

NQRTH MBBS Summer Research Bursary Program

Application Process

2026/27 Application Round

Use this guide as a quick checklist for preparing and submitting your application. For detailed information about eligibility, project selection, assessment and common questions, refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Applications close 5:00 pm, Friday 25 September 2026	Bursary value \$500	Research period December 2026 to March 2027
Project locations Cairns, Mackay, Mount Isa, Townsville and online	Project preferences Contact top two supervisors. Rank top three projects.	Assessment weighting Application and personal statement 80%; CV 20%

Key points before you apply: Applicants should contact supervisors for their first and second project preferences only. In the application form, applicants will rank their top three project preferences and may be considered for any project ranked 1, 2 or 3. Travel funding is not available through this program.

Before You Apply

1	Read the program documents - Read the NQRTH MBBS Summer Research Bursary Program Guidelines and FAQs before commencing your application.
2	Review the project list - Review the available projects and consider which opportunities best match your interests, availability and location.
3	Choose your project preferences - Identify your top three project preferences. You should only rank projects that you would be willing and able to undertake if offered.
4	Contact supervisors for your top two preferences only - Email the supervisors for your first and second project preferences. Introduce yourself and briefly explain your interest in the project. This helps students make informed choices while reducing the number of enquiries received by supervisors.
5	Prepare your supporting documents - Prepare your CV and a personal statement before starting the application form. Your personal statement must be no more than 500 words and should include your full name and student number.
6	Complete the online application form - Once a supervisor has responded, complete the application form, rank your top three project preferences, and upload your CV and personal statement.

Supporting Documents

You will be asked to upload the following documents as part of your application:

- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Personal statement

Uploaded files must be in .pdf or .docx format. If you are unable to upload your documents through the form, email them to nqrth.admin@jcu.edu.au.

Personal Statement

The personal statement should be no more than 500 words and answer the following questions:

Question	Prompt	Suggested length
1	What is your interest in research and what have you done so far to gain some experience in research activities?	200 words
2	Outline what you have done to learn more about the research area for the project(s) that you are applying for.	150 words
3	What attracted you to the research project(s) that you have chosen?	150 words

Application Submission

Closing date: Applications close at 5:00 pm on Friday 25 September 2026. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

For full project details, refer to the [NQRTH Research Opportunities page](#).

If Your Application Is Successful

1	Receive confirmation -You will receive an email confirming that you have been successful in securing an MBBS Summer Research Bursary.
2	Meet with your supervisor - Contact your allocated project supervisor and organise a time to meet.
3	Use the Initial Supervisor–Student Meeting Guide - At the meeting, go through the Initial Supervisor–Student Meeting Guide together. The guide is available on the NQRTH website under the Summer Research Bursary resources.

Receiving the Bursary

A staff member from NQRTH will contact successful applicants by email and ask them to complete a James Cook University Australian Creditor Account Details Form and a Payment Request Form. The bursary will be paid directly into the nominated bank account and can be used to help cover living costs while undertaking the research experience.

If Your Application Is Unsuccessful

There are a limited number of bursaries available and the application process is competitive. If your application is unsuccessful for this intake, you may wish to apply again in a future year.

Application Checklist

Done	Checklist item
☐	Read the Guidelines and FAQs
☐	Reviewed the full project list
☐	Identified top three project preferences
☐	Contacted supervisors for first and second preferences only
☐	Prepared CV
☐	Prepared personal statement, maximum 500 words, with full name and student number
☐	Checked upload files are in .pdf or .docx format
☐	Completed the online application form
☐	Ranked top three project preferences in the form
☐	Submitted all required documents before 5:00 pm, Friday 25 September 2026

Questions?

If you have questions about the application process, email nqrth.admin@icu.edu.au