



Osteopathy Australia Research Grant Guidelines

These guidelines contain information for the Osteopathy Australia Research Grant Program. Applicants must read these guidelines before completing an application. This document sets out:

- the purpose of the grant scheme
- the eligibility and assessment criteria
- how grant applications are considered and selected
- how grantees are notified and receive grant payments
- how grantees will be monitored and evaluated
- responsibilities and expectations of the grantee

Introduction

As a professional association, Osteopathy Australia is engaged in a diverse range of activities, all of which have the overarching goal of enhancing and promoting osteopathy. High-quality university education is essential for graduating safe and competent osteopaths who work in a variety of healthcare settings. The research areas included in our research priorities need to be equally broad and encompass clinical issues beyond technique or treatment effectiveness.

This grant aims to facilitate research that benefits osteopathy by:

- Enhancing and supporting the profession.
- Embracing the complex reality of osteopathic practice.
- Promoting rigorous and critical examination of practice.
- Building understanding of osteopathy's role and place in the Australian health system.
- Developing research maturity in practitioners, researchers, and academics.
- Engaging osteopaths in research outcomes that benefit practice safety and effectiveness to facilitate best practice.

Research funds will be allocated to support independent research projects which align with the Osteopathy Australia Research Priorities and the Research Strategy for Osteopathy Australia. These funds are disbursed through a competitive process which calls for proposals of research projects by applicants. Dissemination of the available funds for these grants is determined by the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee based on merit alone. In the event that the total value of approved applications in any one round do not equate to the total available annual research budget, surplus funds will NOT accrue to the research round in the following financial year.

Please note that Lead Investigators on current Osteopathy Australia grants are only eligible to apply for a new grant as Lead Investigator once their current grant has been acquitted by Osteopathy Australia.

It is the intention of OA to run funding rounds annually. Advertisement will take place through professional associations and external research institutions for at least 30 days prior to submission deadline.

The Osteopathy Australia Research Committee may choose, at their discretion, to specify a topic or theme which will be prioritised above other criteria for the forthcoming grant round. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the review by the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee within 60 days of the submission deadline.

Grant Funding

The Osteopathy Australia Research Committee annually reviews and recommends indicative budget amounts to be awarded.

Osteopathy Australia reserves the right to modify the Osteopathy Australia Research Funding Policy at any time. The application cycle for research projects funded by the Osteopathy Australia Grants Scheme and informed by this Policy aligns with the financial year.

The Osteopathy Australia Research Committee will record and monitor disbursement of funds under these guidelines and against approved research milestones.

Please note for successful applicants; Funding Agreements must be finalised within 4 months of receiving notification of the grant offer. Agreements not finalised within this time frame may result in forfeiture of the grant. Grants will not be paid until both parties have executed the Funding Agreement.

Eligibility and Criteria for Assessment of Grant Applications

Eligibility

- An individual may only be listed as the Lead Investigator on one proposal for any grant type in any application cycle.
- The Lead Investigator must not currently hold an Osteopathy Australia Research Grant.
- At least one team member must be a registered Osteopath and a financial member of Osteopathy Australia.
- All researchers must be included within the proposal.
- The institution/organisation listed by the Lead Investigator must be an Australian institution/organisation.
- The institution/organisation listed by the Lead Investigator must be the institution/organisation that will be listed on the final contract.
- 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 by the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee if the researcher submits a rationale that justifies any budgetary overlap to the Committee's satisfaction.
- The final amount approved for funding of any grant application is at the discretion of the Osteopathy Australia Research Committee and may be less than proposed by the applicant.

Such decisions will be made by the Committee based upon availability of funds and proposed project scope.

- 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 in order to assess whether the eligibility requirement has been met.

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%)

Team of Investigators

A curriculum vitae of up to two pages outlining the five most relevant publications, and/or evidence of capacity to make a significant contribution towards project completion must be provided for the Lead Investigator and Lead Supervisor (if different to Lead Investigator).

The suitability of the investigators as it relates to the proposed research will be considered, including:

- The experience of all members of the research team and their unique contribution to the project.
- Evidence of a high level of background knowledge and experience related to the proposed subject.
- Evidence of availability and commitment for all members of the research team.
- The likelihood of the team of investigators being successful in securing future funding upon completion of the Research Grant Program.

Research Design & Methodology

Project proposals must include a clearly articulated hypothesis or objective and an appropriate and well-justified research design and methodology. Systematic reviews will only be considered as part of a larger project.

The project must be feasible within the allocated time and the budget must be realistic for the research proposed.

The project description section of the application should be structured using the following subheadings: Background, Aims/Hypothesis/Objectives, Methodology (design, participants, methods, proposed analysis), Significant and Innovation, Dissemination, and Impact.

Under the subheading 'participants', a suitable plan for the protection of human participants including consideration of issues related to inclusion based on gender, minorities and children must be provided.

Significance, Innovation and Impact

Applications should describe the unique nature of the research effort, independent of existing research efforts. Projects should aim to advance the professional landscape and make a real-world impact.

Priority will be given to applications which reflect significance, innovation, and impact of the proposed research project. This includes the likelihood of future funding for the topic area if the research is successful.

A clear plan for dissemination and optimising the impact for the outcomes of the study findings with appropriate communities and stakeholder groups should be provided in the application.

Budget

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

- Funding for equipment purchases must be clearly outlined and justified in the budget table.
- Equipment purchases should be allocated no more than 40% of the total budget and justification should demonstrate how the equipment will facilitate the research or be used directly for project activities.
- No more than 20% of the budget should be assigned for publication costs.
- Personnel costs may be included in your budget if applying for a project grant but cannot be included if applying for a seeding grant.

Institutional overhead costs directly and indirectly associated with this project will not be funded by Osteopathy Australia.

Timeline

A Gantt Chart should be provided outlining key milestones.

Submission Details

Applications should be submitted via email to the Osteopathy Australia Senior Research and Project Officer (seaves@osteopathy.org.au)

Please ensure that you submit your application form along with the CV of the Lead Investigator

Need help?

If you have any questions or need clarification on this document, please contact the Osteopathy Australia Senior Research and Project Officer (seaves@osteopathy.org.au) or call 02 9410 0099.