

2024



# ASMIRT

## Guidelines

### **International Travel Scholarship Early Career**

*Your profession. Your future.*

Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy  
Contact us at [info@asmirt.org](mailto:info@asmirt.org) or call us on +61 3 9419 3336

**asmirt.org**



There are a number of protected titles for medical radiation practice. They include:

Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP)

Diagnostic Radiographer (DR)

Medical Imaging Technologist (MIT)

Radiographer

Nuclear Medicine Scientist (NMS)

Nuclear Medicine Technologist (NMT)

Radiation Therapist (RT).

For the purposes of our documentation we use the broad descriptor Medical Radiation Practitioner (MRP) recognising that it covers a range of areas of practice.



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## **ASMIRT International Travel Scholarship (Early Career)**

### **1. Program Rationale**

#### **What is the ASMIRT International Travel Scholarship?**

The ASMIRT International Travel Scholarship is offered annually to those members who have less than 2 years entry into practice and have held membership for greater than 12 months directly preceding the application. The aim of the scholarship is to encourage and promote professional development. Up to two scholarships will be awarded annually in the discipline of Medical Imaging / Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Therapy. ASMIRT Nuclear Medicine members are welcome to apply. The recipients of the scholarships will have up to three years following notification from the Board of Directors of ASMIRT of their successful application to use the funding.

Each scholarship is to the value of up to \$5,000 and can be used by the recipient to assist with covering the cost of overseas travel to participate in education, training and cultural opportunities. The aim of the scholarship is to allow for personal and professional development of the practitioner and to encourage the practitioner upon their return to Australia and contribute to the professional body of knowledge.

#### **Who is eligible to apply for an International Travel Scholarship?**

The International Travel Scholarships are available to current members of ASMIRT who have less than 2 years entry into practice and have held membership for greater than 12 months directly preceding the application. This includes those completing their Supervised Practice Year, students who have successfully completed their four-year program, and students who have successfully completed the Graduate Diploma in Mammography. All applicants are advised that they need to be in a position to take up the scholarship within the three years. Successful applicants must maintain membership of ASMIRT for the duration of the scholarship.

#### **What are the expectations of me when I return to Australia?**

Upon return to Australia the successful candidates will be required to submit an article reflecting on their experiences for publication in Spectrum. Presentations of the participants' experiences would also be welcomed at branch meetings, student paper days or as a formal paper presentation at the national ASMIRT conference, although this is not a requirement.

### **2. Program Framework**

#### **What can I use the ASMIRT International Travel Scholarship for?**

The ASMIRT International Travel Scholarship may be used in a number of modes to assist the recipients to participate in international education, training and cultural opportunities. The modes that you may choose from include, using the scholarship to:

- Gain experience in overseas radiography/nuclear medicine or radiation therapy practices
- Present a paper and/or attend an overseas conference
- Participate in an overseas training or study program that will assist in skill enhancement.



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## Using the scholarship for a career break

Scholarship applicants may wish to use the scholarship to develop an opportunity to gain experience in overseas radiography/nuclear medicine or radiation therapy practice. This application may be with or without the approval of the applicant's employer\*. Please note that it must be the applicant's intent to return to Australia within an appropriate time period.

If you are making an application for the International Travel Scholarship as part of a career break, you will need to include the following information in your application:

- an outline of the applicant's intention to learn or develop specific skills
- the name(s) and contact details of the contact person(s) at the department(s) where you plan to spend time working and learning,
- clearly outline the rationale and benefits of your proposed use of the scholarship.

*\* Please note that in the case of employer supported leave, a letter of support from your employer is required.*

A successful applicant, who has applied to use the scholarship for a career break, prior to receipt of the award, would be required to submit a detailed plan of their travel arrangements. This would need to include:

- certified copies of evidence of registration in the proposed country of employment
- certified copies of offers of employment
- a proposed employment program including dates of employment including an anticipated date of commencement and an anticipated date of return to Australia

## Using the scholarship to present and/or attend an international conference

Applicants may wish to use the scholarship funding to assist them to present a paper at an international conference or to assist them to attend an international conference as a delegate. Attendance at international conferences may also be combined with visits to overseas practices or study tours\*.

If you are making an application to use the International Travel to present or attend and international conference, you will need to include the following information in your application:

- a letter of support from your employer
- details of the conference to be attended and/or the intent to offer a paper for presentation
- an outline of the conference program (where available)
- clearly outline the rationale and benefits of your proposed use of the scholarship



*\* Please note that if you plan to include a study tour with your trip you will need to include with your application the details of your planned hospital, departmental or University visits (Please include the name/s and contact details of your overseas contact/s).*

A successful applicant who has applied to use the scholarship to attend an international conference, prior to receipt of the award would be required to submit a detailed plan of their travel arrangements. This would need to include:

- a certified copy of conference registration(s)
- a certified copy of your abstract and the acceptance of your paper in the conference program
- a proposed travel timetable including anticipated date of departure and an anticipated date of return to Australia
- if a study tour has been planned in conjunction with this activity, certified copies of letters of invitation for hospital, department or University visits are required

### **Using the scholarship to participate in an international training program**

Applicants may wish to apply for the scholarship funding to assist them to participate in an overseas training/study program for the enhancement of clinical skills. Such training may take

the form of a formal training program and/or study visit to one or several sites to investigate international practice and gain a specific set of skills and knowledge\*

If you are making an application to use the scholarship to participate in an international conference, you will need to include the following information in your application:

- a letter of support from your employer,
- an outline of the applicant's intention to learn or develop specific skills,
- an outline of the training program (where available),
- clearly outline the rationale and benefits of your proposed use of the scholarship.

*\* Please note that if you plan to include a study tour with you trip you will need to include with your application the details of your planned hospital, departmental or University visits (Please include the name(s) and contact details of your overseas contact(s))*



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A successful applicant who has applied to use the scholarship to attend an international training program, prior to receipt of the award would be required to submit a detailed plan of their travel arrangements this would need to include:

- a certified copy of acceptance in a course/ training program(s)
- a certified copy of the outline(s) of the course/ training or study program(s)
- a proposed travel timetable including anticipated dates of departure and an anticipated date of return to Australia
- if a study tour has been planned in conjunction with this activity certified copies of letters of invitation for hospital, department or University visits are required

### **Application Information**

#### **3.0 Criteria**

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Be Ahpra registered, have less than 2 years entry into practice and currently practicing in medical imaging, nuclear medicine or radiation therapy
- Be a financial member of ASMIRT for at least 12 months directly preceding the application.
- Provide a report suitable for publication on their international travel experience.

#### **3.1 Applications**

Applications in writing, using the attached application form, must be made to the Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, marked attention “Chief Executive”.

Applications must include:

- Application
- Covering letter – including responses to selection criteria
- Brief Curriculum Vitae
- Employer Letter of Support
- Three (3) written professional referees
- Additional information as specified above (eg Conference Program Outline)
- Proposed travel outline

Applications which are incomplete will not be considered. Applicants will be sent an acknowledgement receipt via email when applications are received. Late applications will not be accepted.

*Candidates who have been successful previously and meet eligibility criteria are eligible to apply again on a yearly basis.*



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### 3.2 Assessment criteria

Applications will be assessed and ranked using the following:

- Quality of the application and rationale and justification for proposed use of the scholarship.
- Evidence of a demonstrated commitment to personal and professional development
- Contribution to and benefits to the professional body of knowledge.

### 3.3 Selection Criteria

- Detail the relationship between the proposed international education, training and cultural opportunities and how it will enhance your current discipline of practice.
- Demonstrate how the international education, training and cultural opportunities will enhance your current skills and knowledge or diversify your skills and knowledge within your current discipline of practice.
- Demonstrate how the proposed international education, training and cultural opportunities will improve the workforce and/or service delivery needs of your local community and improve patient care.
- Clearly outline the rationale and benefits of your proposed use of the scholarship and professional development in your discipline of practice.

### 3.4 Financial Assistance Details

International Travel Scholarships are awarded to assist with the costs of overseas travel; flights (Economy class), travel insurance, accommodation, conference registration & transportation (eg taxis, buses, train tickets), associated with attendance at an international conference / training programs. The value of the scholarship is up to \$5,000.00.

### 3.5 When to apply

Applications will open from July each year.

Payments are made post travel, although the initial airfare cost may be reimbursed prior to travel. Ensure that all receipts are retained, so that you will be able to support your claim.

### 3.5 How to apply

Applications are to be sent as an email copy to the email address listed below.

Please ensure that all correct information is supplied, including all required supporting documentation.

Further information can be obtained from ASMIRT:

Telephone: (03) 9419 3336 Email: [scholarships@asmirt.org](mailto:scholarships@asmirt.org) subject heading "International Travel Scholarship – Early Career"



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Ensure all requirements are complete and all attachments included. All recommended applications are sent to the Board of Directors for ratification.



### 3.7 Timescale

- **July – October:** Advertisement of the International Travel Scholarships via ASMIRT publications, social media and website.
- **First Sunday October** - Closing date for applications. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement within two working days of receipt of their application.
- **October:** Applications reviewed
- **November** – Recommendation to be forwarded to the ASMIRT Board of Directors for November Board Meeting.
- Application outcome for all applicants advised following ASMIRT Board of Directors ratification.
- **December:** Recipients advised of application outcome. Successful applicant/s will be announced in Spectrum and the ASMIRT website.

### 3.8 Notification

Successful applicants will be notified by email which will be forwarded directly to your nominated email address. Applications are reviewed at the November Board meeting, and all applicants will be notified of an outcome mid-December.

### 3.9 Disclaimer

The ASMIRT Board decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into. The ASMIRT Board does not accept appeals to its decision.

# It is recommended that successful applicants register their overseas travel on DFAT Smart Traveller

### 3.10 Frequently Asked Questions

***What should I do if the conference program is unavailable when making my application?***

If the conference program for an event that you are planning to attend is unavailable when you submit your application, you can forward the program for the current year's event or a recent past conference. It is recognised that sometimes conferences are only biennial.

Eg: *If you are applying to attend UKRC in 2025 and the program was not available, you should forward the program from 2024 with your application as an example of the conference format.*





***What evidence should I submit, if I have submitted to present at a conference, and have not had confirmation of abstract acceptance?***

If you have submitted an abstract to a conference for consideration, you will have received an email confirming that your abstract has been uploaded for review. You can print this email and attach to your application or save it as a pdf as part of your emailed application.

***What should I do if I am unable to obtain a letter of support from my employer?***

If you do not have confirmed employment with your current employer in the years following your application for this scholarship, you should simply state this in your application cover letter. In this instance, you will not need to include a letter of support from your employer; however, it is still a requirement that you include three professional references with your application.

***Does the program that I am planning to attend need to be specifically related to the Medical Radiation Sciences?***

If you were applying for the International Travel Scholarship to attend a conference or a training program that is related to your field of work, but not specifically in medical imaging, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy, your cover letter will need to outline the rationale and benefits of your use of the scholarship.

Eg: The scholarship may be to assist you to attend / present and participate in a conference that is related to areas within the medical radiation science space such as artificial intelligence, clinical education, PACS, information technology, health management.

**Document Details**

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1	MK	18/07/2024			

**Version History**

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1	Created March 2023



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