

MND New Zealand Travel Grants -Application Process

Timelines

Applications close	7 th October 2019
Scholarships awarded	21 st October 2019
MND New Zealand Research Conference registration	Early bird registration closes 4 th November 2019
MND New Zealand Research Conference	9th December 2019

Eligibility

The applicant must be a researcher with an interest in motor neurone disease and be a New Zealand citizen or permanent New Zealand resident.

Applications are open to all past and present Honours/Masters/PhD students, research assistants and early-career researchers (ECR) whose work advances our understanding of MND and/or contributes to improved clinical management of people with MND. In alignment with many competitive grant agencies, ECRs are defined as researchers who have completed their PhD in the last five years. 'Early Career Researcher (ECR)' may also refer to research assistants and clinicians within 5 years of receiving their speciality, and clinicians and health professionals with equivalent experience (including Registrars) who are building their research credentials.

Please read the terms and conditions to confirm your eligibility.

The Travel Grant does not cover subsistence costs.

Grants cannot be awarded retrospectively.

Application process

Please email your cover letter expressing your interest (maximum of one page) and CV (maximum of two pages) to Lydia Everhart, Manager, NZ MND Research Network at mndresearch@auckland.ac.nz

In your cover letter, please address the following:

- Briefly outline your current research focus and future research goals;



- Explain how this grant will benefit your research career and how you will endeavour to share your experience with peers and colleagues;
- Provide receipt of acceptance for oral or poster presentation at domestic or international meetings, if applicable.

Please submit your application as one PDF file.

Term and conditions

Grant conditions

Part A – Introduction

1. General

- a) The Travel Grant must be used exclusively for expenses directly related to travel to/from and/or registration for the MND New Zealand Research Conference;
- b) By signing these conditions of Award, the awardee acknowledges that funding will be used in this way and MND New Zealand will make the bookings for flights, accommodation and registration.

2. Review of grant applications

Applications will be evaluated by the MND New Zealand Research Committee against the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence of published research (if applicable);
- Benefit of the funding to the individual clearly explained i.e. the potential for the travel fund to enhance the applicant's career prospects and research CV;
- Potential for applicant to establish new or continue existing collaborations and create tangible research outcomes.

3. Application of conditions

These conditions shall apply to the Travel Grants. The awardee shall abide by the conditions contained herein.

4. Definitions

In these conditions, unless the contrary intention appears:

‘The Travel Grant’ refers to the inaugural MND New Zealand Travel Grants.

‘Early Career Researcher (ECR)’ means an individual currently undertaking an honours, Masters or PhD degree, or otherwise postdoctoral researchers within 5 years of attaining their PhD. ‘Early Career Researcher (ECR)’ may also refer to research assistants and



clinicians within 5 years of receiving their speciality, and clinicians and health professionals with equivalent experience (including Registrars) who are building their research credentials.

‘The Committee’ refers to the MND New Zealand Research Committee. The Committee is responsible for the review and award of the Travel Grants. The decision of the Committee is final.

‘Conference’ refers to the MND New Zealand Research Conference.

5. Eligibility for Travel Grants

a) Applicants can be:

- undergraduate students currently enrolled in an Honours degree, or
- graduate students currently enrolled in a Masters or PhD degree, or
- postdoctoral researchers within 5 years of receiving their doctorate, or
- research clinicians within 5 years of receiving their speciality, or
- research assistants currently employed at a research institution
- clinicians and health professionals with equivalent experience (including Registrars) who are building their research credentials

b) The applicant must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent New Zealand resident.

c) Applicants must be actively researching or intending to research motor neurone disease.

Part B – Financial Administration

6. Obligations of the applicant

In addition to the obligations contained elsewhere in this Agreement, the Applicant undertakes to:

a) apply the Travel Grant strictly for the purpose set out in Section 1 of this Agreement and for no other conference or purpose;

b) fund any additional costs associated with attending the Conference;

c) agrees to write a formal report on their attendance at the conference, including knowledge gained, the benefit for people with motor neurone disease, and how the trip will influence their future research projects. This report must be sent within 4 weeks of the conclusion of the conference and may be included in the MND New Zealand newsletter and on the webpage for promotional purposes.



d) agrees to be interviewed, photographed and/or filmed and participate in any follow up media opportunities organised by MND New Zealand.

7. Time of payment of Travel Grant

a) MND New Zealand will make the bookings for flights, accommodation and registration after liaising with the awardee.

b) Payment will be administered through MND New Zealand.

8. Application of Travel Grant

a) Travel funds shall be tenable within New Zealand

b) Funding may only be utilised to support costs associated with travel and conference registration for the MND New Zealand Research Conference.

c) Funds unspent or uncommitted shall be returned to MND New Zealand unless otherwise approved by the committee in special circumstances.

d) Travel funds are intended for the original Travel Grant recipient only and may not be used by another scholar/individual.

e) The Committee reserves the right to defer the awarding of Travel Grants in the absence of eligible applicants.

9. Liability

a) The parties hereby agree that MND New Zealand liability is limited to the payment of the Travel Grant in accordance with the terms and conditions of this agreement and that MND New Zealand shall not incur any further liability in connection with the applicants travel to/from and attendance at the Conference.

10. Termination of Travel Grant

a) The committee exercises its power to terminate a travel scholarship or refrain from reimbursing applicants, if the travel scholarship is not used exclusively as outlined in the scholarship conditions set above.

Part C – Acknowledgement of support

12. Report

a) As a condition of the Travel Grant, applicants will be required to submit a 400-800 word report on their attendance at the conference, including knowledge gained, the benefit for people with motor neurone disease, and how the trip will influence their future research projects.



b) Successful applicants must ensure the Travel Grant is acknowledged in all presentations or other printed materials. Such acknowledgment shall include inclusion of the full name of the Travel Grant (MND New Zealand Travel Grant) and the MND New Zealand logo.