2025 Metcalf Prizes for Stem Cell Research

# Offline application form

Before you begin this form, please carefully read the application instructions on the Foundation's website: [www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/metcalf\_prizes\_for\_stem\_cell\_research](https://www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/metcalf_prizes_for_stem_cell_research).

There, you will find information about eligibility, selection criteria, conditions of the award and key dates.

If you don't quite fit the criteria but wish to plead special circumstances, you can do this in your personal statement at the end of the form.

We strongly recommend that you draft your application offline in this template. It also indicates where the online version has a word limit for answers.

We will not accept applications in Word or PDF format. Your application must be made using the online form.

You will be required to upload your CV with a full record of your employment history and full list of publications as part of submitting your application online.

Your CV should be no more than five pages. You can submit your list of publications as a separate file. More information at: [www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/frequently\_asked\_questions](http://www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/frequently_asked_questions).

**Please note:**

* Only Australian citizens and Permanent Residents can apply.
* Questions with an asterisk (\*) must be answered.
* Once you hit submit on your online application, that’s it—no further editing will be possible.
* CV and publications list must be uploaded as part of your online application before you submit.
* Applications close on **Monday 11 August 2025 at 11:59pm AEST**.
* Applicants will be advised about the outcome of their application by late-September 2025.
* For the Prize winners, the funds will be paid half in November 2025, and half in May 2026.

Where possible, please speak directly to your research track record in stem cell biology - impactful, meaningful research that is either building foundational knowledge in stem cell biology or adapting and translating stem cell technologies to address pressing challenges in disease. This includes using stem cells for disease modelling, drug screening, or development of biomaterials for tissue engineering.

# Your details

## \* 1. Applicant’s details

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| --- | --- |
| First name |  |
| Last name |  |
| Position |  |
| Institute/organisation |  |

## \* 2. Gender

Female / Male / Other

## \* 3. Contact details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Work phone |  |
| Mobile |  |
| Home phone |  |
| Email |  |
| Website |  |

## \* 4. Address

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Street or PO Box |  |
| Suburb |  |
| State |  |
| Postcode |  |

## \* 5. Please enter the date you received your PhD or MD.

If you have a clinical fellowship award and a PhD/MD, please clearly state your award dates (not graduation ceremony dates) for each.

DD/MM/YYYY

## 6. If the date of your PhD is NOT between August 2015 and August 2020, please briefly note why here, and explain your circumstances more fully in the personal statement at the end of this form.

Allowance will be made for research career breaks, including maternity or family leave, periods of part-time work, or time spent on non-research related clinical work. Applicants can claim a career interruption for parental leave around the birth of a child of 1.5 years per child. This applies to parents of any gender. **Word limit of 100 words.**

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## \* 7. You must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident. What is your status?

Australian citizen / Australian permanent resident / Neither

## 8. If you are not a citizen or permanent resident, please briefly note why here, and explain your circumstances more fully in the personal statement at the end of this form.

**Word limit of 100 words.**

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# Education and research achievements

## \* 9. Please list up to three qualifications and include where and when obtained.

**Word limit of 50 words for each.**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

## 10. List your top five significant publications published since the commencement of your PhD.

Include the full authorship, title and reference, journal ranking, citation score and corresponding author. Also include your total number of publications (break down into types of publications, i.e. journal article, review, book chapter, publications pending), and indicate the proportion on which you are first or senior author.

Also briefly describe the significance and impact of each publication.

Note that you can include a full list of your career publications in the CV attachment.

**Word limit of 250 words for each.**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |
| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |
| Total number of publications |  |

## 11. List up to five research grants

Only include grants in which you are/were one of the named principal or contributing investigators. Include brief details of project, funding source and amount received, and your role.

**Word limit of 150 words for each.**

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| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
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## 12. List up to five top fellowships or scholarships you have been awarded.

**Word limit of 25 words for each.**

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| 1. |  |
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| 4. |  |
| 5. |  |

## 13. List up to five awards or prizes you have received.

**Word limit of 25 words for each.**

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| 2. |  |
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## 14. List up to three significant positions or training periods overseas, not including conferences.

**Word limit of 25 words for each.**

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| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

## 15. List up to three invited conference presentations or seminars you have given.

Do not include regular department seminars.

**Word limit of 25 words for each.**

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| 1. |  |
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| 3. |  |

## 16. List up to three major research projects you have undertaken and/or are currently undertaking.

**Word limit of 50 words for each.**

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| 1. |  |
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## 17. List up to three leadership roles you have held.

**Word limit of 25 words for each.**

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## 18. Record of employment

Please give a simple list of relevant jobs with dates and responsibilities. Your full employment record should still be included in your CV, which you will upload before submitting this application form.

**Word limit of 600 words.**

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# Current and proposed research

The next three questions should briefly outline what you would do as a Metcalf Prize winner and how the $60,000 prize money would advance your research, your career, and the field of stem cell research.

We want to support people who will have a lasting impact on the field. This is the place where we want to hear about your career ambitions and how the funds and recognition would help.

We do not require a detailed project plan. Please just give some indication of how the prize money would be spent.

## \* 19. In 500 words or fewer, outline your current and/or proposed research.

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## \* 20. In 400 words or fewer, outline what you would do as a prize winner and how you would use the $60,000 prize money to further your research and career (no need to detail a budget).

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## \* 21. In 200 words or fewer, outline how the Metcalf Prize would advance your career.

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# Summary and personal statement

## \* 22. Please write a paragraph addressing each of the four judging criteria in plain English.

The judging will be based on the following criteria (weightings given as percentages). In fewer than 100 words each, show how your application meets each of the four criteria:

* **Intellectual merit**, including academic record and publication record (35%)
* **Leadership potential**, including: ability to plan and conduct research; ability to work as a team member or independently; ability to interpret and communicate research findings (35%). This looks beyond excellent research and leadership in your own team or institute (evaluated elsewhere) and towards your interest and ability to build Australia’s capabilities to develop and adopt stem cell technologies. This could include roles in scientific societies, informing government policy, and/or advocacy and public education.
* **Impact potential**: potential to have a continuing impact in stem cell research in Australia (20%)
* **Professional esteem**: national and international profile, invited presentations/reviews, and/or record as an ambassador for the field (10%).

**Intellectual merit**

Word limit of 100 words.

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**Leadership potential**

Word limit of 100 words.

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**Impact potential**

Word limit of 100 words.

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**Professional esteem**

Word limit of 100 words.

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## \* 23. Please summarise the key points of your application in plain English.

In fewer than 100 words, make your case. Tell us what you have achieved so far in your career and what you're hoping to achieve in the future.

This section is crucial to the success of your application. The judges will read this statement before they read the detailed information you've outlined already. **Word limit of 100 words.**

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## 24. Personal statement

This is your opportunity to explain any extenuating circumstances. If you do not quite fit the eligibility criteria or if you have personal circumstances you feel the jury should consider, please tell us briefly what they are.

**Word limit of 100 words.**

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# Find a referee to support your application

REQUIRED: letter from referee

Applicants are asked to invite one colleague, peer or mentor to write a confidential referee's letter in support of their application. This letter should be emailed directly by the referee to the prize jury, via [stemcells@scienceinpublic.com.au](mailto:stemcells@scienceinpublic.com.au). Please ask your referee to write 'Metcalf Prize referee letter' in the email subject line. We will acknowledge receipt of the referee letter with both the applicant and the referee via email.

A template for referee letters is online at [www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/metcalf\_prizes](http://www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/metcalf_prizes).

Guidance:

* Applicants should provide ONE reference from someone with the appropriate expertise who is aware of your work but sufficiently removed from it. The referee’s primary position should be outside your institution.
* Referees need to establish if a Conflict of Interest (CoI) exists - such conflicts have the potential to lead to biased advice affecting objectivity and impartiality.
* Referees must self-determine if a CoI exists. Use the [NHMRC guidelines](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/nscfa/pages/421/attachments/original/1593066130/Referee_COI_Tables.pdf?1593066130) to determine the level of CoI.
* If a HIGH CoI exists, the referee should excuse themselves from the process.
* If a LOW CoI exists, the referee can provide the reference but should advise the Foundation of the nature of the LOW conflict when providing the reference.

**Name of expected referee**

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# Sign off (only required online)

I submit this application for the 2025 National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia Metcalf Prizes for Stem Cell Research and confirm that the information on this form is true and accurate.

**Signed (your name will be accepted as sign off)**

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# Submit your application online

Now that you’ve completed this offline application form, you’re ready to add these answers to the online form at[**https://form.jotform.com/251697521163863**](https://form.jotform.com/251697521163863)**.**

Please note that you are not able to upload this document as your application – you will need to copy and paste your answers from this document into the online form.

Before you submit the online form, you’ll be required to upload your CV and list of publications.

More information about the format of your CV and publication list is available on the website at: [www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/frequently\_asked\_questions](https://www.stemcellfoundation.net.au/frequently_asked_questions).