

DOST-PCHRD Health Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers

To increase the number researchers who can conduct cutting-edge health researches in the country, the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD) offers early-career researchers and scientists who have recently earned their PhD degrees to spend extended period of research (1 to 2 years) and gain invaluable experience working with prominent scientists abroad. The additional research training will enhance their knowledge and skills to help them pursue a career in academia and research. Likewise, the program will help prepare young researchers to become principal investigators in the future.

The research will be carried out in cooperation with academic or research institutions abroad. Applicant's research must be aligned with the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) and Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA).

The program is open to all funded and monitored scholars of DOST-PCHRD.

Objectives

The fellowship program aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Develop a pool of high-quality human resources who will contribute to the country's national development programs, global competitiveness, and economic development;
2. Provide opportunities to deserving early career researchers and scientists to do research in reputable institutions abroad; and
3. Contribute to the country's health research and technological innovation capabilities through fellowship training.

Duration

Details of the research proposal including information on the intended duration of the fellowship must be agreed upon with the intended host before applying (maximum of two (2) years).

Eligibility

The applicant must:

1. Be a Filipino citizen;
2. Not more than 50 years old at the time of application;
3. Be in good health condition;
4. Hold a PhD degree in a field relevant to health and biomedicine;
5. Have at least two (2) years of return service in the country before they can apply for post-doctoral fellowship abroad;
6. Must have an acceptance from an internationally recognized academic institution and host research adviser
7. Must have a research proposal aligned with National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) and Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA);
8. Pass the interview and other screening procedures;
9. Not avail or enjoy any other scholarship/fellowship grant;
10. Be willing to render the required service obligation equivalent to the length of time the fellow enjoyed the grant (two years of service for every year of scholarship/fellowship); and
11. Must have a full-time commitment to the fellowship and must not engage in any form of employment during the period.

Privileges

The fellow will receive the following financial assistance:

1. Other School fees i.e. bench fees (if applicable)
2. Monthly living allowance (rate will depend on the place of study)
3. Health and accident insurance
4. Outright thesis/dissertation allowance
5. Pre-travel expenses
6. One round-trip economy fare from residence to place of study (one-time only in the whole duration of the fellowship)
7. Relocation allowance

Policies

- a) Applicants shall have minimum of one (1) publication as the primary author after the graduation.
- b) Shall be given maximum of two (2) years to complete the fellowship and it should be governed by a MOA.
- c) Career Incentive Program (CIP) is considered as return of service.
- d) Re-entry plan should include intention to be employed in the academe and research institutions as researcher/research faculty, principal investigator, among others and intention to submit a research proposal for funding by DOST after the fellowship.
- e) Upon return, must be willing to be part of DOST's pool of technical review experts.
- f) Must produce at least one (1) publication derived from the fellowship.
- g) The maximum annual budget for the fellowship is 1.5 million pesos.
- h) Research to be conducted must be aligned with NUHRA and HNRDA and must be pre-approved by DOST-PCHRD and host university/institution.

Selection and Award

Applications are evaluated by a committee consisting of expert researchers and a representative of DOST-PCHRD. Candidates are selected solely on the basis of the evaluation of their academic qualification. A candidate's academic qualification is assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- a) Academic record and academic performance to date (mobility, determination, breadth of research activities, academic productivity)
- b) Quality of key publications specified in the application (originality, degree of innovation, applicant's contribution in cases of multiple authorship)
- c) Originality and innovation potential of the suggested research proposal (significance for the advancement of the discipline, convincing choice of academic methods, prospects for academic development of the applicant, clear focus and feasibility of realization within the requested funding period and at the chosen host institution)
- d) Applicant's future potential (academic potential, further academic development, career prospects)

A host institution should be identified by the candidate based on his/her particular area of research. The evaluation committee will make a decision on the suitability of the host institution proposed by the candidate.

How to Apply

Applications should be submitted using the prescribed application form and should contain the following supporting documents:

1. CV
2. Accomplished application form with ID picture
3. Research proposal
4. PSA Birth Certificate (Photocopy)
5. Valid NBI Clearance (Photocopy)
6. Acceptance letter from the host institution and host research adviser
7. Endorsement letter from the home department/institute head or endorsement letter from two (2) former professors in PhD program
8. Certificate of Employment (if employed)
9. (If employed) Recommendation from head of agency and permission from head of agency to take a leave of absence while on scholarship or proof of resignation or termination of contract
10. Medical Certificate as to health status from a licensed physician with his/her PRC license number indicated
11. Certificate of PhD Degree (Photocopy)
12. Transcript of Records (certified true copy)
13. Re-entry Plan (narrative)
14. Proposed Line Item Budget (LIB) that includes pre-travel expenses, living allowance, one roundtrip economy airfare (attach at least 3 airfare canvasses and website references for items requested), travel and health insurance, and other school fees required by the host university