

## **2016 Post-Graduate Research Top-Up Scholarship for Batten Disease Research**

### **Goals of the Project:**

The Australian Chapter of the worldwide Batten Disease Support and Research Association Inc., was founded in 1995 and is committed to providing support to families affected by Batten Disease and towards research endeavours for a treatment or cure to Batten Disease ([www.battens.org.au](http://www.battens.org.au)).

The object of this scholarship is to advance research in Australia relating to Batten Disease and to inspire independent researchers to become part of the international research efforts to develop a cure for Batten Disease.

### **Conditions of Award:**

Established in 2015 through funding from the Australian Chapter of the Batten Disease Support & Research Association Inc., the scholarships shall be awarded under the following conditions:

1. Each scholarship shall be named a Postgraduate Top-Up Scholarship for Batten Disease Research.
2. The object of the scholarship is to promote the knowledge and study of Batten Disease, and the successful applicant will use the funding towards a good scientific question in Batten Disease.
3. The scholarship may be awarded at and shall be tenable to an Australian University.
4. The scholarship shall be awarded on the basis of academic merit and appropriateness of proposed programs of research.
5. The scholarship shall be open to citizens or permanent residents of Australia, who hold an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or similar merit based scholarship (e.g. University of Sydney Postgraduate Award). This condition must be met by the time of the Selection Panel meeting.
6. The scholarship shall be valued at \$5,000 per annum, and awarded, on application, to graduates who would normally be expected to have first class honours degrees. A postgraduate scholarship shall be tenable for up to three years for a full time PhD degree, subject to satisfactory progress reports. In exceptional circumstances, a further extension of six months may be granted to PhD candidates. Periods of study already undertaken towards the degree prior to the commencement of the award will be deducted from the maximum period of tenure.
7. The scholarship shall provide a travel grant of up to \$3000 to cover airfare and accommodation costs for collaboration with international experts in Batten Disease research.
8. The scholarship shall provide research support of up to \$2000 to contribute to project costs of the proposed program of research.
9. Scholarships shall be awarded by the Australian Chapter of the Batten Disease Support & Research Association Inc. on the recommendation of the Selection Panel.

### Applications will be evaluated on the following

- Academic record and relevance to metabolic and/or neurology focus
- Maximum impact and quality of the proposed research
- Potential of research to lead to a treatment or cure
- Provision of a budget for travel and project costs supporting the research proposal
- Suitability of the intended Supervisor/Mentors and Institution/Laboratory.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be an Australian Citizen or have Permanent Resident status. Applicants are to provide where appropriate, evidence of residential status
- Applicant cannot be involved in or be a recipient of another simultaneous scholarship project
- Applicants enrolled in a combined degree are not eligible
- Applicants must hold or be offered an Australian Postgraduate Awarded (APA) or similar merit based scholarship.

### Instructions for Applicants

- Payments are restricted by Income Tax authorities to entities endorsed as a deductible gift recipient under subdivision 30-Ba of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997
- To qualify, projects must be undertaken within a university, public hospital, research institute or an existing Batten Disease science laboratory in Australia and/or New Zealand where supervised by University staff
- Travel abroad project expense are available to enable research collaborations relating to the proposed research with international (batten disease) research laboratories
- Applicants will commence scholarship award in a full-time capacity, commencing in the year of award.

### Reports

- Annual progress reports are required on a prescribed BDSRA form.
- A final report including a copy of the thesis, and any publication, is to be submitted on completion of the project

### Acknowledgement

All publications or presentations stemming from an approved project must acknowledge The Australian Chapter of the BDSRA.

### Application Guide

Applications should be emailed to the BDSRA at [info@battens.org.au](mailto:info@battens.org.au) and should include:

- A letter with a brief statement addressing the above criteria
- A brief outline of the proposed research (maximum 2 pages)
- A current CV including names of two referees
- Include publications and details of academic record at undergraduate and postgraduate level including Honours level, prizes and awards
- APA offer letter

**Closing Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016