

ERS/Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellowships 2010 (RESPIRE Programme)

Information summary

For further details please refer to the complete ERS/Marie Curie Postdoctoral Research Fellowships Rules 2010 (RESPIRE Programme) - Rules & Regulations.

Aim

Postdoctoral ERS/Marie Curie Joint Research Fellowships (RESPIRE Programme) are established to advance respiratory medicine and science by helping outstanding scientists and clinicians (possessing advanced research records) to visit another host unit in a different European country with a view to applying advanced research projects of high scientific excellence not available in the Home unit. **Duration: 1 year (may not be reduced nor split).**

Conditions

- **Applicants must hold a doctoral degree (PhD) in the field of respiratory medicine/science at the time of application or possess a minimum of 4 years full-time research experience (after graduating with an MD, MSc) at the time of application. As a minimum, applicants must have at least 1 first author publication being or having been published in an international peer-reviewed journal at the time of application.**
- **The start date of the Fellowship can not be set earlier than July 2010 since a granting decision can only be expected on May 2010. The Fellowships are not granted in retrospect for already fully or partly carried out projects.**
- The Fellowship is to be carried out in a full time basis (100%) and the Fellows may not be engaged in any paid or salaried activities during the course of their Fellowships. The research project outlined in the Fellowship is to be carried out in a continuous time period and may not be split. Fellowships are not granted for basic training, workshops, courses, lectures, meetings, conferences, congresses, etc. or for visiting institutions.
- **The programme is open to both Europeans and non-Europeans, but Host institutes must be located in Europe.**
- All applications must involve an agreement between a unit of origin (Home institute) and a receiving institute (Host institute). Applicants need to contact a Host institute, organize the programme of the Fellowship (detailed project description) and obtain the approval and confirmation of both the host and home institute. **The research project should be realistic and possible to complete within the given time period.**
- Priority will be given to candidates, Home supervisor and/or Host supervisors who are ERS members.
- The Fellowships cover travel plus subsistence of the fellow and subsistence of dependents below 16 years. However Fellowships do not guarantee any tax issue that may arise either in the Home or in the Host country and any taxes have to come out of the Fellowship award. The Fellowship is not intended to cover any expenses other than the ones related to the living expenses in the Host country during the stay.
- The grant amount is set in order to enable the stay in the Host country only. **If the applicant continues to receive income from the home or host institutes during the proposed fellowship period the ERS will reduce its normal financial intervention by a corresponding sum.**

- The ERS does not recognize recipients of its Fellowships as agents or employees of the ERS and accepts no liability in respect of any of their actions or activities or in respect to the health or safety of their persons. **A fixed amount per Fellow is calculated for their Fellowship and is set as an ERS Grant amount at the beginning of the research project.** Therefore it is the Fellow's and Host supervisor's responsibility to find a mutual agreement on the nature, in terms of status, of the Fellow's appointment during the Fellowship at the Host unit.
- **The Fellowships may not be financially supplemented by agencies other than the Home or Host institutes, or the Fellows personally. Therefore they may not run concurrently with other awards, funds, grants, fellowships, etc. funded by other agencies for the same time period and project.**
- The only financial supplements that are permitted to the Fellow, to be supplied with by Home and/or Host institutes without deduction on the ERS grant amount; are financial aid to cover the Fellow's obligatory health and safety insurances, legal and social security insurances, pension schemes and child support in Home and Host country.
- The implementation of the Fellowship (duration, research project, supervision, location, etc.) should be carried out exclusively as outlined in the submitted Fellowship application and may not be amended.
- Any event or circumstance which might affect the implementation of the Fellowship or are likely to have an effect on the performance of the fellowship need to be notified to the ERS at the earliest. **Fellowships that are terminated prematurely, must be notified promptly to ERS and appropriate funds reimbursed.**

Application process

- Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted in English and online by using the following link www.ersnet.org/Fellowships.
- **Submission closing date for applications is 15th January 2010.** You can expect a decision as from the second week of May 2010.
- Supporting documents to be uploaded online:
 - short curriculum vitae
 - publication list
 - project description
 - ID digital photo in high resolution (300 dpi)
- Supporting documents to be downloaded online, to be signed and to be provided to the ERS Office:
 - Home supervisor's release form
 - Host supervisor's acceptance form
 - 2x Reference forms (current Home or Host supervisors cannot act as Referees)
- The project description is the most important component of your application. It should be prepared by yourself and have the approval of your Home and Host supervisors. The description should be well developed and should go into details (timelines, work protocol, ethical aspects, etc.).
- **Start dates should be set as from July 2010 and within 1 year of the notification dates at the latest.**

IMPORTANT:

Applications that have undergone a review and selection process cannot be resubmitted. The fact that an applicant has previously held Fellowship does not prevent further applications for a Fellowship for a **new project**.

Any infringement of these conditions will result in the withdrawal of an application from the selection process or the cancellation of an award already made.

Requirements during the ERS/MC Fellowship

Host Institute:

- The Host institute will be requested to ensure the fulfilment of both practical and scientific aspects which are relevant in the beginning (housing, safety), during the completion (regular meetings, evaluations) and at the end/during the follow-up of the Fellowship.
- The Host supervisor will be required, before the beginning of the project, to confirm in writing that he/she is prepared to receive the Fellow and to provide the necessary facilities to carry out the research. This written confirmation should include a **starting date** of the Fellowship, and a **confirmation** of the Host institutes's responsibilities which include:
 - availability of laboratory and office space
 - ability to conduct the projected research
 - verification that health & safety issues are taken care of
- In this written confirmation the Host will be requested to assign named persons as scientific and administrative mentors for the Fellow. The first one being responsible for the scientific part of the Fellow's project, whereas the second mentor will be responsible for coaching the Fellow in all matters related to visa requirements, registration with the university, opening a bank account, housing, finding appropriate schools for the Fellow's children, etc.
- **Furthermore, in line with national and international legislation each accepted Fellowship application must be approved by an ethical review board at the Host institute, before it is commenced. A signed statement from the Host institute will be requested before start of the Fellowship and before making the first payment including the following points:**
 - 1) Certification that there is an ethical review board for research at the Host institute;
 - 2) The research conducted at the laboratory of the Host institute is in compliance with local, national and international legislation and guidelines on research in humans and/or animals;
 - 3) All necessary steps will be undertaken to ensure that the specific research project for which the application is made, will be in compliance with these legislation and guidelines, including the FP7 Ethical Principles, as specified below;
 - 4) Documentation of ethical approval of the proposed research will be provided to the ERS as part of the interim report;

Specifically, the following fields of research will not be financed in this programme:

Research activity: aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes; intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable; intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

- The ERS expects from the Host supervisor a brief report on what has been done and achieved at the end of the Fellowship.

ERS/MC Fellow:

- The ERS will at the beginning of the Fellowship write to the Fellow to ensure that all practical matters have been taken care of, and that the Fellow has optimal starting conditions. If there are any problems, the Fellow has the possibility to report these to the ERS.
- Fellowships require an interim (or mid-term) report from the Fellow (signed by the Host supervisor) 6 months after beginning of the project. This report will include scientific progress, ethical and administrative issues.
- Fellowships require a short administrative end-of-project report in English within 2 months of the end of the project. 6 months after conclusion of the Fellowship a full scientific report should be submitted by the Fellow. The reports will be posted on the ERS Website (www.ersnet.org/Association-Fellows). Following this conditions, Fellows will automatically become members of the Association of ERS Fellows and are encouraged to attend the Fellows Lunch Session organized at the ERS Annual Congress.