



2016 Scholar Program Competition

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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Application Phase Questions

1. Who can apply to the Scholar Program?

Applicants who have a PhD or is a health professional in active clinical service and are within five years from the start of their first university appointment (at an assistant professor level or equivalent) as of the Full Application competition deadline (December 15, 2015) are eligible to apply.

2. What is the nature of the appointment that I must have with my Host Institution?

The appointment must allow you to apply for and hold peer-reviewed funds as a principal investigator; be a research supervisor for graduate and post-graduate trainees; and to publish your research results.

3. Can research associates and post-doctoral fellows apply?

Yes, but if they are successful in the Scholar competition, they must have the appointment described in point 2 at an eligible BC institution as of the award start date (July 1, 2016).

4. What does “eligible” BC institution refer to?

An eligible BC institution is one that has a Memorandum of Understanding with MSFHR. View a complete [list of eligible Host Institutions](#).

5. Is the Scholar competition open to both PhDs and health professionals?

Yes. PhDs and health professionals may apply to the Scholar competition as long as they meet all the eligibility criteria.

6. My appointment is with the university, but my research is conducted at a sponsor organization (health authority). Who should complete the Department Head form?

Nominate the Department Head equivalent at the sponsor organization as a Third Party in MSFHR ApplyNet. This individual will complete the Department Head form.

7. My appointment is with the university, but my research will be conducted at a teaching hospital. Who should complete the Dean of Faculty form?

The Dean of Faculty at the university (Host Institution) that will administer the funds should complete the Dean’s form in MSFHR ApplyNet.

8. My department or the sponsor organization does not require the approval of a Dean. Who completes the Dean's form in MSFHR ApplyNet?

Do not nominate a Dean in the Third Party section in MSHR ApplyNet. The Department Head (or for health professionals, the Department Head equivalent) completes an additional question in the Department Head form that captures the information required of the Dean.

9. What is independent research?

The researcher is engaged in a systematic, intensive study that is intended to:

- Increase knowledge or understanding of the topic being studied.
- Apply new knowledge to meet a recognized gap.
- Apply new knowledge to the production of useful material, devices, and systems or methods including design, development, and improvement.

10. Is verification of degree completion required?

Degree and medical licensure completion dates are provided by the applicant. Applicants are expected to provide true, accurate, and complete information and to produce documentation when requested.

11. Will interruptions/delays in my career be taken into account when determining my eligibility?

Interruptions and delays in your studies will be taken into account when determining eligibility. This information is also used by peer-reviewers when assessing productivity. You are advised to clearly and fully describe any interruptions or delays that affected the research and the dissemination of research results in the "Career Interruptions" section of the Letter of Intent.

12. Will I be at a disadvantage if the Dean/Research Director or the Department Head indicates that my appointment is conditional upon my success in the Scholar Program competition?

Institutional support is an important component of the Scholar application and the review process. The letter from the Host Institution should demonstrate a strong commitment to the applicant regardless of success in the competition.

13. What is the difference between a reference letter and letters of collaboration?

The three reference letters are mandatory and must be part of the application package. These can be written by former supervisors, mentors, and experts in the field. Letters of collaboration are not mandatory and are written by collaborators who are expected to make a significant contribution to your program of research, confirming their enthusiasm to participate in the manner indicated.

- 14. Where in the application does MSFHR want the written commitment from the Host Institution to protect a minimum of 75 percent of the applicant's time for research (50 percent for health professionals in active clinical service), for the duration of the Scholar Award?**

This commitment must be demonstrated in the Department Head and Dean forms.

- 15. Where can I find the list of partners available, the funding criteria to be considered for a partnered Scholar Award, and instructions on how to register my interest in these awards?**
- [List of confirmed partners](#)
 - [Instructions for selecting a partner](#)

Award Administration Questions

1. Can I defer the start date of the Scholar Award?

MSFHR allows you to defer the start date of the Scholar Award by a maximum of 12 months. The deferred start date once confirmed will not be revised. The start date must be on the first day of the month.

2. How much time do I have to respond to an offer of the Scholar Award?

Successful award recipients have 15 business days to accept or decline the award as of the date on the funding notification letter.

3. What documents will I need to provide before I can start my award?

A copy of the Conditions and Award Acceptance form signed by you and your Department Head (which also confirms your faculty appointment) must be submitted in MSFHR ApplyNet.