

## **ERS Visiting Professorships**

### **1. Aims and expectations**

The ERS is funding a Visiting Professorship with the aims of:

- Promoting science, research and training in respiratory medicine in Europe;
- Supporting the exchange in Europe of senior scientists and clinicians actively involved in respiratory medicine for a short period of time;
- Contributing to the diffusion and implementation of new techniques in Europe.
- **Offering clear scientific and educational benefit for the Host Institution**

**The Visiting Professorship is open for established senior academics and aims to foster research dissemination benefitting the receiving unit. This programme is not intended to acquire new skills or techniques but to share advanced experience and expertise with the host unit.**

The Visiting Professorship is under the responsibility of the Scientific Committee which will review and evaluate the programme of the applicant through the usual procedure, i.e.:

- 1- Application goes to the office and then to the Scientific Committee Chair who assigns the application to the relevant Assembly Head.
- 2- The application will go through the usual peer review system.
- 3- The application will be presented to the Scientific Committee by the relevant Assembly Head with her/his conclusion based upon the reviewers' comments and her/his own judgement.
- 4- The Scientific Committee will discuss the applications and rank them in order of priority to be funded.
- 5- The conclusion by the Scientific Committee will be presented to the Executive Committee for final decision and funding, depending on the availability of resources for this specific programme.
- 6- The selected candidates, will be named ERS Visiting Professorship's Awardee. This definition should appear in publications or other official activities.
- 7- After the conclusion of the visit both the ERS Visiting Professor and the host supervisor are expected to present a report to the ERS in due time.

In order to keep a very high standard of applications, the ERS will enforce strictly the rules for the management of the Visiting Professorship and will ensure the high quality of the work supported.

Publication of results in the official journals of the society, in particular in the ERJ, is encouraged.

### **2. ERS Visiting Professorship 2009**

- a. The Visiting Professorship is funded by the ERS with the objectives of enabling senior investigators and clinicians, who are in the established stages of their careers, to conduct exchange visits among laboratories, hospitals and university departments, research centres, clinical centres, in order to promote any kind of co-operation in the field of respiratory medicine for both basic and clinical research or training.

- b. The proposal should also clearly indicate how the Host Institution will benefit from the Visiting Professorship. **The period of the visit is expected to be one week, up to a maximum of one month**, in a foreign country in Europe.
- c. Candidates should be actively engaged in respiratory research, with appropriate scientific or medical qualifications.
- d. The proposal should elaborate on how the partnership between the host and the candidate would take full advantage of the unique facilities, faculty, resources, and materials available in their respective countries.
- e. Eligible candidates should be over 45 years old at the time of the application deadline.
- f. **Awards are conditional on the availability of appropriate facilities and resources to favour the following activities:**
  - 1- Formal lectures by the guest scientist.
  - 2- Participation of the guest scientist as a discussant during courses delivered by host scientists.
  - 3- Informal and accurate discussion with research fellows in the host institution about their:
    - research programmes and projects;
    - application for grants and fellowships;
    - working progress;
    - results to be published.
  - 4- Participation to clinical rounds as an active discussant.
- g. The applications will be funded only once and can not be repeated.
- h. The presence of the applicant in the host institution will not be incompatible with the application. Candidates can be European based and extra-European based without restrictions. The host institution must be in Europe.
- i. Priority will be given to candidates and host supervisors who are members of the ERS.

### **3. General Conditions**

The European Respiratory Society (ERS) offers for the year 2009 the Visiting Professorship for professionals actively engaged in clinical and basic research in respiratory medicine and clinical pulmonary practice.

#### **3.1 The ERS Visiting Professorship**

ERS Visiting Professorship:

- a. require the host institution to be located in Europe.
- b. are not intended to run concurrently with other awards, even those funded by other agencies;
- c. may not be financially supplemented by agencies other than the home or host institutions;
- d. require an administrative end-of-project report in English within a month of the end of the project. The reports will be published on the ERS Website.
- e. are granted subject to adequate funds being available.
- f. 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 Visiting Professor award.

### **3.2 Applications**

Applications

- a. and all supporting documents must be submitted through the online application form: [www.ersnet.org/visiting-professorships](http://www.ersnet.org/visiting-professorships). The Home Supervisor Release form and the Host Acceptance form need to be downloaded and originals need to be provided to the ERS office by post mail. These two forms may additionally be sent in electronic format by email to [fellowships@ersnet.org](mailto:fellowships@ersnet.org) in order to be received by the ERS office by the application closing dates;
- b. are accepted and processed two times a year; April 1 and October 1, 2009
- c. will be acknowledged promptly and candidates advised if items are missing;
- d. that have undergone a review and selection process and were not approved for funding cannot be resubmitted.
- e. should normally specify only one institution as host unit.

### **3.3 Candidates**

Candidates:

- a. either the candidate or the host (at least one, better two) must be member(s) of the ERS for at least one year;
- b. must possess appropriate professional qualifications and experience according to the suggested working programme;
- c. must be currently engaged in pulmonary research or clinical pulmonary practice;
- d. should be over the age of 45 at the time of application deadline;
- e. must select a host laboratory in Europe;
- f. must have adequate fluency in a language that permits effective communication at the host institution;
- g. may submit only one application per year
- h. European and non-European based scientists can apply for an ERS Visiting Professorship.

### **3.4 Selection**

- a. Selection is made on the basis of scientific and expert evaluation of the application and the proposed work as set out by the candidates in the project description. Reviewers of the highest international standard in their respective fields carry out this task. Their assessments are strictly confidential and cannot be divulged outside the ERS, or to the candidates themselves.

The expert reviewers are asked to grade the application according to the following six criteria:

1. Relevance of the programme
2. Educational and scientific value for the host institution
3. Adequacy of the Awardee for the project
4. Likelihood of project completion
5. Added value of travelling

The expert reviewers are asked to grade each individual criterion of the candidate application using the following grading and their meanings:

- 5 – Excellent, should be funded with highest priority
- 4 – Very good, should be funded
- 3 – Good, could be funded with lesser priority
- 2 – Average, probably not funded

1 – Poor, should not be funded.

An average grade is then calculated and will provide the overall score.

- b. No distinction will be made between candidates on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, religious or political beliefs.
- c. The decisions are final and appeals are not considered.

### **3.5 Award**

The total allowance is calculated on a fixed basis for each awardee, regardless of the type of accommodation selected, real costs of life and travel. No expense receipts will be requested. No additional costs will be considered:

Travel allowance	€800 (in total)
Accommodation / meals allowance	€250 (fixed amount per day of stay and travel)

The per diem accommodation/meals allowance will also be provided for the days the candidate travels to and from the Host Institution. The total allowed amount will be transferred to the awardee one month before the visit. In case the visit has not occurred within 6 months, the funds should be returned to ERS.

## **4. Guidelines for completing an ERS Visiting Professorship application**

### **4.1 Supervisors**

- a. Your home institution should authorize your leave of absence during the planned project period, using the Home Release Form, to be downloaded from the ERS website.
- b. Your host needs to provide to the ERS a signed Host Acceptance Form, which can be downloaded from the ERS website. You should pre-complete it as necessary and send on to your host for signature.

### **4.2 Proposed start and finish dates of your project**

- a. These dates should fall within the specified duration of the Visiting Professorship you applied for. They should allow sufficient time after the expected date of the funding decision for you to complete travel, visa and passport formalities. One week is usually considered as a standard. Visits up to a maximum of one month will be considered.
- b. Decision for the Visiting Professorship is taken within 90 days after submission closing dates (application closing dates are April 1 and October 1).

### **4.3 Project description**

**This is the most important component of your application.** It should be prepared by yourself with the host supervisor. The description must not exceed two pages. It must address in sufficient scientific, medical and/or technical detail all of the following points:

- 1- Explain how the Host Institution will benefit from the Visiting Professorship
- 2- Formal lectures by the guest scientist.

- 3- Participation of the guest scientist as a discussant during courses delivered by host scientists.
- 4- Informal and accurate discussion with research fellows in the host institution about their:
  - research programmes and projects;
  - application for grants and fellowships;
  - working progress;
  - results to be published.
- 5- Participation to clinical rounds as an active discussant.