

Naturopaths and Herbalists of Australia Research Capacity Building Grant



2024-2025: Key Dates

Round 1	
Applications Open	Friday, 23 rd August 2024 – 3:00pm
Information Session / Q&A	Monday, 2 nd September 2024 – 6:00pm
Applications Close	Sunday 1 st February 2025 5:00pm
Peer review	Mon 10 th February - Friday 14 th Feb 2025
Outcomes announced	Week of 10 th March 2025
Funding to commence	Tuesday 1 st April, 2025
Round 2	
Applications Open	TBC
Information Session / Q&A	TBC
Applications Close	TBC
Peer review	TBC
Outcomes announced	TBC
Funding to commence	TBC

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Contents

1.1 Preamble	4
1.2 Purpose and objectives of the RCB Grant 2024-2025	4
1.3 RCB-Grant Overview	4
2. Eligibility and restrictions	5
2.1 Chief Investigator employment	5
2.2 Qualifications	5
2.3 Restrictions on funding held as Lead CI	6
2.4 Lead Researchers and naturopathic medicine practitioners.	6
2.5 Number of proposals	6
3. Application and Assessment	6
3.1 Application process	6
3.2 Assessment process	6
Conditions of Award	7
4.1 Award amount and duration	7
4.2 Reporting requirements	7
4.3 Management of funds	7
Appendix 1: Selection Criteria and Category Descriptors	9
Appendix 2: Eligibility Checklist	11

1. Scheme Objectives and Overview

1.1 Preamble

Building the research capacity of the discipline of naturopathy is fundamental to the development of naturopathic practice and education and the future of naturopathy as a primary health discipline in the healthcare workforce of Australia. Several Australian researchers from the discipline of naturopathy, rank in the Stanford Universities Top 2% of scientists in the world, demonstrating Australia is well positioned as research leaders. The NHAHA research capacity building grant is part of the NHAAs shared responsibility to support research that builds the evidence base and profiles the role of high-quality naturopathic and herbal medicine practice in contributing to meeting the goals of the Australian Preventative Health Strategy 2021-2030. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-preventive-health-strategy-2021-2030?language=en>

1.2 Purpose and objectives of the RCB Grant 2024-2025

Purpose

The RCB grant provides a mechanism for qualified researchers in partnership with naturopathic medicine practitioners, who are members of the NHAHA to develop skills, knowledge, and confidence in developing naturopathic research projects that investigate the role of naturopathic medicine in meeting the objectives of the national preventative health strategy 2021-2030.

Objectives

To incentivize naturopathic researchers and practitioners to reflect on their profession's contribution to disease preventative (primary and secondary) and make valuable research contributions to building the disciplines research capacity in the role of naturopathic medicine practice in disease prevention through the following areas:

- reducing tobacco use and nicotine addiction.
- improving access to and healthy consumption of a healthy diet.
- increasing physical activity.
- increasing cancer screening and prevention.
- reducing alcohol and other drug harm.
- promoting and protecting mental health.

1.3 RCB-Grant Overview

The RCB-Grant is targeted at individual applicants; their capability to lead research involving practitioners. Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements (**Appendix 2**).

An application for the RCB grant involves the following elements:

1. Select an Australian Preventative Health Strategy 2021-2030 focus area.
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-preventive-health-strategy-2021-2030?language=en>

2. Identify at least one naturopathic practitioner who is ideally placed to develop a naturopathic research project.
3. Conceptualize and articulate a 12-month project development plan comprising ethics application and study protocol and associated documents, that has been optimally designed in collaboration with a naturopathic practitioner, to progress the development of research in the focus area (s).
4. Request up to \$5,000 to cover costs that will be directly incurred in developing the nominated capability area(s).

Applications will be submitted via EasyChair

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=nhaa2024rg>

Applications will be peer-reviewed according to the selection criteria

Appendix 1.

Awardees will be required to meet specific grant conditions.

2. Eligibility and restrictions

2.1 Chief Investigator employment

The Chief Investigator (“CI”) must be employed at a higher education or research institution that:

- includes a significant research component (minimum 20%); and
- will employ them for at least the duration of the 12-month period.

For clarity, the following are not eligible to apply to the RCB Grant:

- casual employees;
- current HDR students; and
- professional and/or academic staff on contracts without a significant research component.

2.2 Qualifications

As at the application closing date the CI must hold a Higher Degree Research that satisfies at least one of the below requirements:

- PhD
- Masters (Research) or
- Professional Doctorate

The HDR qualification must be a relevant area of health science preferably naturopathic medicine or herbal medicine.

2.3 Restrictions on funding held as Lead CI

Researchers who are current Lead CIs of nationally competitive Category 1 funded projects.

2.4 Lead Researchers and naturopathic medicine practitioners.

The Lead researcher (CI) must nominate a naturopathic medicine practitioner (member of the NHAHA)

The naturopathic practitioner must have:

- clinical experience in the project topic;
- agreed to be named as a naturopathic medicine practitioner in the application, which should also articulate their role in guiding the capability development of the project, and;
- if the application is funded, agrees to work with the CI towards completing the project outcomes.

2.5 Number of proposals

The CI may submit one application only per round.

Unsuccessful applicants may reapply in subsequent rounds, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

3. Application and Assessment

3.1 Application process

Applications will be submitted via the EasyChair platform link provided here: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=nhaa2024rg> Incomplete applications, or applications not submitted by the deadline will be deemed ineligible.

3.2 Assessment process

Applications will be peer assessed by the NHAHA RCB Grant panel against the selection criteria (**Appendix 1**).

Applications to RCBG written in plain English and avoid the use of terminology unique to the area of study.

Selection Committee decisions are final. Appeals will only be considered on procedural grounds.

Conditions of Award

4.1 Award amount and duration

Up to \$5,000 may be awarded for projects up to 12 months in duration. The Selection Committee reserves the right to review all budgets prior to making final funding recommendations to the applicant.

4.2 Reporting requirements

All Chief Investigators must:

- i. At 6 months, submit a financial acquittal statement to the NHAA.
- ii. At the 12-month mark, provide a brief presentation at a NHAA seminar, summit or conference on the project to date to the NHAA research community (in a format to be advised).
- iii. Be willing to participate as a featured speaker or panelist in at least one NHAA event.
- iv. At the 18-month mark, self-reflect on the RCB grant and provide feedback to the NHAA via a brief survey.
- v. Be available to assess future, RCB grant applications (or similar) applications.

4.3 Management of funds

General

- i. Any breach of these Conditions of Award may result in the NHAA retrieving any unspent funds.

Funding and expenditure

- ii. Funding for awarded projects will be awarded strictly for a 12-month period and will not be permitted to be carried forward. The NHAA may recover any funds remaining unspent as at the end of the 12-month period.
- iii. Expenditure must be as per the approved budget in the application. Requests for significant changes to the budget and budget timeline must be made to the CI's Faculty Finance manager.
- iv. Funding is intended for approved activities only.
- v. Conference and travel costs are capped at \$500.00

- vi. Research activity codes for successful projects will be allocated by Financial Services Unit once post-award establishment is completed by the Research Office.
- vii. Any equipment that is purchased with funding provided for the approved Project shall remain the property of the UTS after completion of the project.

Ethics approvals

- viii. For projects where there will be a research element involving human participants or animals, the grantee must include the necessary approvals that align with the [National Health & Medical Research Council ethics codes](#).
- ix. When conducting research pursuant to the approved Project that involves, or is concerned with, the use of recombinant DNA techniques, the grantee(s) shall ensure that they observe the principles and guidelines established and approved by the Australian Government's [Office of Gene Technology Regulator](#).
- x. Applicants should contact their higher education research institute for guidance on ethics and biosafety.

Appendix 1: Selection Criteria and Category Descriptors

CATEGORY	Project Scope 55%	Project Plan & Feasibility 25%	Capacity Building 20%
7 – Exceptional	<p>The applicant has made an exceptionally compelling case for why developing skills and knowledge in developing and conducting proof of concept studies in the National Preventative Health Strategy Focus Area is required.</p> <p>The application demonstrates exceptionally clear alignment between the proposed activities and the objectives of the grant.</p> <p>There is exceptionally clear alignment between the proposed activities and the principles of naturopathic medicine.</p>	<p>The overall project plan, in terms of objectives and timing, success measures, budget, CI time commitment, risk management, and access to relevant resources (people and facilities) suggests the project is highly feasible and highly appropriate for achieving the objectives of the project.</p>	<p>The expertise of the lead researcher is exceptionally well-aligned with the project and RCB grant objectives.</p> <p>The role of the led researcher in contributing to the development of the naturopathic professions research profile is clearly articulated in the application.</p>
5 – Good	<p>The applicant has made a good case for why developing skills, knowledge and confidence within the nominated ROCF capability area/s is required.</p> <p>The application demonstrates alignment between the proposed activities and the objectives of the grant.</p>	<p>The overall project plan, in terms of objectives and timing, success measures, budget, CI time commitment, risk management, and access to relevant resources (people and facilities) suggests the project is feasible and appropriate for achieving the objectives of the project.</p>	<p>The expertise of the lead researcher aligns with the project and RCB grants objectives.</p> <p>The role of the led researcher in contributing to the development of the naturopathic professions research profile is articulated in the application</p>

	<p>There is alignment between the proposed activities and the principles of naturopathic medicine.</p>		
<p>3 – Not Competitive</p>	<p>The applicant has not made a compelling case for why developing skills and knowledge in developing and conducting proof of concept studies in the National Preventative Health Strategy Focus Area.</p> <p>The application demonstrates modest alignment between the proposed activities and the objectives of the grant.</p> <p>There is modest alignment between the proposed activities and the principles of naturopathic medicine.</p>	<p>The overall project plan, in terms of objectives and timing, success measures, budget, CI time commitment, risk management, and access to relevant resources (people and facilities), suggests the project is not feasible nor appropriate to achieving the stated capability development objectives, with numerous design flaws.</p>	<p>The expertise of the lead researcher does not align with the project and RCB grant objectives.</p> <p>The role of the led researcher in contributing to the development of the naturopathic professions research profile has not been compellingly articulated in the application.</p>

Appendix 2: Eligibility Checklist

1. Applicant is employed in an Australian research institution (University, Research Centre).
2. Applicant has been awarded their PhD, Master's by Research or Professional Doctorate degree.
3. Applicant does not currently hold a CI position on a Category 1 funded project.
4. Applicant can only submit one RCB grant application per round (two rounds per year).
5. Applicant has an active profile on their research institution site.
6. Applicant has nominated at least one NHAHA practitioner member/s on the research team.
7. Budget requested does not exceed \$5,000.00 per round.