

ERS Short-Term Research Training Fellowships 2010

Information summary

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

Aims

Short-Term Research Training Fellowships are established to advance respiratory medicine and science by helping scientists and clinicians to visit another Host Unit in a different country with the aim of learning a research technique not available in the Home Institute. On completion of the Fellowship applicants must return to their Home laboratory; the goal being to apply and disseminate the newly acquired research skills back. Research training projects should lead to research activities and developments during the Fellowship, and after the training period when returning to the Home Institute. **Duration: 1 to 3 months (may not be reduced nor split).**

ERS Short-Term Research Training Fellowships are not granted for purely clinical and educative training (clinical diagnostic procedures, therapeutic interventional procedures, etc.), thus it is a mandatory requirement that the projects include major “research components”. Accordingly, **the project may involve** basic experimental studies, clinical investigations, epidemiology or **any other research area with relevance to respiratory medicine**. ERS Short-Term Research Training Fellowships are intended **to foster basic and advanced research as well as to support applications which are presented as a training component of a research project** (e.g. apply advanced research, test a hypothesis in pilot study, innovate a clinical technique, set up methods to be applied for clinical research at the Home Institute).

Conditions

- **Candidates must be ERS members** in order to be entitled to apply for an ERS Short-Term Research Training 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 cannot be set earlier than August 2010 for applications submitted in April since a granting decision can only be expected on July 2010. For applications submitted in October the start date of the Fellowship cannot be set earlier than January 2011 since a granting decision can only be expected on December 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) in collaboration and with the endorsement of both the Host and Home Supervisors. **The research training project should be realistic and one which is feasible to be completed within the projected time period.**
- Priority will be given to applications in which Home and Host Supervisors are members of the ERS.
- A statement of the Home Supervisor confirming that facilities, funds and resources will be made available to the Fellow upon return in order to **enable him/her to conduct research activities/projects and to continue the work or to apply and disseminate the newly acquired research skills back at the Home unit will be requested.**
- **One International Research Training Fellowships 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 allocation of 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, the Home and Host Supervisors.
- Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted in English and online by using the following link www.ersnet.org/Fellowships.
- **Submission closing dates for applications are normally 1 April and 1 October 2010.** You can expect a decision as from the second week of July for the STRTF submitted in April and as from the second week of December for the STRTF submitted in October.
- **Application files to be uploaded online:**
 1. Candidate's short curriculum vitae (2 pages max)
 2. Candidate's list of publications, sorted in the following order: 1/ original peer-reviewed papers, 2/ review articles and 3/ any other relevant publication (e.g. meeting abstract with relevance to application)
 3. Project description (5 pages max) including references
 4. Host Supervisor's short curriculum vitae (2 pages max, including major supporting grants in the 5 past years)
 5. Host Supervisor's list of publications, with the 10 most important/relevant for this application listed first (abstracts should not be included)
 6. Home Supervisor's short curriculum vitae (2 pages max, including major supporting grants in the 5 past years)
 7. Home Supervisor's list of publications, with the 10 most important/relevant for this application listed first (abstracts should not be included)
- **Supporting documents to be downloaded online, to be sent to Home/Host Supervisors for them to complete, sign the forms and then return them to the applicant (scanned pdf/jpeg or word with electronic signature) who will upload them online:**
 - Home Supervisor's signed release form
 - Host Supervisor's signed acceptance form
- **Supporting documents to be uploaded online. These documents can be provided within two weeks after the application deadline (meanwhile please upload blank files in the online fields of the online application system).**
 - Statement on salary status during the ERS Fellowship by the Host supervisor
 - Statement on salary status during the ERS Fellowship by the Home supervisor
 - ID digital photo in high resolution (300 dpi)
 - Scanned copy of candidate's highest degree (PhD, MD, MSc, etc.)
 - Scanned 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 by yourself in collaboration with your Home and Host Supervisors. The description should be well developed and **must not exceed 5 pages (font size 12pts Times Roman or Arial) including references:**
 - **The first page should be a summary of the project** addressing its aim in one sentence, then the work-plan, the reasons for selecting the Host, the value of the project for the Home Institute and the value of the project for your career.
 - **The next four pages** may be used to expand on these factors and in particular to provide the scientific rationale for the project with key references. It is critical that the work-plan is clear and supports the fact that the project may be concluded within the projected time frame (1 to 3 months). **It is also important to provide evidence that facilities are available upon return to continue the work and/or to apply and disseminate the newly acquired research skills.**

Requirements during the ERS Fellowship

Host Institutes:

- 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 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.

ERS Fellows:

- 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 of reporting these to the ERS, who in such cases will contact the Host in order to try to solve the problems. In extreme circumstances the ERS may decide to prematurely terminate the Fellowship.
- Fellowships require an end-of-project report (administrative & scientific), a completed questionnaire and a short resumé on the fellowship experience in English within 3 months of the end of the project. The resumé will be posted on the ERS Website (www.ersnet.org/Association-Fellows).
- The ERS expects from the Host Supervisor a report and a completed questionnaire, on what has been done and achieved at the end of the Fellowship. Both the Fellow and Host Supervisor will ensure that any publication or outcome related to the Fellowship will acknowledge the ERS support.