

## Osteopathy Australia seeding grant guidelines

<b>Funder</b>	Research Foundation Osteopathy Australia
<b>Funding type</b>	Seeding grant
<b>Eligibility</b>	Early Career Researchers* and PhD students
<b>Maximum award</b>	Funding up to 5,000 per project
<b>Priority Research Areas</b>	Open to all research areas, with priority given to applications that focus on the Osteopathy Australia research priorities.
<b>Rounds per year</b>	1
<b>Funding duration</b>	12 months
<b>Reporting</b>	A <b>full report is required</b> within 3 months of the completion of the project.
<b>Scheme contact</b>	<u>Research and Grants funding Officer</u> or call 02 9410 0099

\*(5 years or less after obtaining Ph.D.)

### 1. Purpose

The Osteopathy Australia Seeding Grant supports independent research that advances osteopathy and aligns with the Osteopathy Australia Research Priorities and Research Strategy. The Seeding Grant provides small-scale funding to support early-stage research by PhD candidates or early career researchers in osteopathy. These **grants are strictly intended as proof-of-concept or pilot funding and must lead to further research activity**, such as progression to larger-scale external funding applications and/or clear dissemination outcomes.

The scheme is intended to:

- Strengthen and support the profession.
- Reflect the complexity of contemporary osteopathic practice.
- Promote rigorous evaluation of practice.
- Clarify osteopathy's role within the Australian health system.
- Build research capacity among practitioners, academics, and researchers.

- Support outcomes that enhance safety, effectiveness, and best practice.

These grants provide '**seed funding**' opportunities for researchers/practitioners to develop projects that can progress to larger scale, externally funded projects that can achieve societal impact.

Funding is allocated through a **competitive, merit-based process** overseen by the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee. Grants are awarded annually and advertised for at least **60 days** prior to the submission deadline. The Committee may prioritise specific themes in any round.

## 2. Grant funding

- The Osteopathy Australia Research Committee annually reviews and recommends indicative grant budgets. Osteopathy Australia reserves the right to amend the Research Funding Policy at any time. The grant application cycle aligns with the financial year.
- The Committee monitors and records funds disbursement against approved milestones. Final funding amounts are at the Committee's discretion and may be less than requested, based on fund availability and project scope.
- Successful applicants must finalise and execute their Funding Agreement **within four months** of notification and within the same financial year; failure to do so may result in forfeiture.

## 3. Eligibility and criteria for assessment of grant applications

- **Only Early Career Researchers and PhD students** are eligible to apply.
- PhD students must be currently enrolled in a research higher degree at an Australian university, and be **undertaking research that is directly relevant to, and primarily focused on, osteopathy.**
- The proposed project must be clearly linked to the applicant's research training and supported by their principal supervisor.
- **PhD students who are osteopaths must also hold current OA membership** at the time of application.
- An individual may be listed as the Lead Investigator on only one proposal per application cycle and must not currently hold an Osteopathy Australia Research Grant. If the **Lead investigator is an osteopath, they must be a current financial member of Osteopathy Australia.**
- All researchers involved in the project must be named in the application.
- The administering institution or organisation must be Australian based, registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), hold the required Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, be eligible to receive grants from OARF, and be named in the final funding agreement.

- Where eligibility is unclear, the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee may request additional information to assess compliance.
- Supplementing funding from other grant sources must be approved by the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee, if not described in the original research plan.
- Awards from other sources may be approved where the researcher provides a satisfactory rationale to the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee addressing any budgetary overlap.
- All successful applicants must gain ethics approval where required, prior to funding.
- Where an eligibility ruling is being considered, Osteopathy Australia Research Committee may request further information to assess whether the eligibility requirement has been met.

## 4. Application requirements

### Team of Investigators

- A CV (max. 2 pages) must be provided for the **Lead Investigator** as well as **all collaborators** on the project, highlighting relevant publications and/or evidence of research capacity.
- Investigator suitability will be assessed on:
  - Experience and unique contribution of each team member.
  - Demonstrated knowledge and expertise in the proposed subject.
  - Potential to secure future external funding following completion of the grant.

### Research Design & Methodology

- Include a **clear hypothesis or objective** and a well-justified research design.
- **Systematic reviews** are only eligible if part of a larger project.
- Ensure the project is **feasible within the funding period** and supported by a realistic budget.
- Structure your project description under these headings:
  - **Background**
  - **Aims / Hypothesis / Objectives**
  - **Methodology** (design, participants, methods, analysis)
  - **Significance and Innovation**
  - **Dissemination**
  - **Impact**
- For **participants**, describe protections for human participants, considering **gender, minority groups, and children** where relevant.

### Significance, Innovation & Impact

- Explain the project's **novelty and importance**.
- Show how the findings will **benefit the profession and broader community**.

- Indicate potential for **future external funding** in this area.
- Include a clear plan for **dissemination and stakeholder engagement**.

## 5. Scoring and selection criteria

Applications for an Osteopathy Australia Research Grant will be assessed by the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee (or independent delegates) and a decision to award a grant will be based on the following criteria:

Alignment with research priorities of Osteopathy Australia strategic plan	(weighting: 10%)
Capacity and credibility of the team of investigators	(weighting: 20%)
Strengthening of collaborative research partnerships	(weighting: 10%)
Quality of research design and methodology	(weighting: 25%)
Significance, Innovation, and Impact of the research project	(weighting: 15%)
Potential for extramural funding following project completion	(weighting: 10%)
Budget justification	(pass/fail)
Feasibility of the project	(weighting: 10%)

## 6. Budget

A detailed budget table should be provided along with justification of the proposed budget. Please see the below budget rules:

### Allowable and Non-Allowable Expenditure

The following provides guidance on the types of costs that may be supported under this scheme. All costs must be clearly justified as essential to the conduct and completion of the proposed research. **Direct costs** are not an allowable expense.

Allowable expense	Non-allowable expense
<p><b>Personnel costs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant fees for methodological or analytic expertise essential to the study</li> <li>• Software licences or specialised digital tools required for research execution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salaries, salary supplementation, or honoraria for investigators or team members</li> <li>• Standard clinical income replacement beyond what is justified for research time</li> <li>• Professional development or training not directly related to the research</li> <li>• Routine clinical or professional expenses (e.g. uniforms, treatment tables, association fees)</li> <li>• General living costs such as rent, food, or utilities</li> <li>• Hosting of conferences, workshops, or seminars unrelated to data collection</li> </ul>

<b>Project costs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Participant recruitment, incentives, and reimbursement</li> <li>· Data collection expenses (e.g. survey platforms, laboratory testing, transcription)</li> <li>· Hiring of technical or specialised services (e.g. statistical analysis, data management)</li> <li>· Research-specific consumables and materials</li> <li>· Equipment or consumables directly required for the project (up to 40% of total budget)</li> <li>· Publication and open-access fees (up to 20% of total budget)</li> <li>· Venue hire or online platform fees for research-related activities</li> <li>· Printing, postage, or materials required for study implementation</li> <li>· Travel for data collection, collaboration, or dissemination of findings - economy airfare only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· General office supplies or IT equipment normally provided by the host institution (e.g. laptops, phones, stationery)</li> <li>· Infrastructure or capital works (e.g. building refurbishments, clinical furniture)</li> <li>· Costs associated with routine service delivery not directly linked to the research</li> <li>· Long-term maintenance, hosting, or subscription costs beyond the project timeframe</li> <li>· Conference attendance not directly linked via to dissemination of project results, i.e. project must be listed in program</li> </ul>

## 7. Timeline

A Gantt Chart/table to be provided outlining **key milestones**.

## 8. Expected outcomes will include:

The Seed Grant is intended to provide - support for PhD students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs). Recipients are expected to deliver outcomes that strengthen their research capacity and lay the foundation for future projects. Expected outcomes include:

<b>Pilot data</b>	That supports feasibility and forms the basis of a competitive external funding application (e.g. ARC, NHMRC, MRFF, foundation funding).
<b>Scholarly outputs</b>	A peer-reviewed article, conference abstract, or poster and/or a practice level summary for <i>OsteoLife</i>
<b>Training and education</b>	Record and present a Webinar or Seminar for OA
<b>Capacity building</b>	Including development of new skills
<b>Collaborative links</b>	Eg interdisciplinary partnerships, supervisor/mentor, or inter-institutional connections
<b>Demonstrated contribution</b>	To the osteopathy or allied health evidence base, with potential for clinical, consumer, or policy impact.
<b>A clear plan for next steps</b>	How this project will lead to a larger, competitive study.

## 9. Submission details

All Applications must be submitted via email to the Osteopathy Australia Research and Grants Officer ([research@osteopathy.org.au](mailto:research@osteopathy.org.au))

Applications must include the following:

- Details of the team involved and the role and contribution of each member
- Copies of CV's (max two pages in length) including 5 key publications for each team member
- Project details (Title and project summary)
- Background
- Aims/Hypothesis/Objectives,
- Methodology (design, participants, methods, proposed analysis),
- Significance and Innovation
- Dissemination, and Impact
- Project Budget
- Project Milestones (using Gantt chart or table)

## 10. Change of investigator/extensions/forfeiture of grants

- If you need to make any changes to your project, please contact the Research and Grants Officer as all modifications need to be approved and documented.
- Under exceptional circumstances, extensions of up to six months may be granted. Requests must be submitted in writing to the Research and Grants Officer at least two months before the project end date and include a revised budget and timeline for review.
- All extensions requests to be approved by the Chair of the Research Committee. Any funds unspent by the project deadline, or where the project is not completed, must be returned to Osteopathy Australia.

## 11. Financial and reporting obligations

- Funding must be used solely for the approved project, in line with the proposal and budget. Any variations require prior approval from OA. Activation of research funding accounts is independent of ethics or other approvals, and the Lead Investigator is responsible for ensuring no work requiring approval commences until approvals are obtained.
- Recipients must submit an annual Report Pro-forma within 12 months with grant holders required to report against agreed milestones. and then a final report is required 30 days of project completion.
- A financial acquittal is required along with the Report Pro-forma; any unspent funding needs to be returned to OA.

## 12. Acknowledgment of Funding

All research outputs shall acknowledge Osteopathy Australia funding using the wording: *'This research was supported by Osteopathy Australia under Grant No. [insert number].'* Acknowledgment shall appear on journal articles, conference presentations, posters, reports, media releases, public communications, and any other dissemination.

## 13. Promotion

Successful grant awardees may be promoted via our website and social media channels. Promotion will include your headshot and a brief description of your project.

Please indicate your consent by ticking the box below if you agree to have these details published on our website.

Yes, I am happy for my details to be published on the website.

## 14. Timeline

### Stage 1: Application process

<b>27 October 2025</b>	Grant round launch & promotion/Applications open
<b>16 January 2026</b>	Applications close - RO to review for eligibility and compliance.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026</b>	Distribution to external reviewers (3 weeks). Reviewers assess proposals using a weighted scoring rubric
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026</b>	Distribute to Research Committee to review and approve shortlisted candidates (2 weeks)
<b>9 March 2026</b>	Send to OA Board for final approval (2 weeks)
<b>23 March 2026</b>	Notify successful and unsuccessful candidates
<b>6 April 2026</b>	Contracts finalised and signed/Funding dispensed
<b>8 April 2026</b>	Public announcement of funded projects

### Stage 2: Reporting

<b>5 April 2027</b>	Final Progress Report due/financial acquittal
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### Further information

If you have any questions, please contact the Osteopathy Australia Research and Grants Officer ([research@osteopathy.org.au](mailto:research@osteopathy.org.au)) or call 02 9410 0099