

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision Centre of Research Excellence in Bone Marrow Biology

2026 Grant Round Guidelines – International Travel Fellowship

About Maddie Riewoldt's Vision:

Maddie Riewoldt's Vision (MRV) is Australia's only not-for-profit organisation dedicated to Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes (BMFS). MRV is the remarkable legacy of the Riewoldt family, created after their daughter Maddie tragically lost her five-year battle with Aplastic Anaemia in 2015. MRV's vision is that BMFS are prevented, diagnosed, and treated with the best available medical care in Australia, and that patients and families receive the support they need. Its mission is to fund research that accelerates next-generation prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of BMFS, while improving outcomes and wellbeing for patients and families.

The Maddie's Vision Centre of Research Excellence in Bone Marrow Biology (CRE), established in 2018, is a national collaborative network driving innovation and impact in BMFS research. Its portfolio includes 36 projects across Australia, spanning clinical trials, grants-in-aid, fellowships, and critical infrastructure such as the Aplastic Anaemia and Other Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes Registry and the Australian Marrow Failure Biobank. Many projects involve international collaborations and have contributed to significant advances in understanding, diagnosing, and treating BMFS.

To continue strengthening and accelerating research outcomes, developing expertise, and improving patient and family care, MRV offers competitive grant rounds and fellowships. These funding opportunities support high-quality, collaborative research, foster the growth of researchers and clinicians, and enhance capacity across the national and international BMFS research community.

Fellowship Overview

In Grant Round 2026, Maddie's Vision is delighted to offer an International Travel Fellowship, designed to build expertise and strengthen global collaboration in BMFS research and care. The program enables Australian researchers to undertake part of their project at a leading international institution, fostering the exchange of knowledge and skills that can be translated into the Australian research and clinical environment.

Open to appropriately qualified scientific, medical, nursing, and allied health researchers, the fellowship supports projects that advance understanding of the underlying mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment, and/or patient care in BMFS, aligned with one or more of our Five Pillars of Research:

1. Collection and analysis of clinical data and samples from BMFS patients
2. Understanding the biology and environment of blood stem cells
3. Monitoring and understanding predictors of disease prognosis, treatment response, and disease evolution
4. Improving patient care and multidisciplinary support
5. Clinical trials

Recipients will spend time at both Australian and international institutions, with opportunities to:

- Train and conduct research at a leading international institution, and/or
- Gain experience in patient care within a large clinical setting overseas.

Fellows are encouraged to return to Australia for at least the final six months of the program, to apply their enhanced skills and expertise in completing their project.

Through this model, the fellowship builds research capability, promotes knowledge transfer, and delivers direct benefits to the Australian community while strengthening global partnerships in BMFS.

Fellowship Details

Timing

- Call for applications opens: 12 November 2025
- Applications close: 27 February 2026, 17:00 AEDT
- Shortlist/interviews (if required): Week commencing 4 May 2026
- Outcomes announced: Week commencing 11 May 2026
- Fellowship commencement: By July 2026 (deferral requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis)

Funding

- Up to **AUD \$100,000 per annum**, for a maximum of three years.
- Funding may be used to support salary, consumables, travel and accommodation associated with time spent at the international host institution, and other reasonable research costs.
- All funds will be administered through the Australian administering institution.
- Payments will be made in milestone-based instalments, in accordance with the final funding agreement.
- The following costs are **not eligible**:
 - Publication costs, equipment or support staff
 - Salary on-costs, such as employer superannuation contributions, workers' compensation, leave loading and other employment expenses
 - Indirect/overhead costs including infrastructure, utilities and administration
 - Costs arising from receipt of the fellowship, such as Continuing Medical Education expenses

Eligibility

PhD-qualified scientists, medical doctors, clinician-researchers, nurses, and allied health professionals are eligible to apply. To be considered for the Fellowship, applicants must:

- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Hold a PhD, MD, or equivalent research or clinical qualification.

- Medical doctors must have completed their clinical specialty training and be eligible for independent practice in their specialty prior to the commencement of the fellowship.
- Nurses and allied health applicants must hold a PhD, or a Masters by Research (or equivalent with a substantial research component) and demonstrate research experience and/or a track record relevant to BMFS appropriate to their career stage.
- Be an early- to mid-career researcher, defined as within 10 years post-award of their highest degree or specialist qualification, excluding career disruptions such as parental leave, illness, or caring responsibilities.
- Nominate at least one supervisor at both the Australian administering institution **and** the international host institution. Supervisors should demonstrate a strong track record of clinically relevant and innovative research in BMFS.
- Propose a project that includes time spent at both an Australian and an international host institution, with a clear plan for skills transfer and collaboration.

Note: This fellowship is not intended to support enrolment in higher degree studies.

Fellowship Conditions

- The Fellowship must represent a substantial contribution to a nominated research project(s). Periods of substantial leave (e.g., long service leave, sabbatical) are not supported.
- Fellows are encouraged to return to the administering institution in Australia at least six months prior to the conclusion of the fellowship opportunity, to support ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Fellows must not concurrently hold another fellowship or grant that provides overlapping salary support or research costs.
- Parental leave of up to 12 months is permitted, with salary support provided by the administering institution.
- Fellows must conduct research in accordance with all of the regulatory and ethics requirements of the administering and host institution. Where clinical trials are part of the project, evidence of ethics/Institutional Review Board approval is required.
- Tax obligations arising from Fellowship income are the sole responsibility of the recipient.
- If your research involves children or vulnerable people, you must hold a valid *Working with Children Check* or *Working with Vulnerable People* registration applicable in your state or territory. Maddie's Vision is committed to upholding the highest standards of child safety and the protection of vulnerable individuals in all research activities.

Reporting Obligations

Fellowship recipients must:

- Submit written progress reports against agreed milestones and timelines.
- Provide annual financial statements.
- Present project findings at Maddie's Vision scientific events, as appropriate.
- Acknowledge Fellowship support in all publications, presentations, and media.
- Provide a financial statement and acquittal of funds from the administering organisation at the conclusion of the Fellowship

Application Sections

When preparing your application, please review the overview below in conjunction with the official **Application Form**, which is available for download on the Maddie’s Vision website. The Application Form provides complete details, including word limits and formatting requirements.

Application Sections	General information Required
Applicant and institute details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal information • Education & employment detail • Eligibility confirmation • Nomination of administering institution (i.e. the organisation responsible for managing the fellowship award and where the fellow is expected to conduct the proposed research activities) • Nomination of host institution (i.e. the international organisation at which the applicant proposes to conduct specific research activities, but which does not hold responsibility for the overall administration of the grant)
Research track record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant CV / resume • Career summary that is relative to opportunity – including a career disruption statement where relevant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Career disruption includes maternity / paternity leave, illness and carer responsibilities</i> • Grants and awards • Achievements in research that are relevant to BMFS– including conference abstracts and publications
Research proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project title • Background and rationale –demonstrate strategic alignment to BMFS and include previous evidence or preliminary data supporting the proposed research • Hypothesis and aims • Detailed description of the proposed research and methodology • Key milestones, deliverables and timeline • Expected outcomes and potential impact on patients and families with BMFS in Australia and internationally • Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan • Detailed budget and justification of requested costs, including all income and funding sources • Justification for the nominated FTE for research time • Plan(s) for consumer engagement throughout the project – describe specific activities, roles, and responsibilities of consumers or community members in the research process, including prior engagement or plans for future engagement

Application Sections	General information Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan(s) for research knowledge translation/implementation – outline how findings will be applied, disseminated, or translated into clinical or policy practice
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed budget and justification of requested costs, including all income and funding sources, using the Budget Spreadsheet Template, available for download on the Maddie’s Vision website. <i>Note: Funding sources other than the Maddie’s Vision Fellowship are optional depending on the project</i>
Research environment & support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure & resources Collaborations Plan(s) for professional development activities
Consumer engagement summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the proposed research project written in plain language for general public understanding, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unmet need in BMFS (The Challenge) Proposed research question, objectives and methodologies (The Research) The significant and potential impact of the proposed research and how it would address the unmet need (The Impact) Describe the plan for consumer or community involvement in the proposed project, outlining how you will address ethical considerations, including cultural sensitivity, inclusivity, privacy, consent, and respect for all research participants, by ensuring relevant populations are appropriately engaged or consulted. Explain how you will implement your findings, share results with the community and support translation into practice or policy
Supervisors, collaborators & mentors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must nominate at least one supervisor from the Australian administering institution and at least one supervisor from the international host institution. Supervisors should have a proven track record of clinically relevant and innovative research in BMFS. A letter of support from each supervisor must be included with the application Mentorship (<i>optional but strongly encouraged</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants are encouraged to establish a formal mentorship with a senior academic from either the Australian or international institution who has a strong track record and mentoring experience. This mentorship aims to provide additional guidance and support for the applicant’s research, international collaboration, and career development. A letter of support from the mentor, where applicable, should be included with the application Collaborators and other supporters:

Application Sections	General information Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where relevant, applicants may include letters of support from key collaborators, partner organisations, or consumer representatives

How to Apply

Applicants must complete the official **MRV International Travel Fellowship Application Form**, available for download on the Maddie's Vision website. The completed application form, along with all required attachments, such as the applicant's CV, research proposal, budget spreadsheet, supervisor and mentor letters, and any other supporting materials can be attached together in a **single PDF file** named: **MRVITFellowship2026_[Surname]**.

Submission

- Applications must be submitted via email to **research@mrv.org.au** by the closing date.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- A maximum of one Fellowship will be awarded per grant round. Maddie Riewoldt's Vision reserves the right not to award a Fellowship if no suitable applicants are identified.

Application evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed by the MRV Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) based on the pre-defined evaluation criteria outlined in the table below.

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
Consumer Engagement and Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address an important, unmet need in BMFS, with impact on patients, survivors, families or carers. • Relevant to patients, survivors, families or carers. • Meaningful anticipated benefits for patients and support networks in both Australia and internationally. • Evidence of planned consumer engagement in research design and development. • Accessibility and inclusivity of outputs and outcomes • Clear plan for communicating findings across Australian and international communities, with realistic pathways for translation into practice. 	10%
Applicant Capability & Track Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and significance of research outputs (e.g. peer-reviewed publications, grants, patents and conference presentations) adjusted for career disruptions. • Quantity of outputs relative to career stage (adjusted for career disruption). • Leadership roles in previous projects or research teams, including international collaborations. • Building or contributing to research networks and partnerships. • Professional development activities demonstrating commitment to advancing expertise relevant to the fellowship. • Alignment of skills with proposed research. 	35%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear articulation of how the fellowship will build on the applicant's track record to achieve future career goals. • Potential to grow as a research leader and contribute strategically to both the Australian and international BMFS research community. 	
Research Quality & Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicability and relevance to research in BMFS. • Well-defined research objectives with clearly articulated questions that address key gaps in scientific knowledge or clinical practice. • Robust study design and research methodologies, including cross-institutional and international components, with attention to ethical and regulatory compliance. • Introduction of new or unique concepts, approaches or collaborative methodologies. • Realistic project design, access to facilities, and alignment with applicant's expertise. • Evidence of consumer engagement in research development. 	15%
Research Impact & Benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for research outcomes to address critical gaps in BMFS scientific knowledge or patient care. • Potential for research outcomes to be scaled, adapted, or replicated in other settings or populations. • Clear pathway for translating research findings into clinical setting or healthcare policy. • Contribution to developing clinical, research, or translational expertise within both the administering and international host institutions. • Scope for sustained impact beyond the fellowship period, including strengthening global collaborations. 	15%
Feasibility & Institutional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to necessary facilities, equipment, and technology required for the research, including adequate staffing (e.g. research assistants, technicians, or other relevant personnel). • Identification of potential risks or barriers and proposed contingency plan, including strategies for ethical, regulatory, or practical challenges in both Australia and overseas. • Commitment from administering institution with formal letter of support confirming endorsement and commitment to the agreed-upon protected research time. • Confirmation of experienced supervisor or mentors relevant to the proposed research area. • Plans or structures to facilitate continued collaboration, or further career opportunities following completion of the fellowship. 	20%
Alignment with Maddie's Vision Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance of proposed research to Maddie's Vision mission and research strategy. • Potential for outcomes to advance the mission, including impact on patients, families, and those affected by BMFS. 	5%

Evaluation Criteria	Sub-Criteria	Weighting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="443 310 1222 405">• Evidence of commitment to mission-aligned principles, such as inclusivity, accessibility, and consumer engagement, with consideration for international applicability.	