

## Summer Scholarships Information and Conditions Form 2023/2024

### ARTHRITIS NZ OVERVIEW

Arthritis NZ aims to improve the life of every person affected by arthritis. We are a national charity that provides information, advice and support to people diagnosed with any of the more than 140 forms of arthritis. Arthritis affects more than 750,000 New Zealanders and is a leading cause of disability. There is no cure, but the condition can usually be managed effectively. Most people with arthritis continue to lead productive and fulfilling lives. We also advocate for people with arthritis by funding research, contributing to health policy, and collaborating with healthcare professionals.

### ARTHRITIS NZ RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Arthritis NZ uses its research funding programme to achieve the following key objectives:

1. To contribute to the body of research that seeks to determine the cause of arthritis, prevention of arthritis, improvement of early diagnosis and treatment of all forms of arthritis.
2. To contribute to the growing body of research that documents and describes the impact of arthritis on the individual, the community, and the wider New Zealand society.
3. To contribute to international research on arthritis through assisting New Zealand participation in international research projects and/or through a contribution to the body of research on gout arthritis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, and other forms of arthritis.
4. To evaluate specific programmes or treatments to ascertain effectiveness and improvement in the quality of life for people with arthritis.

### ARTHRITIS NZ RESEARCH ACTION PLAN (2021-2023)

Arthritis NZ has developed a proactive and translational research programme which includes clinical, social and economic research. Significantly, this ensures that our organisation has a robust evidence-base to inform the development and delivery of our programmes, services, and awareness. Our five strategic initiatives for the period 2021-2023 are as follows:

1. We will develop an External Research Grants programme that is targeted towards our key research objectives.
2. We will work towards co-funding research opportunities with other organisations working in the non-communicable diseases and long-term conditions arena (i.e. with “partner” organisations).
3. We will promote the participation of Māori and Pacific peoples in arthritis research (especially gout arthritis).
4. We want to engage the consumer more in research projects and related activities.
5. We will further encourage social and community-based research relating to arthritis.

**By submitting a Summer Scholarships application, the applicant confirms they have met, considered and agreed to the following criteria:**

### GENERAL

1. Arthritis NZ will fund up to six Summer Scholarships for the period 2023/2024. Each Summer Scholarship is worth \$6,000 (excluding GST).
2. The purpose of Arthritis NZ Summer Scholarships is to engage and support students in research in the area of arthritis under the supervision of an experienced research professional working in academia, health service provision or other types of institutional organisations.

3. Summer Scholarships are granted for small research projects with the intention of enabling students to develop valuable research skills. Projects are to be undertaken over the course of a 10–12-week period.
4. Preference will be given to research projects which clearly align with Arthritis NZ’s four key objectives, Research Action Plan (2021-2023) and are translational in nature (please see page one above).
5. Summer Scholarships will only be granted for research or studies which are of a high standard, maintaining the reputation of the New Zealand scientific community and Arthritis NZ as a funding body.

## APPLICATIONS

6. Research projects must be related to arthritis with the precise topic to be determined by the student and their supervisor(s). As stated above, research projects must also clearly align with Arthritis NZ’s four key objectives and our Research Action Plan (2021-2023).
7. **All applications must be completed by a student’s supervisor(s).**
8. **All applicants** must complete the official Arthritis NZ Summer Scholarships application form.
  - While the sub-headings provided in the official application form must remain in the order they are presented, they can be on different pages to ensure applicants have ample room to convey the necessary information requested.
  - All applications must be in Calibri (body) font size 12.
  - **Please note that any applicants who do not use the official application form will not be considered.**
9. There is a **maximum of 5 pages** allowed per application. Any applications that exceed this length will not be considered.
10. All applications must be addressed to Dr Richard Griffiths, Research Manager at Arthritis NZ, but submitted to our organisation’s [research@arthritis.org.nz](mailto:research@arthritis.org.nz) email address by 5pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
11. All applicants **must also provide a separate copy of their CV** with their application using the standard CV template for any research proposals submitted to the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, the Health Research Council (HRC), or the Marsden Fund. **This must be no longer than 5 pages.**

## TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

12. Arthritis NZ upholds the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in our everyday mahi (work) through partnerships, participation and protection. Applicants must acknowledge how their proposed research project aligns with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, potentially promotes inclusion and may be beneficial to Māori communities and/or Māori who are affected by arthritis.

## HEALTH EQUITY

13. Māori and Pacific peoples are priority populations for our organisation’s equity focus. Arthritis NZ seeks to fund research which has the potential to also advance Māori and Pasifika health and wellbeing, works towards achieving health equity and ultimately better health outcomes for Māori and Pacific peoples. Applicants must therefore consider and state how their proposed research project may address health equity for Māori, Pacific peoples and other groups who experience disparity.

## ETHICAL APPROVALS

14. Applicants are responsible for obtaining any necessary ethics approval ahead of any Summer Scholarships project commencing. Applicants must include any ethics approval details or your intention to apply for relevant ethics approval in relation to your project.

## PRIVACY

15. The information requested will only be used for the purpose of assessing a proposal. All proposals received in the 2023/2024 round will be stored on a secure cloud-based server.
16. Personal information contained in the proposal may be made available to members of Arthritis NZ Committees relevant to the review of the proposal. This includes any electronic and paper-based copies of the proposal.
17. In the event a proposal is successful, Arthritis NZ has the right to release a successful applicant's name, the title and a lay summary of their project and the amount of funding awarded for public interest purposes via a range of our organisation's communication channels (please see Completion of Projects/Outputs section for further details of these channels).

## EVALUATION

18. Applications will be assessed by the Research Committee of Arthritis NZ, who will make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees shortly after the evaluation process has been completed advising which applications have been successful.
19. The Research Committee reserves discretion as to the criteria which it will use for evaluation of applications, but in general these will include:
  - The scientific merit of the proposed study (including study design and appropriateness of the research methods chosen).
  - The study's potential to advance knowledge and address an important gap in the wider arthritis research field.
  - The potential of the proposed study to help people with arthritis.
  - The qualifications and track record of the applicant relative to opportunity and career stage.
  - The potential of the proposed study to help students strengthen their research skills and knowledge relating to arthritis-related research.
20. All applicants will be informed via email of the outcomes of the Summer Scholarships review process by the end of September 2023.

## COMPLETION OF PROJECTS/OUTPUTS

21. It is the responsibility of successful applicants to ensure that their research project is completed on time.
22. All successful applicants must complete the official Arthritis NZ Summer Scholarships reporting template within one calendar month of completing their project (**please note that this outputs template was introduced in 2021**).

- While the sub-headings provided in the official reporting template must remain in the order they are presented, they can be on different pages to ensure applicants have ample room to convey the necessary information requested.
  - There is a **maximum of three pages** allowed for reporting.
23. Any additional published material that relates to a successful Summer Scholarship application must appropriately acknowledge the funding assistance of Arthritis NZ (i.e., a publication in peer reviewed scientific or medical journals, book chapters, presentation to conferences or other similar assemblies, conference proceedings, etc.).
24. **All successful applicants agree to any aspect of their research findings being shared in summary or visual form by Arthritis NZ across a range of our organisation’s communication channels.** This includes the following:
- The Arthritis NZ website (<https://www.arthritis.org.nz/>).
  - Arthritis NZ’s various social media channels (e.g., Facebook and Twitter).
  - *E-News* reports (usually published on a monthly basis).
  - *My Joint Support* print and digital magazine (published bi-annually).
  - Any other relevant Arthritis NZ communication channels.
25. The Research Manager at Arthritis NZ will liaise with applicants wherever possible when preparing content based on their research findings to ensure that all parties are comfortable with the final material which Arthritis NZ elects to publicly share.

## CONTACT

26. For further information about Arthritis NZ’s 2023/2024 Summer Scholarships programme, please do not hesitate to contact:

Dr. Richard Griffiths  
Research Manager  
Arthritis NZ Mateponapona Aotearoa  
DDI: 027 293 6709  
Email: [richard.griffiths@arthritis.org.nz](mailto:richard.griffiths@arthritis.org.nz)