



2017-B Health Policy Fellowship

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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1. How many health policy fellowship awards will you fund?

The budget envelope per fiscal year for this funding opportunity is \$450,000, enough to fund at least nine fellowships. One fellowship is assigned to each of the seven BC health authorities, and two fellowships will be assigned to the BC Ministry of Health.

2. What is the funding start date of the award?

The funding start date of the health policy fellowship award is July 1, 2017.

3. I currently hold an MSFHR Research Trainee Award or a national post-doctoral fellowship award. Am I eligible to apply for this competition?

Yes; however, either award must be put on hold for the duration of the health policy fellowship and can be resumed following the end of the fellowship.

4. I haven't started a post-doctoral fellowship. Am I eligible to apply?

Yes, provided you have an appointment as a post-doctoral researcher at an eligible BC host institution, and you are able to have your proposed academic supervisor provide you with the necessary letter of reference.

5. I concurrently hold both an MSFHR and a national post-doctoral fellowship award. Am I eligible to apply for this competition?

Yes; however, both the national post-doctoral award, and the associated MSFHR top-up and/or incentive, must be put on hold for the duration of the health policy fellowship and can be resumed following the end of the fellowship.

6. Can I commute between my residence and the policy organization location on a weekly basis instead of relocating?

It is strongly encouraged that fellows spend their time at the site of the policy assignment in order to be fully immersed in the policy environment. Some flexibility on this can be negotiated between the fellows and policy assignment supervisor in order to accommodate certain academic or personal responsibilities. However, the fellow must still commit to spending at least 75 percent of their time conducting activities related to the policy assignment.

7. Where can I find information related to health or extended benefits?

Host institutions often offer some form of health or extended benefits options to post-doctoral trainees in their employ. Check with the human resources department of your host institution if they can offer health or extended benefits options during the time of the health policy fellowship.

8. Can I apply to more than one policy assignment within the current competition intake?

No. Applicants can only commit to applying for one policy assignment per intake. If your application is unsuccessful, you may apply to another policy assignment during another intake.

9. Am I permitted to apply for a policy assignment within the same health authority that I am currently employed at, but at a different research institution from my current one?

No. Although multiple independent research institutions may be under the auspices of a single health authority, the spirit of this funding opportunity is to provide post-doctoral researchers with a unique training opportunity to learn about and participate in the health policy-making process at the provincial government or health authority level. In order to enhance the learning experience, and to avoid any perceived conflict of interest, applicants who are employed by a health authority must apply for a policy assignment at a different health authority.

10. How much autonomy do I have over the relocation and travel allowance?

Fellows are allowed to use the relocation and travel allowance at their discretion provided that original receipts are submitted for reimbursement and expenses abide by the [Award Management & Eligible Expenses](#) document. Attendance at a science or health policy conference or meeting during the course of the policy assignment must be mutually agreed upon by the fellow and policy assignment supervisor.

11. What if the conference I want to attend takes place after the end of my fellowship?

Fellows can use the relocation and travel allowance for attendance to a science or health policy conferences or meeting up to three months following the end of the fellowship.

12. If contacted, what if I am unable to meet with the potential policy assignment supervisor for an interview during the evaluation process?

The applicant should make as much effort as possible to directly interact with the potential policy assignment supervisor through alternative forms of communication (e.g. Skype, WebEx, telephone).

13. Where can I find information about obtaining workplace insurance coverage?

Workplace liability insurance can often be obtained, or is already provided, through an academic host institution to post-doctoral researchers in their employ, or can be purchased through an independent insurance broker. Check with the human resources department of your host institution if workplace insurance can be extended to off-site training during the health policy fellowship.