QUEENSLAND IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE

QIRC ECR SEED GRANT SCHEME GUIDELINES 2027

The Queensland Immunology Research Centre (QIRC) is offering enabling Early-Career Researcher (ECR) grants that align with its priorities of promoting multidisciplinary and collaborative immunology research within Queensland. The objectives of this scheme are to:

- Promote collaborative research programs driven through The University of Queensland and QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, but may in addition include other partners.
- Support ECRs in their preparation of applications for external research funds

FUNDING AVAILABLE

QIRC will award up to five grants for 2027 with a maximum value of $30,000 each. These grants are available to Early-Career Researchers (<10 years since PhD award, allowing for career interruptions).

FUNDING RULES

Funds must be used to support collaborative research between UQ and QIMR Berghofer. Funds can be spent on laboratory consumables, personnel, and external support for preparation of grant applications. Funds cannot be used for international or interstate travel, large equipment purchases or for routine laboratory support provided by the institution. Project funding will commence in January 2027 and end 31 December 2027.

Grant Awardees will be invited to present at the annual QIRC retreat.

ELIGIBILITY

Successful applications must:

- Have one lead investigator from UQ and one lead investigator from QIMR Berghofer. Additional co-investigators can be based at UQ, QIMR Berghofer, or other QLD institutions.
    - Lead investigators must have a PhD or equivalent level qualification.
    - Both lead investigators must be ECRs (<10 years since PhD award, allowing for career interruptions). Additional co-investigators do not need to be ECRs.
    - At least one lead investigator must be affiliated with a QIRC member lab.
    - Lead investigators can only be listed as a lead investigator on one application in the 2027 QIRC Seed Grant scheme.
- Be conducting research in immunology.

Previous QIRC Seed Grant recipients are encouraged to apply. Where an applicant has previously received a QIRC Seed Grant as one of the lead investigators, the relevant Seed Grant Report must be provided with the application.

SCORING CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by the QIRC Executive, and assessed on the following scoring criteria:

- Research proposal (35%)
- Significance and/or innovation (35%)
- Collaborative network (20%)
- Track record (10%)

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REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

At the conclusion of funding, the grant recipient must provide a report on the project to QIRC that includes:

- Summary of results
- Presentations and publications
- Impact of the research on grant applications

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE QIRC

Acknowledgement of the QIRC should be included in future publications, presentations, and public announcements where relevant.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should use the supplied template. Once completed, this form should then be submitted via email as a PDF attachment to qirc@uq.edu.au. Applications close: **5pm, 11 November 2026.**

Successful applicants will be notified by email.