



Guidelines for applicants to the Research and Education Committee (REC)

Background

Originally, the Research and Education Charitable Trust (RECT) was founded in 1967 to support research and education relating to general practice. This Trust was replaced in July 2020 by the Research and Education Committee, a sub-committee of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College), also a Charitable Trust.

The purpose of the College is to encourage, foster and maintain the highest possible standards for medical care within the scope of general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine in order to reduce health inequalities and achieve improved health for all New Zealanders.

REC acts in support and alignment of the Colleges Purpose at all times.

The principles underpinning these guidelines align with, and build upon, the College's three core strategic priorities in our [Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#):

- Rautaki Māori
- Delivery
- Equity

What is the purpose of REC funding?

The purpose of this fund is to support research that fosters and helps maintain high standards of learning and conduct, and/or creates new knowledge, in general practice, rural general practice and rural hospital medicine.

What are the principles of REC funding?

REC is committed to:

- supporting and furthering the Purpose of the College, the Principles and Purpose of REC
- supporting research which aims to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequities in New Zealand
- Kaitiakitanga, (Service and Stewardship): a style of leadership that incorporates traditional Māori values such as Tika (proprietary), Pono (integrity), Aroha (compassion), Manaakitanga (hospitality), Mana (prestige) and Rato (service)
- Whanaungatanga (Respect and Collaboration): the practices of respect and collaboration by acknowledging the interconnectedness of all things and inter-relationships with people
- Mana tangata (Diversity and Inclusion): the practises of respect, equity, diversity and inclusion
- Auaha (Innovation and Creativity)

- respecting and implementing the dual heritage of the partners of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi)
- maintaining the highest standard of integrity of REC by funding projects that will benefit the science and practice of general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine in NZ
- supporting emerging and established researchers to undertake research in general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine and
- fully aligning to the College Strategic Plan, as amended from time to time.

What REC funding provides for

- undertaking research benefiting general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine in NZ. Such applications are likely to include remuneration for undergraduate summer studentships, remuneration for discreet research assistant tasks, or the completion of incomplete projects, funded by some other institution, where a grant is integral to the success of the study; or
- remuneration of summer studentship interns in general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine

Each of the following institutions will receive no more than one grant per calendar year: University of Auckland – Auckland; University of Auckland – Waikato; University of Otago – Dunedin; University of Otago – Christchurch; University of Otago - Wellington; or

- providing education benefiting NZ general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine. Such applications are likely to include a visiting professor undertaking a speaking tour of NZ or an academic exchange; or
- travel;
provided applicants are confirmed to present research results of their projects, which have been funded by the Research and Education Committee, and must travel to do so, the following will be reimbursed: reasonable accommodation, reasonable transport and necessary transfers. Their research must align with the purpose of the College, the principles and purpose of REC fully aligning to the College Strategic Intent, as amended from time to time.

What REC funding does not provide for

- education fees or usual course costs; or
- loss of income to reimburse for unpaid leave taken to do the research; or
- salaries for principal investigators, unless the principal investigator is a specialist GP who is not in a paid academic role; or
- additional grants for research, education or travel previously funded by the Committee; or
- attendance at conferences or similar, simply to observe; or
- activities that should rightly be funded elsewhere, for example core College activities or those that should be routinely funded by others such as the Ministry of Health, DHBs or PHOs; or
- continuing professional development activities for College members that can be supported by their Faculty or Chapter funds, for example, attendance at the College Conference or regional CME conferences; or
- applicants representing the College at a conference or event; or
- channels for communicating research, i.e. Podcast costs; or
- Retrospective research; or
- anyone who has not submitted a formal application.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible?

Funding is available to New Zealand citizens or those who have New Zealand residency. No application will be considered for an applicant who is living outside of New Zealand.

What value can be requested?

Grant applications are typically in the range of \$5k - \$20k for individual applications. The limit for a single grant allocation will be \$40k and any single grants in excess of \$40k will require RNZCGP Board approval.

Grants will be paid in advance and may awarded in full or partially.

What is the application procedure?

All applicants must apply using the RNZCGP application form, available [here](#).

Applications must be submitted by 5pm of the current funding round deadline, published [here](#).

The application will request and applicants must provide:

- Contact details
- Biographical details
- Previous RECT or REC applications
- Details of research project
- How research will be reported
- The names of two people who support the application *Please note the Committee may contact either of your support people for further information about your research.*
- A declaration of any conflicts of interest

How will my application be selected?

Applications will be collated on a first-come, first-served basis, and will be considered against the following assessment criteria for suitability.

Research and education domains

The research and education domains capture the College's vision for enhancing the science and practice of general practice, rural general practice, and rural hospital medicine. The domains represent high-level aspiration outcomes. Funding applications will be assessed for their ability to strengthen these domains.

- Domain 1: Advancing Māori health
- Domain 2: Achieving health equity
- Domain 3: Enhancing the practice of primary care through scientific discovery.
- Domain 4: Meeting the needs of rural general practice and/or rural hospital medicine.

Applications will be rated as providing Strong, Partial or Minimal evidence that they strengthen the following domains.

#	Domain description	Assessment question
Domain 1	Advancing Māori health	How far does this proposal advance Māori by upholding and valuing Māori rights, worldviews, and knowledge, tikanga Māori (Māori processes and protocol)?
Domain 2	Achieving health equity	How far does this proposal apply an equity lens so that as a minimum, health inequities will not be increased by conducting it?
Domain 3	Enhancing the practice of primary care through scientific discovery.	What is the potential for impact on transforming science and practice to deliver enhanced patient care?
Domain 4	Meeting the needs of rural general practice and/or rural hospital medicine.	How does the proposal contribute to rural general practice and rural hospital medicine?

Are these guidelines current?

The College may at any time and from time to time, change these guidelines and/or the application form.

When will I know if my application is successful?

The Committee will report back within three weeks of its meeting.

Can I appeal the Committee's decision?

The Committee's decision is final.

Who do I contact for further information and assistance with the application process?

Any questions can be raised to rec@rnzcp.org.nz.