

ERS Long-Term Research Fellowships 2010

Information summary

For further details please refer to the complete ERS Long-Term Research Fellowships Rules & Regulations 2010.

Aim

Long-Term Research Fellowships are established to advance respiratory medicine and science by helping scientists and clinicians to visit another research laboratory or clinical unit with a view to applying a research technique not available in the Home unit. **Duration: 6 months up to 1 year (may not be reduced nor split).**

Conditions

- **Candidates must be ERS members** in order to be entitled to apply for an ERS Long-Term Research Fellowship. The ERS does not apply an upper age-limit on candidates as an eligibility criterion however preference will be given to applicants who are in the in early-stages of their career.
- **Candidates should be actively engaged in respiratory research/science/practice**, with appropriate scientific or medical qualifications. Applicants must be postgraduates holding a university degree in the field of respiratory medicine/science (MD, MSc, PhD) or equivalent. **As a minimum requirement applicants need to have graduated with an MD, MSc or equivalent at the time of application.** In addition candidates may also be qualified healthcare professionals (non-MD) working in respiratory medicine/health (nurses, physiotherapists, respiratory function technologists, allied respiratory professionals).
- **The programme is open to both Europeans and non-Europeans, but Host institutes must be located in Europe.** (Except for International Fellowships, which are designed for Europe-based scientists to work outside Europe, provided that the objectives of the research project are not available or attainable in Europe).
- **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 needs to be started within 1 year of the notification date at the latest.**
- 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.
- 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 applications in which Home supervisor and/or Host supervisor are members of the ERS.

- **One International Research Fellowship is available per year for Europe-based scientists** to work outside Europe, provided that the objectives of the research project are not available or attainable in Europe.
- 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

- The fellowship grant is based on a complete and detailed project description (including work protocol & timelines) and application files to be submitted by the candidate and the Host supervisor.
- 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 31th January 2010.** You can expect a decision as from the second week of May 2010.
- **Supporting documents to be uploaded online:**
 - Candidate's short curriculum vitae (2 pages max)
 - Candidate's publication list
 - ID digital photo in high resolution (300 dpi)
 - Project description (4 pages max. and carrying the **mandatory signatures** of the candidate, Home and Host supervisors)
 - Host supervisor's short curriculum vitae (2 pages max)
 - Host supervisor's publication list (last 5 years)
 - Host supervisor's major grants list
 - Statement on salary status during the ERS Fellowship by the **Host** supervisor
 - Statement on salary status during the ERS Fellowship by the **Home** supervisor

- **Supporting documents to be downloaded online, to be signed by the supervisors and to be provided to the ERS Office by the applicant:**
 - Home supervisor's signed release form
 - Host supervisor's signed acceptance form
- **Supporting documents to be sent to the ERS Office:**
 - Copy of candidate's highest degree (PhD, MD, MSc, etc.)
 - Candidate's ERS membership proof
 - Copy of candidate's ID card or Passport
 - Copies of children's (under 16 years of age) birth certificates or candidate's family record book
- **The project description** is the most important component of your application. It should be prepared in close collaboration by the candidate, the Home and Host supervisor. It is a mandatory requirement that the project description carries the endorsement of both supervisors and therefore needs imperatively to carry the **signatures of all three parties involved (applicant, Host & Home supervisors)**.
The description must not exceed 4 pages. It must address in sufficient scientific, medical and/or technical detail those of the following points that are relevant to the submitted application:
 - explain the relevance of the topic to respiratory medicine, outline the project's objectives and underlying hypothesis
 - describe the research project's methodology, outline the timelines & milestones expected for the acquisition of the different techniques, skills and results within the total time frame of the fellowship duration
 - explain the reasons for choosing the Host supervisor and Host unit
 - explain the added value of travelling given by the Fellowship application in visiting the Host unit
 - describe the news value and originality of the research project in the respiratory science field
 - describe the candidate's qualifications and expertise

IMPORTANT:

Applications that have undergone a review and selection process can be resubmitted.

The fact that an application has previously been rejected does not prevent to further re-apply with the same project for another Fellowship submission round.

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 Fellowship

Host Institute:

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

ERS 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 lasting 12 months 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 and administrative issues.
- Fellowships require a short administrative end-of-project report in English within 2 month of the end of the project. Within 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.