

2019

HEALTH+MEDICAL RESEARCH

Elite Postdoctoral Research Grants

Guidelines



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1. Call for proposals

NSW Health invites eligible host organisations to apply for the Cardiovascular Research Capacity Program Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants. Each grant will receive up to \$1 million over three years.

2. Purpose

The Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants scheme aims to promote NSW as a global leader in cardiovascular research by attracting talented researchers who have undertaken a period of postdoctoral research overseas or interstate to conduct research in NSW. The program also aims to increase the national and international competitiveness of NSW cardiovascular disease research, build local research capacity, and support a strategic and competitive position for federally-funded research grants and fellowships.

Elite postdoctoral researchers will be talented emerging leaders in their research field, and have demonstrated capacity to contribute to an innovative, high impact research program. An elite postdoctoral researcher is a researcher who has identified potential to undertake internationally significant cardiovascular research with high impact results in NSW. The researcher must be currently living and working interstate or overseas and be willing to relocate to NSW for the period of the grant.

The funding will support elite postdoctoral researchers working in cardiovascular disease research. The term cardiovascular disease is used to encompass all diseases and conditions of the heart and blood vessels, and related conditions including chronic kidney disease, diabetes and obesity.

Elite postdoctoral researchers may work on any aspect of cardiovascular disease including biomedical discovery, clinical, health services and/or population health research.

3. Proposal and assessment process

Proposals to the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants scheme will be accepted throughout the year and assessed by an expert panel. The timing of assessments will be notified at least two months in advance on the NSW health and medical research website (www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au). Proposals will only be accepted from host organisations and will not be accepted directly from researchers.

The proposal process is outlined below:

1. A NSW-based host organisation identifies a potential applicant and prepares a proposal for submission to NSW Health, using the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants Proposal Template.

2. The proposal is considered by an external expert panel, who may seek independent advice and verification regarding the proposal, including interview of the applicant.
3. The independent expert panel makes a recommendation to NSW Health regarding the proposal. Funding is approved or declined. Funding is contingent on signature of an agreement between the NSW Ministry of Health and the host organisation.

Further information may be requested at any stage during the above process.

All proposals should be submitted using the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants Proposal Template and forwarded by email to: MOH-OHMRGrants@health.nsw.gov.au.

All enquiries and proposals will be treated in the strictest confidence.

4. Objectives

The purpose of the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants is to fund and incentivise talented researchers to move to NSW to work in cardiovascular disease research to:

- conduct pioneering and innovative cardiovascular research in NSW
- develop new collaborations and partnerships for research and translation within NSW, Australia and internationally
- drive discoveries with the long term aim of improving wellbeing and health

- build NSW capacity in a strong, vibrant and highly skilled research workforce
- realise long term sustained economic impact for NSW through the development of new therapies
- support leadership development
- leverage Australian Government funding opportunities to further research and its translation in NSW
- bridge the gap between research, policy and practice to increase research impact.

5. Funding available

Total funding of up to \$1 million per grant over three years will be available and may be used for salary, consumables, and specific research equipment if required.

In addition, a one-off funding amount of up to \$10,000 for relocation expenses (personal and/or family) may be available on request with appropriate justification.

Host and partner organisations are expected to provide a supportive research environment including in-kind support. This should be detailed in the proposal.

Funding conditions and exclusions

Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants are open to researchers who currently live and work outside of NSW, either interstate or overseas, and who are ten years or less post-doctorate.

Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants funding must not be expended on capital works, general maintenance costs, organisational infrastructure or overheads, telephone/communication systems, basic office equipment such as desks and chairs, rent and the cost of utilities. Proposals where a significant portion of funding is expended on a single item of equipment will not be considered.

Funding is conditional on the Chief Executive of the host organisation(s) signing the proposal to confirm the host organisation's support.

Proposals are required to declare the source, duration and level of funding already held for research in the particular area of the proposal, and if this funding will continue for the period of the grant.

6. Eligibility criteria

All criteria should be addressed in detail in the proposal prepared by the host organisation using the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants Proposal Template.

Proposals must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. Not currently based in NSW

The researcher must not currently live or work in NSW.

2. Willing to move to NSW

During the period of the grant the researcher must reside in NSW and be employed by a NSW-based local health district, medical research institute, or university.

3. Australian citizen, permanent residency status or appropriate visa

Australian citizens and permanent residents must provide evidence of their status as such.

If the researcher is not an Australian citizen or a permanent resident of Australia, awarding of funding will be conditional on obtaining an appropriate working visa for the full term of the funding period. This process is to be facilitated by the host organisation. Researchers who are neither Australian citizens nor permanent residents must provide evidence of residency status and the right to remain in Australia for the duration of the funding period, certified by a Justice of the Peace (JP) or equivalent, before funding is granted. Note that for electronic documents, an official VEVO statement is sufficient, JP certification is not required.

4. Classified as an early mid-career scientist

The elite postdoctoral researcher must have worked for ten years or less post-doctorate.

5. Working in cardiovascular research

The elite postdoctoral researcher must satisfy the requirement that their

research program is in the field of cardiovascular health.

6. Host organisation is a NSW organisation that conducts health and medical research

For the duration of the fellowship, the elite postdoctoral researcher must be employed by a host organisation that is a NSW based local health district, medical research institute or university. For the purpose of grant payments, if the host organisation is within a local health district, it is required that the host organisation partners with an independent medical research institute, university or funding body to administer funds. The host organisation must conduct health and medical research.

7. Assessment criteria

Proposals should be submitted using the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher Grants Proposal Template and provide full details of the selection process undertaken by the host organisation in identifying and assessing the specific researcher and their suitability for employment. This should include a clear statement of why the researcher is considered an emerging research leader in their field, the contribution of the proposed researcher and program of research to NSW, and the supportive research environment that will be provided by the host organisation to facilitate this.

In addressing the assessment criteria, proposals need to specifically highlight the relevance to cardiovascular disease research. The proposals should highlight recent achievements, focusing on the post-doctoral fellowship/ research undertaken.

All proposals for funding that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

1. Academic and relevant professional qualifications of the elite postdoctoral researcher

Proposals will be required to list the academic qualifications of the researcher and any relevant professional qualifications with the year awarded, the awarding body, and country.

2. Evidence of elite status

The proposal should include justification that the researcher is of exceptional international standard, including details of medals, awards and scholarships. Evidence of excellence in communication of research should be provided. Other contributions within the researcher's profession and the research community outside their current role should be highlighted.

3. Track record in research

Proposals should provide details of career journal articles, books, reports, patents, and major conference presentations, and the impact of these outputs. Details of any funding awarded to previous projects should be provided.

4. Multidisciplinary research record

Ability to contribute to or develop research projects that involve collaborations to bridge different disciplines and enhance competitiveness

and innovation is desirable. The applicant's role in developing these collaborations should be described.

5. Research, clinical and industry experience

Proposals will be required to list all research, clinical and industry appointments and positions held by the researcher, and highlight the different disciplines engaged with through each role. Experience in contributing to, developing or leading multidisciplinary teams to engage in cardiovascular research programs should be described.

The proposal should describe the researcher's skills and experience that directly relate to the topic area(s) and/or methodology of the proposed research.

6. Ability to deliver research outcomes and/or objectives within the funding period

Evidence of being able to deliver on research outcomes is required, outlining key deliverables with an indication of when each will be completed. At the completion of the funding period it should be possible to report on meaningful outcomes for the elite postdoctoral researcher to demonstrate how the findings from any related research are being disseminated and/or translated into policy and practice. Host organisations will be required to report the scores from the National Health and Medical Research Council and other funding applications which are applied for during the funding period.

7. Demonstration of NSW Health CORE values

The proposal must give evidence that the researcher displays NSW Health CORE values (collaboration, openness, respect and empowerment) in their work. The researcher's promotion of such values should be demonstrated in the proposal and may be verified via independent advice and verification, including at interview.

8. Skills and leadership development

Host organisations should provide a plan for developing research skills and leadership capability during the funding period.

9. Proposed research is novel, timely and important

The proposal should provide a clear and detailed explanation of the expected benefits of the proposed program of research to NSW, including consideration of why the research is novel or important, how the research builds on existing evidence and research activity, and how positive findings will be translated into policy and practice in NSW and more broadly.

10. Nominated program of research will benefit the host organisation and NSW

The proposal should outline the specific benefits of bringing the nominated researcher to the host institution and to NSW, including research contribution, knowledge transfer and capacity building. Applications are required to

demonstrate alignment of the proposed research program with current and proposed research within the host organisation and partner organisations, and how the proposed research would build on research already undertaken in NSW. If the area of research is different to the host organisation's current areas of research, a clear case for this should be presented including details of how a supportive environment will be provided for the researcher and the project.

11. Knowledge impact and knowledge translation

The proposal should consider the impact and translation of the proposed program of research within the context of current research activity in NSW.

Potential outputs of research that demonstrate impact include peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, award of national or international peer reviewed grants and fellowships, influence on other science, new partnerships or collaborations between NSW and other jurisdictions, and output such as new diagnostics, drug targets, clinical or medical prototypes, or changes to clinical practice.

12. Outcomes for priority population groups

Research projects should consider the differential health needs of, and its potential impact on, priority populations, such as Aboriginal people and communities, individuals from a non-English speaking background, and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups. Proposals must outline how the research program will consider

cardiovascular disease in both males and females.

13. Feasibility of proposed budget

The proposed research budget should include details of all funding sources, and expected expenditure on salaries, the research project, and consumables.

8. Commitments of the host organisation

1. Infrastructure and other support

The host organisation, and any partner organisations, should provide support for the research program including in-kind contributions. If significant infrastructure is required for the research, the proposal should outline how this will be obtained.

The host organisation will provide the appropriate infrastructure support for the research including wet/dry lab space, computer equipment, desk space etc.

The host organisation should identify resource requirements, such as personnel requirements, that will be provided for the duration of the funding.

Partnerships between organisations are encouraged, and additional research funding and in-kind support may also be provided by partner organisations.

The host organisation is responsible for consideration of any logistical support requested including travel arrangements and organising temporary accommodation.

2. Support from the Chief Executive

The applicant must have the support of the Chief Executive in submitting their application.

3. Legally compliant and committed to providing appropriate support

The applicant's host organisation must meet all standard employer responsibilities required by law, accommodate and support the recipient for the term of their grant.

4. Gender equity in practice

The host organisation must value gender equity in practice.

5. Management of grant funds

The host organisation is responsible for managing grant funds. For the purpose of grant payments, if the host organisation is within a local health district, it is required that the host organisation collaborates with an independent medical research institute, university or funding body to administer funds.

9. Clinical practice

If the researcher will undertake clinical duties during the period of the grant, the nature, FTE commitment and alignment with research activities for these should be detailed in the proposal.

10. Proposal requirements

The proposal submitted to NSW Health, using the Elite Postdoctoral Researcher

Grants Proposal Template, must contain the following:

1. A statement confirming that the proposed researcher and host organisation fulfil the eligibility criteria in Section 6.
2. Details on how the proposed researcher addresses the assessment criteria in Section 7 item 1 to 8.
3. Details on how the proposed program of research addresses the assessment criteria in Section 7 item 9 to 13.
4. At least two referee reports for the proposed researcher that address the criteria in Section 7. Referee reports may be in the format preferred by the host organisation and should contain the names and contact details of the referees.
5. A statement detailing the support for the researcher and project that will be provided by the host organisation, according to Section 8.
6. A statement outlining the support that that will be provided by partner organisations, if applicable. This statement should be signed by Chief Executive of the partner organisation(s).
7. If applicable, a statement detailing the proposed clinical appointments that will be held by the proposed researcher and confirmation that they meet criteria outlined in Section 9.
8. A cover letter signed by the Chief Executive of the host organisation confirming acknowledgement of, and agreement to, the proposal.



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www.medicalresearch.nsw.gov.au

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