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**2025 BPA Early Career Researcher Network**

**Conference Travel Grant for BPA**

**Application form**

Application forms should be typed using font size 11 Arial.

Applications must be submitted to [biolpsychaustralia.ecrn@gmail.com](mailto:biolpsychaustralia.ecrn@gmail.com) by 5 pm AEST on the 25th of July**.**

**BPA-ECRN Travel Grant**

The aim of this award is to help early career researchers attend the 2025 BPA conference in Melbourne, Oct 26-28.

The value of the Grant will be up to $550 per successful application with at least five travel grants available. The Grant will be a reimbursement with evidence of appropriate use. For example, receipts will need to be provided along with a declaration that other funds were not used to cover the purchase.

Eligibility criteria and award expectations are outlined in the BPA-ECRN Travel Grant Conditions of Award. It is expected that applicants have read, understood and signed this document for application.

| **Personal Details** | | | |
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| **Applicant Name** |  | | |
| **Home Institute** |  | | |
| **Position** | **PhD ☐ Masters ☐ Research assistant ☐**  **Post-doc ☐ Clinician ☐**  **Other:** | | |
| **How many full-time equivalent years have you been in this role?** |  | | |
| **Email** |  | | |
| **Phone** |  | | |
| **Signature** |  | **Date** |  |

| **Personal Statement (250 words max)**  This should offer a brief background of your current research circumstances (e.g., research/career stage). Please provide a concise overview of your current research interests. |
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| **How will attending BPA 2025 benefit your research and career goals? (500 words max) (60%)**  What are the immediate benefits of this award on your research?  What are your career goals and how will this award contribute to benefiting you long-term? Please also outline how this award would help you overcome any financial barriers to participation and why financial support is important in enabling your attendance. |
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| **Publications (5%)**  Please list your publications (including journal papers, preprints, and patents). Separate publications into the following sections: published, accepted, and preprints. For each publication, include a brief sentence on your involvement and/or impact of the publication (e.g., altimetric). Do not include published conference abstracts. If you do not have any publications (or have a low number of publications), you may provide an explanation as to why (e.g., long-running experiments across PhD, early stages, etc) and what your publication plans are for the near future. |
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| Statement about publications: |

| **Science Communications (10%)**  Please provide details of all forms of science communications you have undertaken (including traditional conference presentations [oral or poster], media, outreach, or invited talks etc). Please provide the name of the communication program (e.g., ABC News), year, and presentation title. |
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| **Leadership (5%)**  Please provide details of your involvement with scientific outreach, committees and/or student supervision. |
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| **Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) Statement (10%)**  Please outline any significant interruptions to your research that have impacted you in the past 3 years, and/or any financial hurdles that have limited your capacity to attend conferences Statements should be clear, contextualised, constructively presented, and contain all relevant information (e.g., COVID-related impacts, parental leave, lab culture, financial difficulty). |
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| **Budget for this application**  A specific budget is not required for this grant application. However, please note that successful applicants will be required to provide specific details and justification of expenses associated with conference travel.  Examples of evidence may include receipts or invoices of flight costs, hotel costs, etc. |
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Note: Grants will be awarded up to a value of **$550**

| **Judging Criteria** | Weighting (/100) | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Overall Application   * A cohesive application, free from careless mistakes * Application demonstrates the potential impact and initiative of the applicant. | | 10 |
| Benefit of the award   * A clear contribution of the applicant’s research to the advancement and knowledge in the field of biological psychiatry. * There is clear motivation of the applicant for the use of the award. * There is a clear benefit of the proposed use to the applicant’s career. * The level of financial need of the applicant and how the award could assist them in attending BPA. | | 60 |
| Research output   * Publications (including journal papers, preprints, and patents).   + Science communication   + Leadership | | 20 |
| **ROPE**   * A clear outline of any interruptions to research activities and/or * Any financial hurdles that have limited your capacity to attend scientific conferences | | 10 |
| **Reviewer 1** | |  |
| **Reviewer 2** | |  |
| **Reviewer 3** | |  |
| **Total** | |  |

**2025 BPA Early Career Researcher Network**

**Travel Award**

**Conditions of Award**

The BPA Conference Travel Award for 2025 is to support early career researchers in attending the 2025 BPA conference. This award will help to foster growth in biological psychiatry research and provide early career researchers with the opportunity to share their research. A secondary aim of these awards is to facilitate networking and collaborations and finally, this award aims to make attending the BPA conference more accessible and inclusive for early career researchers (ECRs) who may face financial constraints.

By signing these Conditions of Award, the awardee accepts all conditions. This includes acknowledging that funding will be issued by way of reimbursement. The awardee also acknowledges that funds must be used exclusively for expenses directly related to the BPA conference, as explicitly agreed with the Biological Psychiatry Australia - Early Career Researcher Network (BPA-ECRN).

Individuals are eligible to receive only one monetary award from the BPA ECRN per calendar year. This includes the Plenary Award, Travel Award, and Professional Development Award

**Eligibility:**

1. Applicants shall:

Be graduate students currently enrolled in a masters or PhD degree;

OR

Postdoctoral Researchers within 2 years of the due date for this application (25th July, 2025), taking into consideration career interruptions as defined by the [current NHMRC criteria](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/nhmrc-relative-opportunity-policy)

OR

Clinicians undertaking research in the field of biological psychiatry within 5 years of receiving their general medical degree (MBBS/MD)

OR  
 Research assistants currently employed at a research institution

1. Applicants must be a member of Biological Psychiatry Australia
2. Applicants must meet all conditions as detailed below

**Exclusion criteria:**

1. Previous winners cannot reapply if they are in the same career stage that they previously won the grant.

**Grant Conditions:**

To be awarded a BPA-ECRN Travel Award it is necessary to:

1. Submit a BPA-ECRN Travel Award application form (**including proof of current BPA membership**)
2. Submit an abstract and attend the 2025 BPA Conference
3. Have signed an agreement to these Conditions of Award

If awarded a BPA-ECRN Travel Award, the following are necessary:

1. Awardees must redeem the award for the 2025 BPA conference and comply with the reimbursement protocol.
2. Reimbursement claims must be made within four weeks of attending the conference
3. Awardees must submit a report.
4. Awardees must comply with the financial and reporting guidelines described below.

**Financial Conditions:**

The BPA-ECRN Travel Award may only be utilised to support costs associated with attendance at the BPA conference. Funding of up to $550.00 AU dollars will be **reimbursed** to applicants. The awardee is responsible for the expenditure of the award and maintaining supporting records of receipts and expenditures.

Upon completion of the award’s use, email [biolpsychaustralia.ecrn@gmail.com](mailto:biolpsychaustralia.ecrn@gmail.com) to obtain the relevant reimbursement forms. It is expected that awardees will return the completed reimbursement form and provide proof of purchases/quotes/expenses to the BPA-ECRN Treasurer within 4 weeks after the use of the award. If deemed necessary by BPA-ECRN, the applicant will be required to submit an itemised budget within 4 weeks after the award use date. The BPA-ECRN exercises its power to terminate an award or refrain from reimbursing applicants if the award is not used exclusively as outlined in the application form and Conditions of the Award set above.

**Reporting Guidelines:**

1. Conference Presentations

All posters or conference presentations describing BPA and BPA-ECRN funded research of which the awardee is the primary author, must list ‘BPA’ and ‘BPA-ECRN’ as sources of funding and must include a BPA logo.

1. Written Review

Within 4 weeks after the award use date, it is expected that awardees send a written review of their experience (approx. 200 words) to [biolpsychaustralia.ecrn@gmail.com](mailto:biolpsychaustralia.ecrn@gmail.com). The awardee consents that this review may be used as promotional material for the BPA-ECRN Professional Development Grant and or the BPA-ECRN more broadly. If engaging in an in-person activity, like a laboratory visit, photographs of the ECR, for example, presenting and/or with the host laboratory group, are also requested, but not compulsory.

**Review of Award Applications:**

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

1. The benefit and financial need of the applicant. How the funding and attending BPA will assist the applicant, i.e., the potential to enhance the applicant’s career prospects and research CV.
2. Scientific and communication excellence of the researcher, as demonstrated through research output.

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**2025 BPA Early Career Researcher Network**

**Travel Award Grant**

**Agreement Statement**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ confirm that:

* I have read the Conditions of Award for the BPA-ECRN Professional Development Grant.
* I understand and agree to abide by these conditions.
* I will provide the reporting items/commitments requested

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Applicant Signature Date