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 **TRI FOUNDATION**

 **Equity Trustees**

Guidelines

2026 TRI Translation Fellowship

The following Terms and Conditions apply to the Translational Research Institute (“TRI”) Translation Fellowship and Associate Translation Fellowship. These Fellowships are funded by the TRI Foundation via a grant from Equity Partners.

1. INTRODUCTION & HIGHLIGHTS

1.1 Translation Fellowships

There are six (6) TRI Translation Fellowships (TF) available in 2026. One (1) Fellowship will be awarded per TRI partner:

- Qld Health (MSH HHS or CHQ HHS)
- Mater Research
- UQ
- QUT

Two (2) Fellowships will be available to progress projects in:

- Paediatric research
- Chronic illness research[^]

[^] Research will contribute to the alleviation of chronic suffering and/or pain this may include inflammatory or cancer disease or physical, mental or emotional suffering.

Fellowships include:

- 5x Training Programs: TP101, TP201, TP301, TP401, PP101
- 4x Full-day in-person immersions including networking lunch
- 12 months 1:1 Mentoring
- 12 months 1:1 Inbox Coaching
- 12 months Fellows Community
- \$2000 professional development grant

1.2 Associate Translation Fellowships

Four (4) Associate Translation Fellowships (ATF) will be awarded to near-miss EOIs in 2026. The Associate Fellows will have access to part of the program offered to the full Fellows.

Associate Fellowships include:

- Autumn Immersion (2x Training Programs - TP101, TP201 - and networking lunch)
- Pitching program (optional)
- Summer Showcase
- Access to 1:1 Mentoring (May – June 2026)

1.3 Key dates

- Applications open: Thursday 18th December 2025
- Applications close: Friday 13th March 2026
- Fellows announced: Tuesday 21st April 2026
- Fellowship start date: 1 May 2026
- Fellowship end date: 30th April 2027

1.4 Training Programs

TP101 – TRI Translation Pathways	An introductory program that orients researchers to the translation and impact landscape. Participants learn the fundamentals of moving research toward real-world applications, including how to identify opportunities, engage stakeholders, and frame their work for relevance.
TP201 – Create Program	Focuses on shaping the <i>supply side</i> of translation: clarifying value, defining the offer, and positioning research in ways that attract authentic demand. Researchers develop their project narrative, value proposition, and early proof points.
TP301 – Connect Program	Centres on <i>demand validation</i> : helping researchers identify, approach, and engage potential partners, users, or collaborators. Emphasis on testing assumptions through conversations, co-design, and market-aligned engagement.
TP401 – Commit Program	The capstone of the Fellows pathway. Researchers focus on <i>converting intent into capital commitment</i> : building the confidence and collateral needed to secure funding, partnerships, or institutional support. Includes guidance on framing commitment signals and scaling translational activity.
PP101 – Pitching Program	A focused short course on designing and delivering clear, compelling pitches for translation and commercial opportunities. Participants learn how to communicate the value of their research to partners, funders, and broader audiences with confidence and precision.

1.5 12-month Program Schedule

Activity	Details	Date	Mandatory participation
Autumn Immersion <i>Whole day event. Includes networking lunch</i>	Emphasis: Creating Value and the supply side of translation. > TP101 and TP201 workshops	9am – 4pm, Thursday 14 May 2026	Yes (TF, ATF)
Winter Immersion <i>Whole day event. Includes networking lunch</i>	Emphasis: Identifying, Engaging and Validating unmet need and demand. > TP301 workshop	9am – 4pm, Thursday 6 August 2026	Yes (TF)
Spring Immersion <i>Whole day event. Includes networking lunch</i>	Emphasis: The translation journey and the role of positioning and pitching in securing commitment. > PP101 workshop	9am – 4pm, Thursday 15 October 2026	Yes (TF)
Summer Immersion & Showcase <i>Whole day event. Includes networking lunch</i>	Emphasis: Converting interest and intent into committed investment in you and your project. > TP401 workshop Showcase: Whole of TRI invitation, TP Fellows pitching	9am – 4pm, February 2027 (Date TBC)	Yes (TF) (ATF – Showcase)
1:1 Mentoring Program	An intensive mentoring structure designed to build momentum and accountability. > 1 per fortnightly May-June 2026 > Monthly July 2026 – February 2027 > Additional 1:1 meetings as needed	Scheduled individually	Yes (TF)
Weekly Consultation	An open forum to bring questions, challenges, or project updates to receive targeted input. They also serve as regular, structured time to advance the translational side of participants' projects.	Held weekly during term time	Yes (min 1 per month attendance)
1:1 Inbox Mentoring	Quick-turn, confidential guidance available on demand to address emerging challenges and decisions.		As required

Mentor Community	A peer and mentor network supporting shared learning, reflection, and collaboration across the cohort.		As required
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2. OBJECTIVES

The TRI Translation Fellowships are intended to support and promote the development of future translational research leaders at TRI. The Fellowship's key objectives are:

- 2.1 Support the growth and development of early or mid-career researchers who have the potential to become research leaders.
- 2.2 Build high-quality research capacity in our Partner's early to mid-career clinicians and scientists.
- 2.3 Nurture research capability in early to mid-career clinicians from Metro South Health ("MSH") and Children's Health Queensland ("CHQ") and early to mid-career researchers based at TRI.
- 2.4 Foster translational research projects addressing clinical, disease, treatment, or consumer-led issues.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 3.1 Interested EMCRs must complete this Application Form and submit it via email to TRI: research@tri.edu.au by 5:00pm AEST, Friday 13 March 2026.
- 3.2 Only six (6) Fellowships and four (4) Associate Fellowships will be awarded.
- 3.3 Preferential selection will be given to researchers with the more immediate need and/or demonstrable translational clinical outcome. Each of TRI's partner Directors will review and approve the selected candidate from their institution.
- 3.4 Applicants will be notified of the outcome by email within 14 business days. TRI's decision will be final.
- 3.5 The successful Fellows will be required to meet with their technology transfer office to brief them on their project.
- 3.6 To apply please fill in the attached form and email it to: research@tri.edu.au

4. ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The TRI Translation Fellowships are open to mid-career researchers who are no more than 17 years post PhD being granted (relative to opportunity)¹ and who based at TRI (at least

¹ **Relative to opportunity** as stated by the NHMRC is whereby "researchers' outputs and outcomes should reflect their opportunities to advance their career and the research they conduct." The NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy includes that peer reviewers should assess an applicant's research productivity and contribution, considering both career disruption and other considerations (personal and professional).

[NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy](#) examples:

- Career Disruption – time away from work due to pregnancy, illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities.
- Other considerations – any other personal or professional circumstances affecting research productivity.

Please see Appendix 2 for the complete NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy. Additionally for clinicians, relative to opportunity examples may include consideration around regional and remote clinical placements. Other considerations for career disruption will be assessed based on relative to opportunity principles.

Please note: The NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy is used as guide for the LINC Executive Committee during the PI Eligibility Assessment process. Any disputes regarding an applicant's relative opportunity eligibility

20% time spent at TRI), and Metro South Health, Children's Health Queensland and Mater early to mid-career clinicians (17 years post undergraduate clinical qualification e.g., MBBS, BN, also relative to opportunity), including early to mid-career clinicians undertaking a higher degree research based at TRI.

- 4.2 To be successful, applicants must be able to demonstrate they have a research project with translational potential.
- 4.3 The Fellowship is contingent on participating in all elements of the program, including the four immersion days, 1:1 mentoring and consultations. Failure to participate will see the Fellowship withdrawn.
- 4.4 One (1) Fellowship will be awarded to applicants from each of our four partners: UQ, QUT, Mater Research and Queensland Health. An additional two Fellowships will be awarded to projects in cancer research and paediatric research respectively.
- 4.5 Four (4) Associate Fellowships will be awarded to near miss EOIs.
- 4.6 It is recommended that applicants discuss their application with their group leader/department head to ensure there is support for your participation in the mandatory training and coaching activities.

5. SELECTION AND AWARDING OF FELLOWSHIPS

- 5.1 Applications will be reviewed by the TRI Scientific Leadership Committee (SLC). The authorised delegates of The University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology, Mater Research and Queensland Health will each make the final decision on the selection of the Fellowship allocated to their institution. The SLC will also decide on the awarding of the Cancer and Paediatric Fellows and the Associate Fellows.
- 5.2 The decision of the authorised delegates is final.
- 5.3 The selected Fellows will be notified via email.
- 5.4 If a Fellowship cannot be awarded to or accepted by the initial recommended applicant, the Fellowship may be awarded to another applicant at the sole discretion of the authorised delegates of TRI's partners.

6. GRANT FUNDING

Each Translation Fellow will be able to apply for up to \$2000 in funding for professional development training that supports their translational career or translational research progression. The funding can be accessed by submitting using the provided application form. Applications can be made in tranches or for the full amount.

TRI strongly encourages you to use this funding for training that will help you grow as a researcher. In particular consider training courses in [leadership](#), research communication, and/or workshops to upskill you to undertake pre-clinical and clinical studies.

Examples of eligible training courses include:

- [Leading Successful Teams: cultivating culture, wellbeing and performance](#) or [PD Training \(PDT\) Leadership Training course](#)

will be reviewed by an independent probity advisor.

- [Good Clinical Practice: Essential knowledge for all research, ethics and clinical trial professionals.](#)
- [PROgress Foundations Program: for Individuals](#)
- [How to Use AI in Research and Clinical Trials](#)

6.1 The Grant must be taken up:

- 6.1.1 within 12 months of the Fellowship being awarded
- 6.1.2 for the purpose of advancing the recipient's translational career or translational research.

6.2 The Fellow can apply to spend the funding on:

- 6.2.1 Participating in a training program, which will contribute to the Fellow's professional development as a translational researcher
- 6.2.2 Participating in a program which will progress the Fellow's translational research
- 6.2.3 Other activity at the discretion of TRI (for example, travel expenses to meet with an existing or potential research, clinical or industry collaborator interstate or overseas if this will help progress your research)

6.3 TRI will not approve Grant funding for:

- 6.3.1 Purchasing plant or equipment for the individual or their research group
- 6.3.2 Consumables for research
- 6.3.3 Consultancy services
- 6.3.4 Wages
- 6.3.5 Flights, accommodation or registration fees associated with attending a scientific conference (unless there is a translation-related training workshop or the like which is the reason for attending the conference or the Fellow will be giving an oral presentation on their translational research project).

6.4 Payment of Grants

- 6.4.1 Funding will not be paid directly to the recipient. Once TRI has approved the funding request (via a short application form), the Grant recipient's Institute is required to invoice TRI for the funding and allocate it to their research account.
- 6.4.2 The Grant funding will be only paid within 12 months from the announcement of the Fellowship, unless otherwise agreed by TRI in writing.
- 6.4.3 Payment processing TRI may take up to four weeks from receipt of the recipient institute's invoice. TRI has no control on the time it may take for the recipient's institute to issue an invoice to TRI, as such TRI recommends Fellows place a request for funding well in advance of when it is required.

7. AMENDMENTS AND DEFERRALS

- 7.1 Any request to amend the terms or conditions of the Fellowship Grant, including any request to defer the Grant, must be made:
 - 7.1.1 in writing to TRI
 - 7.2.2 setting out the reasons for the request, and
 - 7.2.3 detailing the date to which you'd like the grant funding extended.
- 7.2 Any such request will be considered by TRI on a case-by-case basis and will be determined by TRI in its sole discretion.

- 7.3 Only one deferral is permitted, with the maximum period allowable being 12 months.
- 7.4 If the Fellow is for any reason unable to undertake the Fellowship, they must notify TRI immediately.

8. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- 8.1 Applicants seeking to participate in the TRI Translation Fellowship program must comply with these Funding Guidelines and instructions on the Application Forms.
- 8.2 Fellowships will be awarded only once to any individual. Fellowship recipients are not eligible to apply again in subsequent years.
- 8.3 All details in the application must be current and accurate at the time of submission.
- 8.4 All applications will be assessed for completeness and eligibility prior to review. TRI may remove, at their discretion applications, which are incomplete, ineligible, not consistent with the guidelines, or non-competitive.
- 8.5 Once submitted, the application will be considered final, and no changes will be permitted.
- 8.6 Applicants must be submitted via email by the due date and time. No late applications will be accepted.
- 8.7 The Fellowship recipient agrees to the publication on the TRI website and social media channels of their name, their photo and the Fellowship of which they are a recipient.

9. FELLOWSHIP REVOKATION

A Fellowship will be revoked by TRI if the recipient of a Fellowship, in the opinion of TRI:

- 9.1 fails to fulfill the purpose of the Fellowship
- 9.2 does not comply with all terms and conditions of the Fellowship or with these terms and conditions fails to meet the eligibility criteria for the Fellowship
- 9.3 fails to make satisfactory progress or to participate in the coaching and training program provided
- 9.4 is guilty of serious misconduct, including providing inaccurate or misleading information in their application
- 9.5 upon death, incapacity or resignation or withdrawal from the institution nominated in the recipient's application, or are no longer based as a researcher at TRI, or if there is a material change to the circumstances or information provided in the application between the time it is submitted to TRI and before the Fellowship is commences.
- 9.6 If during the course of the Fellowship, the Fellow relocates and is no longer based at TRI or no longer employed by Queensland Health they are required to provide written notice to TRI that there has been a change to their employment.

10. AUDIT

The Fellowship grant is subject to external and internal audit for financial and accounting purposes in compliance with legislation and regulations. The recipient and Administering Institution consent to and acknowledge that, if requested, the TRI files relating to the Fellowship, which may include personal information, will be made available to independent advisors for the purposes of such audits.

11. FEEDBACK AND ISSUES/DISPUTES

Feedback on the Translation Fellowship program processes, or outcomes should be directed to the TRI Research Engagement and Impact Manager (research@tri.edu.au).

12. FINAL REPORT

At the end of the Fellowship, Fellows and Associate Fellows will be required to participate in a short survey about the program as well as provide information for a case study on the outcomes of your Fellowship to be published on the TRI website. Together, these will be considered as a Final Report.

APPENDIX 1: NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy



NHMRC Relative to Opportunity Policy

19 June 2024

Purpose

NHMRC's goal is to support the highest quality research that will lead to improvements in health over the short or long term. Peer review by independent experts is used to identify well-designed feasible projects that address a significant question and are undertaken by researchers with demonstrated capacity to perform high-quality research.

In some NHMRC grant schemes, peer reviewers are asked to assess the track record of the applicants as well as the proposed research. However, NHMRC recognises that not all research careers are the same and therefore peer reviewers are asked to assess track records 'relative to opportunity', taking into account circumstances that have affected the applicant's research productivity.

The purpose of this document is to outline NHMRC's *Relative to Opportunity Policy* with respect to:

- peer review of applicant track records
- eligibility to apply for Emerging Leadership (EL) Investigator Grants.

Policy approach

NHMRC considers relative to opportunity to mean that peer reviewers should assess an applicant's track record of research productivity and professional contribution in the context of their career stage and circumstances, by taking into consideration whether the applicant's productivity and contribution are commensurate with the opportunities available to them.

The policy has 2 components:

- Career circumstances – personal or professional circumstances affecting research productivity (not meeting the definition of a career disruption – see below). These circumstances are taken into account in track record assessment.
- Career disruption – a prolonged interruption to the ability to work due to pregnancy, illness/injury and/or carer responsibilities. Career disruptions are taken into account in track record assessment and in determining an applicant's eligibility to hold an Emerging Leadership Investigator Grant (in terms of years since their PhD pass date).

In addition to NHMRC's principles of peer review, particularly fairness and transparency, the following principles support this objective:

- Research opportunity: Researchers' outputs and outcomes should reflect their opportunities to advance their career and the research they conduct.
- Fair access: Researchers should have access to the funding available through NHMRC's grant program consistent with their experience and career stage.

- Career diversity: Researchers with career paths that include time spent outside academia should not be disadvantaged. NHMRC recognises that time spent in other sectors, such as industry, may enhance research outcomes for both individuals and teams.

NHMRC expects that peer reviewers will give clear and explicit attention to these principles to identify the highest quality research and researchers. NHMRC recognises that life circumstances can be varied and therefore it is not possible to implement a formulaic approach to applying relative to opportunity considerations during peer review.

Consideration of career circumstances during peer review of grant applications

Under the *Relative to Opportunity Policy*, researchers' career circumstances are considered during track record assessment. This aims to take into account salient research opportunity considerations over the course of a research career and is not intended to address minor changes to life circumstances.

Career circumstances do not extend the 10-year assessment or eligibility timeframes (see below).

Circumstances considered during peer review may include, but are not limited to:

Research

- research role(s) and responsibilities, career stage, and amount of time spent as an active researcher.

Resources and facilities

- available resources and facilities, including:
 - the extent to which any additional research personnel and/or collaborators contribute to the applicant's research program
 - situations where research is being conducted in remote or isolated communities.

Professional responsibilities

- clinical, administrative and/or teaching workload
- time employed in other sectors
- building relationships of trust with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities over long periods

Personal circumstances

- disability (including mental health conditions and psychosocial disability) or illness (that do not meet the definition of career disruption – see below)
- caring responsibilities that do not interrupt the applicant's career for an extended period (that do not meet the definition of a career disruption) but still affect research productivity
- for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants, community obligations, including 'sorry business'
- relocation overseas, including to pursue work opportunities (may be related to either CIA or their immediate family).

Other circumstances

- relocation of an applicant and their research laboratory or clinical practice setting
- periods of unemployment

- calamities, such as pandemics (including increased caring responsibilities or the need to supervise children’s education at home during the COVID-19 pandemic), bushfires or cyclones.

Relative to opportunity considerations do not include:

- minor (or short-term) changes that occur during the normal course of conducting research (e.g. broken equipment or delayed ethics approval)
- minor (or short-term) medical conditions, or
- recreational leave or general administrative activities related to research, such as preparation of grant applications and publications or committee-related activities.

Consideration of career disruption during peer review and in determining eligibility for Emerging Leadership Investigator Grants

A career disruption is defined as a prolonged interruption to an applicant’s capacity to work, due to:

- pregnancy
- major illness/injury
- carer responsibilities.

To qualify as a career disruption, the period of disruption must be:

- a continuous absence from work for 90 calendar days or more, and/or
- continuous, long-term, part-time employment (with defined %FTE¹) due to circumstances classified as career disruption, with the absence amounting to a total of 90 calendar days or more².

The period of career disruption is used:

- to extend the ‘10-year eligibility timeframe’, when determining an applicant’s eligibility for an Emerging Leadership Investigator Grant, commensurate with its duration
- to extend the ‘10-year assessment timeframe’, allowing for the inclusion of additional track record information for assessment of an application
- for consideration of track record relative to opportunity by peer reviewers.

In determining eligibility of EL Investigator Grant applicants, the 10-year limit on the number of years post-PhD is extended commensurate with the period of the career disruption. This timeframe is not extended for any other career circumstances (i.e. that do not meet the definition of a career disruption—see above). This means that, for applicants with one (1) year of career disruption(s), their ‘10-year eligibility timeframe’ to apply at the EL Level will extend to 11 calendar years, prior to the application close date. Career disruptions also extend the ‘10-year assessment timeframe’ (see above).

Note: The ‘10-year assessment timeframe’ can be extended back to when the applicant commenced research. The ‘10-year eligibility timeframe’ can be extended back to the applicant’s PhD pass date.

¹ For the purposes of Investigator Grant eligibility, 0.2 FTE is equivalent to 1 standard business day (approximately 7.5–7.6 hours).

² For example, an applicant who is employed at 0.8 FTE due to essential childcare responsibilities would need to continue this for at least 450 calendar days to achieve a career disruption of 90 calendar day.