2019 RESEARCH TRAINEE COMPETITION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DEADLINES:
LETTER OF INTENT: JANUARY 11, 2019, 4:30 P.M. PT
FULL APPLICATION: FEBRUARY 19, 2019, 4:30 P.M. PT
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1. Who can apply to the Research Trainee Program?

According to the 2019 Research Trainee guidelines, applicants must have a PhD or be a health professional in active clinical service at the time of the award start date of September 1, 2019, hold or be eligible to hold a post-doctoral fellowship position, or equivalent, by the award start date, and for the duration of the MSFHR award, at a BC university or a research institution that holds a memorandum of understanding with MSFHR, and must not have held a PhD degree for more than five years or have been a health professional in active clinical service for more than 10 years for the duration of the MSFHR award (justified career interruptions may be deducted from the calculation).

2. Can research associates apply?

No. By definition, research associates are full-time or part-time appointees who primarily conduct research with no formal teaching duties and are not considered part of a formalized research training program. Therefore, for the purposes of this award, research associates are not considered trainees.

3. How many Research Trainee awards are available?

The number of awards we fund will depend on the budget allocated to the program, and the number and quality of the applications. The total budget envelope for this funding opportunity is $2,550,000, enough to wholly fund at least 20 Research Trainee awards over the three-year term of the award. Additional funds contributed by partners may increase the number of awards MSFHR is able to offer.

4. What is the start date of the award?

The start date of the Research Trainee award is September 1, 2019.

5. Why is 30 percent of funding allocated to applications targeting the five British Columbia Health System Priorities?

MSFHR ensures that a proportion of its research funding is responsive to the BC Ministry of Health’s five BC health system priorities: 1) enhance access to effective primary health care; 2) services for seniors with complex medical conditions; 3) mental health/substance use care; 4) services for patients needing surgery; and 5) rural and remote health care services. In keeping with this goal, MSFHR has dedicated a proportion of its Research Trainee funding to encourage and support outstanding researchers conducting research in these key priority areas.

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1 Please refer to the list of eligible host institutions.
6. **For partnered awards, is the funding shared evenly between MSFHR and the partner?**
   Normally it is a 50-50 funding share between MSFHR and the funding partner. However, it is possible that an MSFHR Research Trainee award may be funded by more than one partner, or that MSFHR and a single partner may decide to contribute unequal portions to one particular award.

7. **If I fail the relevance match of the partner, will that affect my chances of receiving a regular Research Trainee award?**
   No. Your chances of receiving a regular Research Trainee award are not affected by your interest in a partnered award.

8. **Do both the supervisor and the co-supervisor require a faculty appointment at a BC host institution?**
   Yes.

9. **What is a foreign national?**
   A foreign national is a person who is not a citizen or permanent resident of Canada but is legally allowed to study or work in Canada.

10. **Am I eligible to apply for a Research Trainee award if I am a health professional?**
    You are eligible to apply as a health professional if you have not held your health professional degree for more than 10 years for the duration of the MSFHR award, and be eligible to hold a post-doctoral fellowship position, or equivalent, at an eligible BC host institution.

11. **I have a health professional degree, but am not in active clinical practice. Am I eligible for 50 percent protected time for research?**
    No. A health professional not in active clinical practice must commit to 75 percent protected time for research.

12. **Am I eligible to apply for a Research Trainee award if my post-doctoral fellowship appointment at a BC institution is dependent on my getting the funding from MSFHR?**
    Yes, you are eligible to apply. If you are successful, MSFHR will release the award upon written confirmation of the post-doctoral fellowship appointment from your host institution.
13. I’ve had my PhD for more than five years. Am I eligible to receive the highest stipend award amount of $47,000? 

You are not eligible to apply if you have held your PhD degree for more than five years and do not have any justified career interruptions.

14. Will the stipend levels change during the term of the award? 

The stipend level is calculated as of the full application deadline date. No changes are made to the stipend amount during the award term.

15. I would like to submit a research project solely focused on KT science, but I need more information about KT Science. 

Please visit our website www.msfhr.org/our-work/activities/knowledge-translation/kt-resources/kt-science-sample-study-protocols for additional information on KT science and sample study protocols specific to KT science.

16. 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 Timeline” section of the letter of intent.

17. What are the requirements for embedding knowledge translation (KT) activities within the research project? 

MSFHR requires Research Trainee applicants from all disciplines to include KT activities, as appropriate, as part of the proposed research project. KT activities are embedded at multiple stages of research, including at the beginning, integrated throughout the program of research, and at the end of funding. For more information, refer to the document Incorporating KT into your program of research.

18. What are the instructions on how to register my interest in the partner awards? 

Applicants interested in being considered for partnered awards are encouraged to email mkassam@msfhr.org to register your interest. Please indicate the partner(s) of interest and how your research aligns with their funding priorities.
If partners are confirmed after the full application deadline, MSFHR staff will match the keywords of the applicants with those provided by the partner, and if there is a match, they will inform the respective applicant.

19. **My research project includes work relevant to Indigenous health and/or vulnerable populations. Is there anything I should be aware of?**

For applicants proposing a research project related to Indigenous health and wellness, it is expected that appropriate community representatives, leaders or those with lived-experience be engaged and included in order to share their traditions and Ways of Knowing with researchers. Applicants must comply with the ethical and research policies outlined by the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2014) and specifically, TCSP 2 – Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada if the research project involves Indigenous peoples. Additional information about Indigenous health and wellness can be found on the First Nations Health Authority website.

**Award Administration Questions**

1. **Can I defer the start date of my Research Trainee award?**

The start may be deferred up to a maximum of 12 months for specific circumstances (post-doctoral position not yet started; medical leave; parental leave; caregiving). If a deferral is required, award recipients must contact MSFHR with the deferral request and obtain approval. The start date must be on the first day of any month and be no later than September 1, 2020. Deferred start dates, once confirmed by MSFHR, cannot be revised.

2. **How much time do I have to respond to an offer for a Research Trainee award?**

Successful award recipients have 10 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 Award Acceptance Form signed by you and your supervisor (and co-supervisor, if applicable) must be uploaded in .pdf format to MSFHR ApplyNet via the Accept Grant Award Agreement task. In addition, if not provided in your full application at time of submission, successful applicants must provide proof of doctoral degree completion by the award start date. The same applies for the corresponding documentation for proof of active clinical service from health professional applicants who did not provide this at the time of application. If proof of degree completion or active engagement in clinical service is not provided by the award start date, the award offer will be withdrawn.