

## SNOW MEDICAL FELLOWSHIP

### FAQ

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## 1. Eligibility

### 1.1 What are the requirements for eligibility?

To be eligible for the Snow Foundation Medical Fellowship, the following eligibility criteria must be met:

- applications will only be accepted from an [approved host university/ medical research institution](#) (**Host Organisation**) via our online grants management system: [Snow Medical Grants](#);
- applicants must have a minimum tertiary qualification of a PhD from an Australian or international university;
- at the full application closing date specified in the Key Dates of the Funding Rules, applicants must have held their PhD for no more than 10 years and no less than 5 years from the date that their PhD thesis was conferred OR for applicants that have other relevant post PhD experience, for example an MD/PhD, applicants must have held their PhD for no more than 12 years and no less than 5 years from the date their PhD thesis was conferred unless they have had a Career Disruption. Please refer to item 5 for more information on Career Disruption;
- international applicants are encouraged. Applicants must be an Australian citizen, permanent resident or hold a relevant work visa at the time of commencement of the Fellowship; and
- upon commencement of the Fellowship, the Applicant must have an employment agreement with the Host Organisation for the duration of the Fellowship

^ Refer to section 2.1.

### 1.2 Do I need to be affiliated with a host university / institution?

Yes, this is an essential component of the Fellowship. At commencement of the Fellowship, you must have an employment contract with the Host Organisation for the term of the Fellowship.

### 1.3 Can two or more researchers apply jointly for the Fellowship?

No, applications will be accepted only from individual independent researchers.

#### 1.4 How many applications can I submit and how do I submit?

Each Host Organisation can submit a maximum of 2 candidate proposals, unless otherwise indicated by invitation from Snow Medical. Only one application per candidate will be accepted. Applications are to be certified and submitted by your Host Organisation's research office via our online grant management system: [Snow Medical Grants](#).

## 2. Career Disruptions and consideration of other career circumstances

### 2.1 Career Disruptions and eligibility

'Career Disruption' means a prolonged interruption to an applicant's capacity to work, due to pregnancy, major illness/injury, parental or carer responsibilities. A Career Disruption must involve either a continuous absence from work for periods of 28 calendar days or more and/or a long-term partial return to work that has been formalised with the applicant's employer.

The period of Career Disruption may be used to determine an applicant's eligibility for a Snow Fellowship and for consideration of an applicant's track record relative to opportunity by the Snow Medical Scientific Committee and peer reviewers. In determining the eligibility of Snow Fellowship applicants, the 10-year limit (PhD) and 12-year limit (MD/PhD) on the number of years post-PhD may be extended commensurate with the period of the Career Disruption.

Other candidate career circumstances will not be considered in determining a candidate's eligibility.

### 2.2 Consideration of other career circumstances during assessment of applications

Career Disruptions and other researcher career circumstances will be considered during assessment of an applicant's track record.

Other candidate career circumstances considered during the assessment of a candidate's track record include, but are not limited to:

- career stage;
- clinical, teaching and/or administrative workload;
- non research positions held not concurrent with research employment;
- limitations on access to resources and facilities;
- caring responsibilities that do not meet the definition of a Career Disruption but still affect research productivity;
- disability;
- relocation of an applicant and their research laboratory;

- periods of unemployment; and
- natural disasters and pandemics (including COVID 19).

### 3. Research supported

#### 3.1 What type of research is supported by the Fellowship?

Applications are encouraged from researchers working in any areas of medicine, biology and biomedical disciplines including chemistry, physics, engineering and computing that are directly related to medicine. Research must be innovative, novel and have the potential to improve health.

#### 3.2 Are clinical trials supported?

No, research must have a focus on basic biological processes, disease mechanisms, diagnosis and new therapeutics or devices.

### 4. Funding for Snow Fellows

#### 4.1 How many Snow Fellowships will be awarded?

Up to two Snow Fellowships will be granted per application round.

#### 4.2 How much funding is available?

Snow Fellows may receive up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 per year in funding based on the assumption that the level of funding in the initial years of the grant will be lower than that required for years in which the research program has become established.

#### 4.3 What is the duration of the Snow Fellowship?

The duration of the Snow Fellowship is up to 8 years subject to a review conducted in the fourth/fifth year of funding.

#### 4.4 Will the individual researcher be paid the entire amount?

No, all awards are paid to the Host Organisation where the researcher holds their primary appointment. Host Organisations must enter into Snow Medical's standard form fellowship agreement which governs the grant award prior to award activation.

#### 4.5 Can the Fellowship be transferred to another research institution if the recipient moves?

Transfers will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the approval of Snow Medical at its absolute discretion. As a minimum, the eligibility requirements must continue to be met at the new Host Organisation and the new Host Organisation must enter into a formal legal agreement with Snow Medical governing the grant.

#### 4.6 What will the Fellowship funds support?

Fellowship funds are available for the annual salary of the fellow and the research team, research project costs, a research technician or laboratory manager, equipment, consumables, travel for conferences and open access research publication costs. Snow Medical will allow you flexibility to spend research funds to best benefit your research. However, we will assess your budget to make sure it is appropriate. Please refer to the Funding Rules for budget items not supported.

### 5. Application and review process

#### 5.1 What must my application include?

The Expression of Interest (EOI) application form is available via our online grants management system: [Snow Medical Grants](#). Your Host Organisation's research office should certify and submit the completed EOI application form by 5 pm AEST on the date specified in 'Key Dates' in the Funding Rules as the date EOI applications close. Late applications will not be accepted.

The full application form will be made available application via our online grants management system: [Snow Medical Grants](#) to candidates invited by Snow Medical to submit a full application. Your Host Organisation's research office should submit the completed full application form by 5 pm AEST on the date specified in 'Key Dates' in the Funding Rules as the date full applications close. Late applications will not be accepted.

#### 5.2 How does the review process work?

The Snow Medical Fellowship Program assessment consists of a three-stage process: Stage 1 (EOI), Stage 2 (Full Applications) and Stage 3 (Interviews of candidates and institutions).

EOI applications will be triaged by the Snow Medical team and assessed by the Snow Medical Scientific Review and Assessment Committee who will shortlist applicants. All successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified on the date specified in 'Key Dates' in the Funding Rules. Full Applications are by invitation only.

At the full application stage, the Snow Medical Scientific Review and Assessment Committee, informed by an international peer review process, will shortlist applications for interview.

At the interview stage, the Snow Medical team will assess the Host Organisation environment and the Scientific Review and Assessment Committee will interview shortlisted candidates and recommend application(s) for funding to the Snow family and the Snow Medical board.

Refer to Key Dates outlined in the Funding Rules for more information.

### 5.3 What are the assessment criteria for a full application?



**Research Track Record:** Quality and impact of research and publications to date, relative to career stage and taking into consideration any Career Disruptions and any other relevant career considerations in accordance with item 2 of these FAQs. Quality of the research environments contributing to the candidate’s training and experience.

**Research Proposal:** Quality and feasibility of the proposed research program. Snow Medical seeks bold proposals only achievable through long-term (8 year) funding. The proposal should articulate the significance of the scientific area and a sound conceptual basis for the proposed scientific approach. Noting that the scientific merit of the proposal is critically assessed by international experts recognised in the field, the approach and techniques to be utilised in the research program must be appropriately justified and substantiated. The research and scientific approach should be novel and ambitious, yet scientifically plausible over an 8-year term. An element of measured risk relative to traditional funding programs is acceptable.

**Capability:** The appropriateness of the applicant and their team’s scientific skills and expertise, and access to relevant personnel and collaborators to perform the research program must be evident.

**Vision and Innovation:** The application should clearly articulate the contribution/s the research will make to important new knowledge and discovery in biomedical research and beyond. Noting we fund both basic and applied research, the proposed research program should clearly set out the innovative concepts, approaches, methodologies or interventions and provide justification that they are achievable.

**Impact:** Proposed path to translation and claimed impact of the research program, through contribution of new scientific knowledge, and / or through specific biomedical, clinical, or commercial applications. Snow Medical is seeking to fund research and individuals that will contribute at a significant level. The primary elements of the pathway to impact should be clearly defined as part of the research program. Any aims and associated project plans regarding commercialisation and / or clinical application should be well set out and justified.

**Independence and Leadership:** Evidence of emerging scientific independence, distinct from previous training environments. Include evidence of broader leadership qualities, for example as a supervisor, manager, mentor, reviewer or other roles of responsibility, entrepreneur, communicator, or by involvement with industry or the broader community.

**Institutional Environment:** Evidence not only of outstanding research infrastructure and environment but also, importantly, the quality of professional and personal development support and training program access that will be provided to Fellows and teams to ensure development in leadership, management, integrity, equity, entrepreneurship, industry engagement and communication.

#### 5.4 Who is part of the Research Peer Review Panel?

The peer review panel members include distinguished international and Australian scientists and researchers selected by the Snow Medical team, and matched to individual application research areas

#### 5.5 May I obtain a list of the Research peer review panel members and can I suggest that my application is not reviewed by a specific individual?

We will not publicise the Research Peer Review panel members and will ensure that there are no conflicts of interest for reviewers assessing applications. Candidates may request that specific reviewers are not approached, with appropriate justification. However, Snow Medical reserves the right to approach reviewers at its discretion.



#### 5.6 Will I receive written feedback about my application?

Due to the high number of applications, we will not provide any written comments or feedback.

#### 5.7 Who do I contact if I have any questions?

The Snow Medical Research Foundation welcomes questions to ensure research proposals meet the aims and criteria for the Fellowship Program. Questions should be referred to your Host Organisation who will liaise with our office.