

VJ Chapman Fellowships - advice to applicants

Purpose

The VJ Chapman Fellowship is named after Professor Valentine Chapman, a founding member of the Neurological Foundation. These fellowships are intended to support medical graduates to pursue a career in academic neurology, neurosurgery, or neuropathology.

Scope

- Medical graduates undertaking clinical or biomedical research, which may be combined with advanced clinical training, at institutions outside New Zealand. The fellowship may be based in New Zealand as long as there is a significant international collaboration
- At least 50% of the fellow's time is to be spent on research
- Fellows are encouraged to study for a higher degree (MD, PhD etc.)

Who can apply?

- New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- Medical doctors who are enrolled in or have recently completed an advanced clinical training programme

What is funded?

- One year equivalent of salary support, based on the Fellow's salary had they continued in a clinical post in New Zealand for 40 – 44.9 hours per week. The research FTE can be spread across two years, as long as it is at least 50% for each year.
- Recipients are eligible to apply for travel to conferences and training courses directly related to the fellowship. These can be applied for separately as travel grants after the VJ Chapman 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
- Research working expenses

Closing dates

- 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 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
- Supporting documentation:
 - NZ Standard CV for the applicant using the template available at <https://neurological.org.nz/apply-for-funding/>
 - A CV and letter of support from your 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

- Assessment of your application will take into consideration with equal weighting:
 - Your curriculum vitae and suitability and ambition for a future career in academic neurology, neurosurgery, or neuropathology
 - The academic standing of your supervisor and the academic programme of the host institution
 - The research proposal
- You 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 for all applications

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.

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 VJ Chapman Fellowship application will be accepted. Successful applicants are only able to receive the fellowship once and are not eligible to reapply for the VJ Chapman Fellowship.

Research contracts

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

- The VJ Chapman 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 at research@neurological.org.nz.