



**Women  
& Infants**  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

# **WOMEN AND INFANTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

## **RESEARCH ACCELERATION AWARDS (RAA)**

### **PhD Student Travel Award**

*Supporting perinatal research in Western Australia in the service  
of women's, maternal and newborn health*

## **INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**2026**

### **About the WIRF PhD Student Travel Award**

The Women and Infants Research Foundation (WIRF) seeks to support the development of the next generation of world-class researchers in women's, maternal and newborn health. The PhD Student Travel Awards provide early-career researchers with opportunities to present their work at national and international meetings, build professional networks, and gain exposure to leading research in their field.

WIRF supports a broad and diverse body of research relevant to women's, maternal and newborn health, including maternal mental health, gynaecological health, nursing, midwifery, allied health, rare diseases, femtech, clinical audit, and technology-enabled models of care.

WIRF has established PhD Student travel Award as a means of supporting early-stage research activity. The PhD Student Travel Awards are intended to support professional development, foster collaborations, and enhance the visibility of emerging research, helping PhD students strengthen future funding applications, career progression, and educational development.

### **About the WIRF RAA PhD Student Travel Awards**

#### **Funding Quantum, Number of Grants, and Duration of Funding**

WIRF is pleased to offer Travel Awards of \$5,000 each to support PhD students presenting research in women's, maternal, or newborn health at national or international meetings. These awards are designed to provide professional development opportunities, enhance research visibility, and support future funding potential.

Award funds may only be used for:

- Economy air travel.
- Accommodation.
- Ground transfers.

Applicants are responsible for meals, incidentals, and any other subsistence costs. Applicants must also ensure they have appropriate travel, medical insurance and obtain institutional approval to travel.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. Applications must be submitted through WIRF or an external administering institution with an active ABN and both a physical and operational presence in Western Australia.
2. For non-WIRF administered applications, requested funding must not exceed 10% of the administering institution's competitive grant revenue from the previous calendar year.
3. Applicants must be Australian Citizens, Australian Permanent Residents, or New Zealand Citizens ordinarily resident in Western Australia, and enrolled at a Western Australian Health Service or University.
4. Applicants must not have submitted their PhD thesis for examination at the time of application.
5. Students must be the first author on the abstract and present their work at the meeting.
6. Applicants must have no outstanding reports for previous WIRF funding.
7. Each applicant may submit only one application per calendar year.
8. Research must directly relate to the enhancement of women's, maternal, or newborn health.

### **Travel Overview / Application Requirements**

Applicants must provide a plain-language summary (max. 500 words) that includes:

- A brief description of the research topic.
- The primary research question or objective.
- The significance and importance of the research.
- Anticipated benefits and potential outcomes for women's, maternal, or newborn health.

The summary should be written for a general audience as it may be used for publicity and marketing.

Applicants must also include a short statement describing:

- How attendance will enhance future funding opportunities.
- How it will support career progression.
- How it will contribute to professional or educational development.

Abstract submission to the meeting is mandatory.

## How to Apply

1. Complete the PhD Student Travel Award Application Form.
2. Submit the completed application (with supporting documents) to [grants@wirf.com.au](mailto:grants@wirf.com.au) by the advertised closing date.

Late, incomplete, or partial applications will not be considered.

## Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by WIRF's Scientific Grants Sub-Committee, comprising experienced researchers, clinician-scientists, experts, and consumer representatives. Funding will be awarded on merit, based on assessment of:

- Significance of research.
- Novelty and originality.
- Feasibility and readiness.
- Potential outcomes for women's, maternal, or newborn health.
- Professional and career development impact for the student.

The WIRF Board reserves final discretion over eligibility, funding, and award amounts.

## Funding Conditions

- **Payment:** Travel awards are paid as a single instalment following execution of a Funding Agreement.
- **Termination of Funds:** Awards must be used for the approved travel. Funds will revert to WIRF if eligibility criteria are not met, funds are misused, or required approvals are not obtained.
- **Insurance:** Applicants must have appropriate travel, medical, and educational insurance.
- **Acknowledgment:** Award recipients must acknowledge WIRF support in presentations and publications:  
*"This project was/is funded by the Women and Infants Research Foundation."*  
Recipients agree to cooperate with WIRF for publicity and promotional activities.
- **Final Report:** A short report (250 – 500 words) on travel outcomes and benefits must be submitted within 8 weeks of returning.

## Confidentiality and Complaints

- Confidentiality: All applications are treated confidentially. Plain-language summaries may be used for publicity.
- Complaints: Administrative complaints may be submitted to [grants@wirf.com.au](mailto:grants@wirf.com.au), marked confidential. Decisions on funding outcomes cannot be appealed.