

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 full-time research at institutions in New Zealand

Who can apply?

- People 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 of salary support
- \$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

What will not be funded?

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

Closing date

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 CVs for the applicant and mentor, using the template available on the application form
 - A letter of support from the proposed primary mentor
- 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 early in July or December
- 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".

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 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'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 for advice.
research@neurological.org.nz