

VJ Chapman Fellowships - advice to applicants

COVID-19 Update

Due to travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation will be flexible with start dates. The fellowship may be started in New Zealand if a plan is included in the application that details a timetable for regular contact with the international research group, such as video participation in research meetings. You will also need to include a plan for the fellowship if travel restrictions do not change in the near future.

Purpose

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
- 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.), but not for professional examinations (FRACP, FRACS 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 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
- 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

What will not be funded?

- Relocation costs
- Fellows whose salary for the proposed project is already funded
- Research working expenses

Closing dates

If the closing date falls on a weekend or holiday, it will be extended to the next working day

- 1 May and 1 October

Process

- Create an application on our online portal at <https://grants.neurological.org.nz/>. You will need to create a new account if you are a first-time user
- Your application will go to your configured research office for review, before being sent on (at the institution's decision) to the Neurological Foundation
- 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 on the application form
 - A letter of support from your proposed primary mentor and their academic CV
- 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 in early July or early December
- 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".

The Neurological Foundation will accept applications for fellowships aligned with this purpose, including biomedical, bioengineering, clinical, and epidemiological research. The Foundation will accept applications designed to further the knowledge and treatment of primary neuropsychiatric or neuropsychological disorders, as long as the research takes a mechanistic approach to discovering or treating a component of the disorder. Applications that deal only with the clinical 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's Research Manager
- 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's Research Manager at research@neurological.org.nz.