



Neuromuscular Research
New Zealand

Call for Proposals 2024

Neuromuscular Research New Zealand¹ is the research arm of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of New Zealand Inc., (MDANZ) and accepts funding applications for research relevant to New Zealanders living with neuromuscular conditions once per year.

1. Advances research into effective treatments

Research facilitates and/or contributes to clinical research aimed at developing effective treatments for neuromuscular conditions.

2. Improves health outcomes or quality of life

Research may encompass standards of care, innovative practice in supporting people with neuromuscular conditions, and/or evaluation of therapy approaches, service delivery modes and interventions.

3. Improves the diagnostic journey

Research aims to reduce diagnostic timeframe and improve experience of receiving a genetic diagnosis.

Priority will also be given to the following;

1. Translational research that makes a tangible difference to the lives of New Zealanders with of neuromuscular conditions.
2. Qualitative research that gives a voice to the experience of New Zealanders with lived experience of neuromuscular conditions and their families and whanau.
3. Research conducted in New Zealand and associated with short to medium term time frames of no more than three years.
4. Preliminary studies that are required to develop further proposals for substantial financial support from research funding agencies such as the Neurological Foundation, Health Research Council etc.

¹ Neuromuscular Research New Zealand is officially the Neuromuscular Research Foundation Trust (NRFT)

5. Research being undertaken by postgraduate students in which case up to two postgraduate student scholarships per year of \$5000 may be awarded.

Grant Types

In this round, two distinct funding opportunities are available:

1. Project Grants

These are intended to support researcher-initiated, hypothesis driven research that advances understanding of neuromuscular conditions, the management (or guidelines for management) of these conditions, or quality of life of people with neuromuscular condition-related disability.

The scope of research is broad, with applications encouraged across all disciplines that are relevant to health and wellbeing, including the social sciences.

The maximum value of this grant is \$20,000 (exclusive of GST) over a duration of 12 months.

2. Postgraduate Student Scholarships

These are intended to provide funding support as a grant-in-aid towards course fees, stipend, or research related costs.

The maximum value of this grant is \$5,000 (exclusive of GST) over a duration of 12 months.

Eligibility criteria

If you are the first named investigator (i.e. lead researcher) on an application, you must be based in Aotearoa New Zealand and be employed with a New Zealand host organisation.

Collaborating researchers from outside Aotearoa New Zealand can, at the NRFTs discretion, be included as named investigators on an NRFT application. However, the total proportion of contract budget allocated to overseas investigators must not exceed 20%.

For more information about our contract requirements, please contact us.

Timeline

Registrations Open:	Monday 4 th September 2023
Applications Close:	Friday 20 th October 2023 at 5.00pm
Assessment Panel Meet:	Late October 2023
Applicants Notified:	Early December 2023

Application Process

Applicants will need to email us to register an application. You will then be sent the application form and process requirements.

You will also need to nominate two referees who can be contacted to provide review of your application prior to its assessment.

All applications must be submitted by email to: nrft@mda.org.nz

Trustees for Neuromuscular Research New Zealand assess each application according to the priorities identified by MDANZ and its members. Applications that align with the following priorities will be given a higher rating when assessment criteria are applied.

Got a question?

For more on the funding call and how to apply, please contact:

NRFT Funding Administrator 0800 800 337 nrft@mda.org.nz