supported by five national and global institutions/hospitals (Perth is the lead site).

The Centre aims to encourage new and innovative research, researchers and translation ideas and projects.

The Centre has established Top-up PhD awards with the purpose of providing additional support to exceptional PhD students who are undertaking their research in type 1 diabetes-related fields and who have been awarded a Research Training Program scholarship or equivalent. Successful applicants will receive AUD\$15,000 per annum for up to three years full-time, consisting of AUD\$2,000 for research-related costs and AUD\$13,000 to be used at their discretion.

Up to three Top-up PhD scholarships will be available in Round 4/2025. Applicants will be assessed on the eligibility criteria and the information gathered from the application form.

Applications for the Top-up PhD scholarships are to be emailed to JDRF.GlobalCoE@thekids.org.au no later than 4pm (AWST) on the 19 December 2025.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must currently be undertaking their PhD in a type 1 diabetes-related field.
- Must be current recipient of a PhD scholarship
- Applicants must be affiliated with or endorsed by a Centre Institution or researcher as listed in Attachment A.
- PhD project/s must demonstrate alignment with the objectives¹ of the Centre.

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Centre Objectives

1. To formulate a framework to develop, implement and evaluate models of care that lead to improved health outcomes and reduced burden for people living with T1D
2. To promote effective transfer of research outcomes into health policy and/or practice.
3. To develop novel advanced economic frameworks that include the broad true costs of T1D to enhance access to novel therapies and share policies.
4. To facilitate effective and cross-disciplinary collaboration and partnerships with academia, industry, consumers, clinical organisations and key experts and stakeholders.

- Applicants must use the application form, provided at <https://diabetes.thekids.org.au/news-and-events/top-up-phd-scholarship-now-open/>.

Applications for the Top-up scholarship will be forfeited if:

1. Applicants are in their final 6 months of their PhD.
2. Applicants have not yet been informed of the successful outcome of their PhD scholarship application.
3. The application is received after the closing date.

Obligations of the Administering Institution/recipient

The recipient will receive AUD\$15,000pa for a maximum of three years full time. Of the annual award, AUD\$2,000 should be assigned to research-related cost.

1. The Top-up PhD scholarship will be awarded for 1 year in the first instance and may be renewed annually (for up to three full-time years) subject to the recipient performing satisfactorily in their research, and the remaining years enrolled in their PhD degree.
2. The AUD\$2,000 research-related costs could include conference travel and registration fees and publications fees; but should not include equipment purchases.
3. An annual progress report from the recipient needs to be submitted both 12 and 24 months of being awarded the Top-up PhD scholarship; unless the end date of the award is prior to the 24-months reporting and in which case, the recipient would need to complete a final report as per terms #4 below. This report would require receipts of expenditure for the research cost and supervisor sign off.
4. A final report needs to be submitted within 3 months of the completion of the award period.
5. Recipient needs to complete all research within the proposed PhD period specified in the application. Any extension will need to be endorsed by the Talent and Capacity Building Subcommittee and approved by the Management Steering Committee.
6. The Centre needs to be notified of any changes to the recipient's PhD program, at which time the scholarship will be reviewed by the Talent and Capacity Building Subcommittee. These may include, but are not exclusive to:
 - a. Change in the recipient's PhD load or Research Training Program (or equivalent)
 - b. Suspension of the recipient's Research Training Program (or equivalent) award.
 - c. Institution transfer
 - d. Increase in paid employment load (Recipients may undertake paid employment on the understanding that the employment load does not affect their Research Training Program (or equivalent) award).
 - e. Delays in data collection.
 - f. Extended leave, such as maternity and paternity leave

7. Recipient needs to acknowledge the financial support of Breakthrough T1D in any publication arising from the work being supported through this scholarship.

Acknowledgement should be in the form of:

This research was supported by Breakthrough T1D Australia Top-up PhD Scholarship (grant number 5-SRA-2021-1088-M-X).

8. Provide a copy of the publications to the Centre prior to final publication.
9. The administering Institution agrees to wave all fees associated with the administration of the scholarship.

How do I claim funding if my application has been approved?

1. Payments in respect to the scholarship shall be within the terms and conditions specified in the scholarship offer.
2. The administering Institution may invoice the Centre within 1 month of the recipient's Top-up PhD scholarship award notification. Thereafter, the award will be paid in half yearly instalments on receipt of a tax invoice from the Administering Institution.
3. Amounts granted are in Australian Dollars and are exclusive of GST for Australian applicants. All claims are to be made via a tax invoice from the Recipient's GST registered

Administering Institution, including the institution's ABN. This is to avoid paying withholding tax which would reduce the overall grant by 48.5%. Please keep in mind that the invoice must include GST on top of the total grant (i.e. the invoice must include 10% extra for the GST).

4. In exceptional/extenuating circumstances, and upon formal application, the Centre Co-Directors, at their discretion, may approve a variation to the payment method outlined above.
5. An awardee is required to repay any scholarship overpayment within thirty calendar days of being requested to do so.
6. It is the responsibility of the recipient to assess the tax liability of their Top-up PhD scholarship. The Centre cannot provide advice regarding taxation. Please refer to the taxation rules for your country.

How to apply

Application forms can be found at: <https://diabetes.thekids.org.au/news-and-events/top-up-phd-scholarship-now-open/>

Before sending your application, please ensure all sections have been completed as specified, including the required signatures in the certification section.

An electronic copy of the application (including academic transcript) should be submitted via email to JDRF.GlobalCoE@thekids.org.au no later than **5pm (AWST) on the 19 December 2025**.

Timeline

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Date</i>
Advertising commences	27 October 2025
Applications close 4pm.	19 December 2025
Recommendations of evaluation panel to the Talent and Capacity Building Subcommittee	31 January 2026
Notification in writing to applicants	February 2026

ATTACHMENT A – CENTRE COLLABORATORS AND SITES

Name	Institution
A/Prof Aveni Haynes	The Kids Research Institute Australia
A/Prof Craig Taplin	Perth Children’s Hospital, Australia
A/Prof Mary Abraham	The Kids Research Institute Australia
A/Prof Phil Bergman	Monash Children’s Hospital, Australia
A/Prof Spiros Furlanos	Royal Melbourne Hospital/University of Sydney
A/Prof Yvonne Zurynski	Macquarie University, Australia
Dr Alicia Jenkins	University of Sydney, Australia
Dr Amelia Harray	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Anna Boggiss	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Anthony Pease	Monash University, Australia
Dr Anthony Russell	Queensland Health, Australia
Dr Anthony Zimmermann	North Adelaide Local Health Network, Australia
Dr Ashley Ng	Monash University, Australia
Dr Chetty Tarini	Royal Hospital for Sick Children Edinburgh
Dr Daniel Tortorice	College of the Holy Cross, USA
Dr Dessi Zaharieva	Stanford University, USA
Dr Ella Zomer	Monash University, Australia
Dr Emily Callander	Monash University, Australia
Dr Gerry Fegan	Fiona Stanley Hospital, Australia
Dr Helen Woodhead	Sydney Children’s Hospital Network, Australia
Dr Jeffrey Cannon	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Keely Bebbington	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Kiwook Kim	University of New South Wales
Dr K-Lynn Smith	Macquarie University, Australia
Dr Kristen Neville	Sydney Children’s Hospital Network, Australia
Dr Kriti Joshi	Children’s Hospital Queensland
Dr Laurel Messer	Barbara Davis Centre, University of Colorado, USA
Dr Maddalena Ferranna	The University of Southern California
Dr Marie-Anne Burckhardt	University of Basel, Switzerland
Dr Martin de Bock	University of Otago, New Zealand
Dr Megan Penno	University of Adelaide
Dr Michael Huang	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
Dr Rebecca Pedruzzi	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Dr Tarini Chetty	NHS Lothian, Scotland
Dr Tony Huynh	Queensland Health, Australia
Dr Vinutha Shetty	Perth Children’s Hospital, Australia
Helen Clapin	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Prof Ann Maguire	The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Australia
Prof David Bloom	Harvard TH Chan School of Public health, USA
Prof David Maahs	Stanford University, USA
Prof David O’Neal	University of Melbourne, Australia

Prof Elizabeth Davis	The Kids Research Institute Australia
Prof Jan Fairchild	Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide, Australia
Prof Jeffrey Braithwaite	Macquarie University, Australia
Prof Jenny Couper	University of Adelaide, Australia
Prof Mike Riddell	York University, Canada
Prof Paul Fournier	University of Western Australia, Australia
Prof Peter Adolfsson	University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Prof Peter Coleman	Royal Melbourne Hospital/University of Melbourne
Prof Sophia Zoungas	Monash University, Australia
Prof Tim Jones	Perth Children's Hospital, Australia