



Cynthia Banham Burn Injury Research Fellowship

About the Fellowship

The Cynthia Banham Burn Injury Research Fellowship is an initiative between The Ian Potter Foundation, Cynthia Banham and the Fiona Wood Foundation. The Fellowship supports clinically relevant burn injury research undertaken by an early-career researcher under the supervision of Professor Fiona Wood, an internationally recognised leader in burn care and translational burn research.

Cynthia Banham, former *Sydney Morning Herald* foreign affairs and defence journalist, was critically injured in the Yogyakarta air disaster in March 2007 while travelling with a delegation led by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Alexander Downer MP. Following her treatment by Professor Wood and the Royal Perth Hospital burns team, this Fellowship was established to honour her recovery and to advance research that improves long-term outcomes and quality of life for survivors of severe burn trauma.

The Fellowship aims to develop the next generation of burn care specialists by enabling early-career clinical and non-clinical researchers (including junior medical officers, service registrars and higher-degree research candidates) to undertake clinically relevant burn injury research as part of their broader career development. The Fellowship may be conducted alongside ongoing clinical or academic practice and may be structured as either a part-time project or a block of time as a full-time equivalent.

The Fellowship is open to early-career researchers (within 10 years of their initial qualification) who are committed to developing a career in burn care and who are eligible to conduct research in Western Australia. Support is provided to ensure research ethics and governance approvals are in place before commencement.

Invitation for Applications

Applications are invited for the Cynthia Banham Burn Injury Research Fellowship,

valued at \$100,000 per annum and awarded annually. One Fellowship is awarded in each application round, and the duration is up to one year.

Applications must be submitted in accordance with the information below and must meet all eligibility requirements. Applications will be assessed primarily on the quality of the applicant's track record and experience, and the Fellowship will be awarded subject to the approval of a research project with clear clinical relevance, feasibility and impact. The research project can be one of the applicant's choosing and/or as directed by the Fiona Wood Foundation.

Eligibility

The Fellowship is intended for early-career researchers who are developing a career in burn injury research and who have a clear commitment to improving outcomes in clinical burn care. Eligible applicants may come from either clinical or research pathways, provided their background and experience are relevant to burn care. This Fellowship offers early-career clinicians the opportunity to gain valuable experience in burns and plastic surgery while contributing to high-impact research. It provides an excellent foundation for those seeking to integrate clinical practice and research leadership in the field of burn injury care.

This position is suitable for applicants as a **Pre-Training Registrar** role within the Burns and Plastic Surgery Unit and is ideally suited for candidates wishing to develop a career in burns and plastic surgery.

The ideal candidate will have completed at least one year of plastic surgery experience and demonstrate a clear commitment to advancing their career in this specialty. The position provides a unique opportunity to combine clinical exposure with meaningful research that enhances patient care and outcomes.

Role Overview

The Fellow will play an integral role in embedding clinical research across all stages of the patient journey. Key responsibilities include:

- Identifying and recruiting patients into clinical research studies
- Conducting the consent process and coordinating investigative procedures and follow-ups
- Performing and/or assisting with sample collection (e.g. skin, blood), scanning, scar assessments, and other study-related activities
- Undertaking literature reviews and developing an independent research project under supervision from the clinical team.

- This project may contribute toward a master's or PhD degree.
- The Fellow will also be required to participate in activities that further the mission of the Fiona Wood Foundation, including teaching and participation in Foundation activities.

Research Fellowship Conditions

- The role is available for a maximum period of 12 months, with six-month terms considered in certain cases.
- The position is well suited to candidates pursuing a higher degree by research or those developing an early-career research portfolio in burn injury and reconstructive surgery.
- The Fellowship may be undertaken alongside existing clinical duties (either part-time or as a structured research secondment/full-time equivalent).

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following:

- Within 10 years of initial qualifications (medical or research degree)
- Actively engaged in a clinical or academic role relevant to burn care, such as junior medical officer, registrar, research fellow, or higher degree (Master's/PhD) candidate
- Able to undertake the Fellowship in Western Australia, under the supervision of an appropriate clinical and/or academic host (e.g. hospital burns unit, university department, or research institute)
- Australian citizen or resident, or holds a valid visa permitting work in Australia (for international applicants)
- Capable of fulfilling all research ethics and governance requirements before commencement

Note:

- Applications from overseas candidates are welcome, but priority should be given to Australian residents conducting research in Australia, or overseas applicants with a significant connection to Australia (for example, returning from an overseas posting).
- Overseas applicants who are not Australian residents and hold an appropriate visa may be required to spend a minimum period in Australia, working with Australian patients and practitioners, and in partnership with an Australian university or institution.

Applications will be assessed on merit and excellence relative to other eligible applicants.

Application Process

Submission of an Expression of Interest or full application indicates acceptance of the Fellowship's eligibility requirements, assessment processes, timelines, and conditions of award as outlined in these guidelines.

Applicants must submit an Expression of Interest before being considered for a full application.

Step 1 – Expression of Interest

Prospective applicants must complete and submit the online Expression of Interest form by providing the following information:

- Confirmation that they meet the eligibility criteria (qualification date, clinical or academic discipline, current role, and ability to conduct research in Western Australia)
- Confirmation that they have the support of an appropriate clinical or academic host

Expression of Interest forms must be submitted by **5.00 pm AWST on Friday, 2nd January 2026** | [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE EOI FORM](#)

Only eligible applicants will then be invited to progress to Step 2 and submit a full application.

Step 2 – Full Application

Applicants invited to apply will be emailed the online Cynthia Banham Burn Injury Research Fellowship Full Application Form. The form will request the following uploads:

- A full Curriculum Vitae, including details of the applicant's current role, previous positions and training, awards and honours, any other research support, and a complete list of publications
- A letter of support from the Head of Department or host institution confirming eligibility and ability to undertake the proposed research
- Applicants will also be asked to nominate two referees and provide two referee reports.

Full applications must be submitted by **5.00 pm AWST on Friday, 16TH January 2026**. Late applications cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

Important Dates

- Expressions of Interest open: 11th December 2025
- Expression of Interest close: 5.00 pm AWST on Friday, 2nd January 2026
- Full application online forms and requested uploads must be submitted by 5.00 pm AWST on Friday, 16th January 2026.
- Outcome notification: Late January 2026
- Late applications for step 1 and step 2 cannot be accepted under any circumstances.

Reporting

Successful Fellowship recipients will be required to provide a report after the Fellowship outlining the research undertaken, the outcomes achieved, and the impact of the work on burn injury care. The Fiona Wood Foundation will provide a reporting template that must be completed and submitted to the Foundation within the specified timeframe.

Acknowledgement

Recipients are encouraged to acknowledge the support received from the Fiona Wood Foundation, The Ian Potter Foundation and Cynthia Banham in any publications, presentations or public communications resulting from the Fellowship.

Contact information | Diane Lim email diane@fionawoodfoundation.org.au

Please note: The Fiona Wood Foundation is not obliged to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.