



**Government
of South Australia**

Department of Human Services

Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) & Department of Human Services (DHS) PhD Excellence Award 2026

Value

The HDA and DHS PhD Excellence Award are \$7,500 per annum for up to 3 years only to augment an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship or equivalent competitive scholarship and up to \$5,000 in travel support to attend conferences during their candidature.

Eligibility

Applications are invited for PhD Research Scholarships in the areas of *Healthy Development*: Disciplines include, but are not restricted to, allied health, biostatistics, demography, digital health, disability, economics, education, endocrinology, epidemiology, ethics, genetics, indigenous health, nutrition, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, pharmacology, physiology, psychiatry, psychology, public health and sociology. <https://health.adelaide.edu.au/healthy-development-adelaide/our-research>

Applications are invited from domestic and international students in their first year of candidature are eligible to apply i.e. commencement date between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. Applicants should be eligible to enrol or be currently enrolled at either the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia [University of Adelaide and University of South Australia merger to Adelaide University in 2026] or Flinders University. The stipend will be paid to your university, to be provided to you as a scholarship top up for the duration of your PhD for up to 3 years only. The up to \$5,000 p/a conference travel will be paid by HDA upon justification, reporting and travel/conference receipts.

In addition applicants must satisfy each of the following criteria.

- Applicants must hold a first class Honours degree or equivalent in a discipline relevant to the chosen field of study
- Applicants hold an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend Scholarship or equivalent competitive postgraduate scholarship
- Applicants must be a 'paying' HDA member. Membership is \$60 (excluding GST) for 3 years to cover term of scholarship <https://health.adelaide.edu.au/healthy-development-adelaide/get-involved>
- Applicants must have a HDA member as their primary/principal supervisor who must be a 'paying' member. Membership is \$60 (excluding GST) for 3 years to cover term of scholarship <https://health.adelaide.edu.au/healthy-development-adelaide/get-involved>
- Research projects must be aligned with the Healthy Development research pillars spanning preconception to adolescence <https://health.adelaide.edu.au/healthy-development-adelaide/our-research> and the DHS Child and Family Support System (CFSS) Research Approach 2025-2027 <https://dhs.sa.gov.au/how-we-help/child-and-family-support-system-cfss/about-cfss/cfss-research-approach>

Scholarships will be considered for research projects that demonstrate alignment with HDA's research pillars and aim to promote, facilitate and enable multidisciplinary research to advance understandings of healthy development, ensuring the physical, psychological and social health of infants, children and adolescents.

DHS is focused on developing research and evidence to build a stronger family support system. This system is designed to be proactive and preventive, aiming to improve outcomes for children and families facing complex issues and disadvantage.

A key part of the work is supporting the implementation of the Child and Family Support System (CFSS), which includes services from government, non-government organisations (NGOs), and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). The CFSS Research Approach 2025–2027 outlines priorities and methods for research, helping guide resource allocation and partnerships with external organisations. It aims to develop social data that will improve the state's data capabilities and, ultimately, lead to better outcomes for South Australian children and families.

Scholarships will be considered for research projects in areas that align with the CFSS Research Approach 2025-2027 targeting within the 4 focus areas – therefore achieving greater alignment between government and academic research efforts.

Conditions of Funding

Successful HDA Scholars will be required to participate in the HDA Research Training Program during their candidature. The program consists of a 20 hour practicum placement within DHS, mentoring component, and attending and assisting as required at HDA events.

Annual renewal of top-up funding will be subject to meeting your University postgraduate requirements, and subject to ongoing funding availability from DHS.

Acknowledgement of Healthy Development Adelaide and Department of Human Services in research publications and conference presentations.

Please submit the following documents by 5.00pm Thursday 22 January 2026 to:
Healthy Development Adelaide, Anne Jurisevic at anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

1. Completed HDA Application (doc format - in font Arial 12)
2. Up-to-Date curriculum vitae (3 page maximum)
3. Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) or equivalent competitive scholarship Letter of Award
4. Academic transcript

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HDA Application

Closing date: 5.00pm Thursday 22 January 2026

Submission Date:			
Applicant			
Surname:		First Name:	
PhD Student	PhD commencement (dd/mm/yyyy):		
	Full name of scholarship awarded:		
University and Department/s			
Telephone:		Email:	
Primary/ principal supervisor:		Telephone & email:	
Co-supervisors		Institution & contact email	
DHS Focus Area – please specify			
1. CFSS Population 2. CFSS Response 3. CFSS Impact 4. Methodological Approaches			
PhD Project Title			
Provide a title here			
PhD Project & relevance to HDA			
Provide a brief description ‘in lay terms’ of your research project, and indicate how it aligns with the research pillar/s of Healthy Development and the DHS focus area. (total content: 500 words maximum)			
Name of Applicant		Signature of Applicant	Date
Name of Primary HDA Supervisor		Signature of Primary Supervisor	Date