**Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre**

**The Picchi Award for Excellence in Cancer Research 2023**

The Picchi Brothers Foundation supports this award in the hope that it will inspire and encourage the next generation of leaders in cancer research.

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC Alliance) is offering up to three $10,000 prizes to recognise Excellence in Cancer Research amongst the top PhD students of the VCCC alliance or regional partner with a collaboration agreement in the areas of basic science, clinical science and population health.

The prizes are intended to recognise, develop and support the top students of the VCCC, based on the productivity and impact of the work from their PhD. It is intended that the 2022 prizes will:

* Support personal and professional development towards research independence
* Enable recipients to engage in collaborative work
* Enable recipients to attend or participate remotely or physically in an international conference/s

The scheme is available to PhD students who have [**confirmed**](http://www.gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au/current/phdhbk/candidature.html#purpose) candidature at a University affiliated with a VCCC Alliance partner or **regional partner with a collaboration agreement with the VCCC Alliance (including Bendigo, South West, Albury Wodonga and Grampians)**, and are undertaking cancer-related research training within a VCCC alliance partner. Students will normally have completed **at least 24 months** of candidature (FTE) at time of application. The candidate’s doctoral work must address one of the six pillars of cancer control including prevention, screening and early diagnosis, treatment, research, education and cancer information. PhD students who have submitted their thesis but have not had it accepted at the time of application submission are still eligible to apply.

Up to three prizes will be awarded to recognise VCCC Alliance PhD students. There will be one prize each for basic science, clinical science and population health. All applications for the clinical science award must hold a clinical entry-to-practice degree.

**What will be assessed?**

When awarding the prizes, the selection committee will consider the strength of the entire application including the purpose and benefit of the overseas travel, collaborative work and/or support for their development towards research independence, the student’s track record (with emphasis on the PhD period), the contribution of the prize to the student’s career development and support from the student’s supervisor and an independent referee.

**Eligibility requirements**

* Must be a PhD student who has [**confirmed**](http://www.gradresearch.unimelb.edu.au/current/phdhbk/candidature.html#purpose) candidature at a University affiliated with a VCCC Alliance partner or **regional partner with a collaboration agreement with the VCCC Alliance (including Bendigo, South West, Albury Wodonga and Grampians).**
* Doctoral work must address one of the six pillars of cancer control including prevention, screening and early diagnosis, treatment, research, education and cancer information

The committee will **only** consider applicants who:

* satisfy **all** of the eligibility requirements noted above, **and**
* submit a **complete** application by the closing date - **5pm (AEST) Monday 22 May 2023**
* retrospective applications will not be considered

**Application**

The **complete** application will consist of the following:

1. **Completed application form**
2. **Letter of support from the supervisor which indicates the;**

* strength of the applicant
* expected benefit (to the student) of travel/activity

1. **Independent referee (not a secondary supervisor) report which comments on the;**

* strength of the applicant
* contribution of the student’s work to the field of study

***Both letters should be on a letterhead and signed***

1. **Curriculum Vitae**

* Should include the following sections:
  1. Education
  2. Employment
  3. Publications - ensure that publications directly arising from the PhD are included.
  4. Awards and Prizes

**Regulations**

* The travel or collaboration must be relevant and academically justifiable but **not essential** to the completion of the student's thesis (departments and faculties are responsible for the funding of research that is essential to the PhD or research doctorate).
* Investigating post-doctoral opportunities is acceptable as an element of the proposed travel but not as the main purpose of the trip. **Evidence** of arrangements made to investigate post-doctoral opportunities may be requested by the selection committee.
* Applicants must ensure that travel is in accordance with the host University’s travel policies.
* Within 4 weeks of return or within 12 months of award (for those using funds for collaborative research), successful students will need to submit a report to the VCCC Alliance. The report should include an overview of the outcomes and benefits of the overseas travel, or collaborative research and **a detailed and descriptive summary** on how the awarded funds were used.
* Previous recipients of this prize are ineligible to apply.

**For queries please contact   
vccc-education@unimelb.edu.au**