

David Burt Top-Up Scholarship

Research Support Initiative guidelines

Overview

The David Burt Top-up Scholarship funded by the Graeme Clark Foundation and administered by the Graeme Clark Institute provides supplementary financial support to graduate researchers at the University of Melbourne whose research related to human senses aligns with the Graeme Clark Institute's mission in biomedical engineering and related interdisciplinary fields. The scholarship is intended to enhance research capacity, foster cross-faculty collaboration, and strengthen students' preparedness for translational and industry-relevant research pathways.

Key Details

Timeline	Refer to Critical Dates noted on website here .
Funding Available	\$5,500 per year for two years 2027-2028
Eligible Applicants	- Graduate researchers at UoM who already hold an RTP or equivalent scholarship - Supervisors from both FEIT and MDHS or external industry partners/clinical hospitals - Research area must be biomedical engineering that is related to human senses
Application Requirements	Application form includes project description, CV, 3-min video pitch, statement on contribution to the Institute and supervisor approval

Further information on these details provided below.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Graeme Clark Institute top-up scholarship, an applicant must:

- Have already been awarded a Research Training Program scholarship or other university award/scholarship
- Be a new or existing graduate researcher at the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, or Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne with supervisors being researchers **from both faculties**; or **main supervisor from one of the two above** and **co-supervisor from external industry partners/clinical hospitals**
- The research project is relevant to **biomedical engineering** or have transferable impact for biomedical engineering or medtech research
- The research needs to be **related to human senses**.

Application Requirements

Application Form to be submitted through the Institute website –

(<https://clarkinstitute.unimelb.edu.au/research-support-initiatives/david-burt-top-up-scholarship>) including:

- Project description** with intended impact of the interdisciplinary and innovative research (related to human senses) addressing the assessment criteria below; and the co-supervision percentage as well as position and workplace of each supervisor (max 1 page)
- CV** (max 2 pages) showing academic record, research achievements etc.
- 3-Minute Video Pitch** summarising:

- Research project goals and significance
- How the top-up scholarship can enhance your project outcomes
- How the applicant intends to contribute as a Student Ambassador to the Graeme Clark Institute community

Please ensure any video links have sharing permissions enabled so that anyone with the URL can access/view the file. This video will be viewed exclusively by the review panel and will remain confidential.

- **Statement on past (if any) and future contribution to the Graeme Clark Institute.**

Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- **Research excellence:** academic record, research achievements, and demonstrated capacity for original, rigorous, and high-impact graduate research
- **Interdisciplinary research and alignment with biomedical engineering:** the extent to which the project integrates interdisciplinary approaches and aligns with or contributes to biomedical engineering or medtech research
- **Innovation and intended impact:** novelty of the research and the significance of its anticipated health, societal, or economic impact in line with the Graeme Clark Institute's mission
- **Application and communication quality:** clarity, coherence, and persuasiveness of the written application and video pitch, including articulation of mutual benefits with the Institute support
- **Previous (if any) and future engagement and strategic contribution to the Graeme Clark Institute:** past and/or proposed involvement with the Institute, including outreach, leadership, and advocacy activities.

Funding

The Scholarship will start from **1 January 2027 and end on 31 December 2028** and to be paid as a stipend on a fortnightly basis to the existing bank account nominated in the Student Portal.

Award Conditions

Successful recipients must agree to the following:

- Become a Graeme Clark Institute member. Refer to Membership [Terms of Reference](#)
- Become the Institute Student Ambassador making contributions to the Institute by being one of the Institute Student Committee members, and/or providing support at outreach events, and/or advocating for the Institute at your respective Department/School/Faculty and at national and international conferences etc.
- Acknowledge the Institute's support in all research outputs (publications, presentations, etc.) – to be included in the annual report
- Allow the Institute to feature the student's project and achievements in communications (website, annual report, marketing materials)
- Notify the Institute of any change in enrolment, supervision, or scholarship status.

Reporting requirements:

- Provide an annual progress update outlining research achievements, engagement outcomes and yearly contributions to the Graeme Clark Institute. Submission of this report is a requirement for the renewal of the annual Top-Up Scholarship funding
- Submit a brief final summary report at completion of scholarship funding, if requested.

Enquiries

Minh Nguyen

Graeme Clark Institute Centre Manager

Email: nguyen.m@unimelb.edu.au