

NQRTH MBBS Summer Research Bursary Program

Frequently Asked Questions

2026/27 Application Round

This FAQ answers common questions about program eligibility, project selection, assessment, bursary logistics and what happens after applying. For step-by-step application instructions, use the Application Process 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%

Important: Late and incomplete applications will not be considered. Travel funding is not available through this program, so please consider project location carefully when ranking your preferences.

Program Overview

What is the NQRTH MBBS Summer Research Bursary Program?

The NQRTH MBBS Summer Research Bursary Program provides JCU medical students with an opportunity to gain experience and exposure to research with an established researcher or research team. Projects may focus on areas such as medical research, community development, infectious diseases, clinical research or health services research.

Am I eligible to apply?

To be eligible to apply, students must be admitted to the Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery at JCU, enrolled full-time, 12 credit points per teaching period, and have good academic and professional standing.

How do I apply?

Please refer to the NQRTH MBBS Summer Research Bursary Application Process document for a step-by-step guide to preparing and submitting your application.

Project Selection

Key message: Applicants should contact supervisors for their first and second preferences only, but may rank three projects in the application form. Applicants may be considered for any project ranked 1, 2 or 3.

How many projects can I choose?

You will be asked to rank your top three project preferences in the application form. You should only rank projects that you would be willing and able to undertake if offered.

Why do I only contact supervisors for my top two preferred projects?

You are required to contact the supervisors for your first and second project preferences only before applying. This allows you to learn more about the projects you are most interested in while helping to minimise the number of enquiries received by supervisors. You will still be asked to rank your top three project preferences in the application form and may be considered for any project ranked 1, 2, or 3.

Can I apply for a project that is not listed?

No. The bursary can only be awarded for projects included on the official NQRTH Summer Research Bursary project list.

Where are projects located?

Projects are offered in Cairns, Mackay, Mount Isa, Townsville and online. Some projects may have flexibility, depending on the project requirements. Students should discuss practical arrangements with the relevant supervisor before applying.

What if my first preference project is not available?

Project allocations are based on applicant preferences, project availability and supervisor capacity. While every effort will be made to allocate successful applicants to one of their preferred projects, allocation to a specific project cannot be guaranteed.

Application Requirements

What documents do I need to submit?

Applicants must submit the supporting documents outlined in the Application Process document.

What should I include in my personal statement?

Your personal statement should help the selection committee understand your interest in the program and your suitability for the bursary. You may wish to include why you are interested in the program, why your preferred projects interest you, any previous research or relevant experience, what you hope to learn, and how the bursary may support your professional development.

How are applications assessed?

Applications are assessed using the following weighting:

Assessment component	Weighting
Application form and written personal statement	80%
CV	20%

Program Logistics

How much is the bursary?

The bursary value is \$500. If successful, the payment will be made directly into your nominated bank account after the required payment documentation is completed.

How long does the research experience run for?

The research experience runs for approximately 4 to 6 weeks during the summer break, from December 2026 to March 2027. Specific timing and expectations may vary between projects and should be discussed with the project supervisor.

Are travel bursaries available?

No. Travel funding is not available through this program. Students should consider project location carefully when selecting their preferences.

Can I participate remotely?

Some projects are listed as online or off campus. Other projects may have some flexibility, depending on project requirements. Students should check with the supervisor for one of their preferred projects before applying.

After You Apply

What happens if my application is successful?

You will receive an email confirming that you have secured an MBBS Summer Research Bursary. You should then contact the supervisor for your allocated project and organise a time to meet. At the initial meeting, use the Initial Supervisor–Student Meeting Guide to discuss the project timeframe, expectations, communication arrangements and practical requirements.

What happens if my 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.

How will the bursary be paid?

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 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.

What do I need to do after completing the research experience?

After completing the summer research program, successful applicants will be required write a report outlining their experience and what they learned from participating in the program.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the application process, please email nqrth.admin@jcu.edu.au. For project details, refer to the [NQRTH Research Opportunities page](#).