

First Fellowships - advice to applicants

Purpose

These fellowships are intended to provide personal support for outstanding early career researchers so that they can complete their first post-doctoral fellowship under the close mentorship of an academic with a continuing position

Scope

- Post-doctoral research fellows undertaking research at institutions in New Zealand

Who can apply?

- Those who have submitted or been awarded a PhD within the 2 years prior to the application closing date *(see Time Outside of Research)
- Applications will be accepted from those who have submitted but not yet received the results of their thesis examination, but the fellowship will not be awarded until all requirements for the conferment of the PhD have been met
- NZ citizens and permanent residents. Non-residents are eligible provided they are completing or have completed their PhD at a New Zealand institution

What is funded?

- Two years equivalent of salary support. The research FTE can be spread across more than two years, as long as it is at least 80% for each year and the total FTE does not exceed 200%
- \$20,000 of research working expenses
- Recipients are eligible to apply for travel grants of up to \$4,500 towards travelling to conferences and training courses directly related to the fellowship. These can be applied for separately as travel grants after the fellowship has been awarded and up to two years after it has been completed. The maximum total of all travel grants combined is capped at \$4,500

What will not be funded?

- Relocation costs
- Fellows whose salary for the proposed project is already funded
- Equipment
- Student stipends

Closing date

- 1 October 2024

Process

- Download an application form at <https://neurological.org.nz/research/funding-opportunities>
- Complete the application form, including signatures from your mentor and your host institution. The Neurological Foundation will only accept applications sent by the host institution's research office
- The budget requested should be in NZD. The Neurological Foundation will not award more than is requested in the budget and does not fund institutional overheads. Only actual costs for ACC and superannuation should be included in salary associated costs
- Supporting documentation:
 - NZ Standard CVs for the applicant and mentor(s), using the template available at <https://neurological.org.nz/research/funding-opportunities>
 - A letter of support from the proposed primary mentor which includes information on the resources available and how the research expenses will be funded
- Selected applicants will be invited to attend an interview with the Foundation's Personal Awards Committee, where you will describe your project and future plans

- Applicants will be advised of the outcome on 3 December 2024
- Successful applicants will be informed of the conditions of the grant and asked for their formal acceptance of the fellowship contract

General Advice

Purpose

The Neurological Foundation's purpose is to "Be a catalyst to improve the future quality of life for New Zealanders impacted by neurological conditions".

This includes diseases and disorders of the central and peripheral nervous systems. The Foundation will accept applications for research that contributes to our understanding of, prevention, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, or management of neurological conditions. The research proposal should have a clear outcome, which will add to knowledge about neurological disorders. The Foundation will accept applications designed to enhance knowledge about the pathogenesis of neuropsychiatric and neuropsychological disorders, but applications that deal only with the management of mental health disorders will not be considered.

***Time outside of research**

Exceptions will be considered for significant periods of time outside of research for reasons of illness, bereavement, caregiver or parental leave. Reduced FTEs are not considered as time outside of research. Other exceptions may be considered, please contact the Foundation prior to submission. You may be asked to provide evidence. For example, a research fellow who has taken one year's parental leave will need to have submitted or been awarded their PhD within 3 years prior to the application closing date.

Resubmission

The Foundation's Personal Awards Committee provides constructive feedback to applicants after each grant round. If unsuccessful, applicants can resubmit their application in a subsequent grant round. However, the Personal Awards Committee believes that a third submission of an unsuccessful application is not appropriate. Therefore, only one resubmission of a First Fellowship application will be accepted. Successful applicants are only able to receive the fellowship once and are not eligible to reapply for a First Fellowship.

Research contracts

Successful applicants will be offered contracts that outline the conditions of the fellowship, including the following:

- Applicants must complete all requirements for the conferment of their PhD prior to the fellowship being awarded
- The First Fellowship cannot be held simultaneously with any other fellowship award
- The host institution will administer the fellowship
- The fellowship will have a specific start date and end date
- The institution's research programme may be rapidly evolving and the details of the research project may change after the application is made. The Fellow may be involved in several research projects that develop during the course of the fellowship. If the contractual details of the fellowship change a variation request will need to be submitted to the Foundation
- Annual progress reports are required on the anniversary of the start date. A final report will be required within 3 months of the fellowship end date
- Any presentations or publications resulting from the fellowship will acknowledge the Foundation's support

Questions?

If you have any queries please contact the Foundation for advice at research@neurological.org.nz