



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By
Parkinson Canada
BASIC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
(2021 – 2023 Cycle)

Release Date:	November 23, 2020
Application Deadline (online receipt):	February 1, 2021 (11:59pm EST)
Notifications of Award:	July 2021
Funding Start Date:	October 1, 2021
Duration of Award:	2 years

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BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer its Basic Research Fellowship program (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's research and to invest in research training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's disease. Parkinson Canada intends to provide awards in the range of \$40,000 - \$50,000 per year over a two-year term, dependent on years of experience, to outstanding applicants who meet the eligibility criteria of the Program and who have been approved by its Scientific Advisory Council (the “Advisory Council”). Funds awarded under the Program are to be used to cover salaries, benefits and expenses for research fellowships in Parkinson's-related areas.

Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada invites fellowship applications (“Applications”) from applicants committed to conducting biomedical research in areas relevant to the cure, cause,

prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson’s disease, and related disorders including: Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and other Parkinson’s conditions. This initiative is consistent with, and reflects, Parkinson Canada’s commitment to support innovation and renewal in the national Parkinson’s research field and to foster international leadership potential in this area.

The Program is available to individuals who have completed a doctoral qualification (MD or PhD) within the last five years to the date of the competition deadline. Funding for post MD research fellowships may be made available to provide support for specialized training in the research aspects of the broad field of Parkinson’s disease. Applicants seeking support for further clinical training should consult Parkinson Canada Clinical Fellowship guidelines.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Clinician scientist (MD) candidates are eligible for funding in the amount of \$50,000 per year over a two-year term. Based on years of research training experience, post-doctoral (PhD) candidates with two years or less experience in research are eligible for funding in the amount of \$40,000 and those with more than two years experience are eligible for funding in the amount of \$50,000. Upon completion of two years of postgraduate research training during the tenure of the award, the applicant may be eligible to receive an award increase to the higher level, subject to a maximum amount awarded under the Program of \$50,000.

Post-doctoral (PhD) candidates	Award Amount
Years of research or clinical training experience	
0-2	\$40,000
> 2	\$50,000

Clinician scientist (MD) candidates	Award Amount
Basic Amount	\$50,000

For candidates submitting applications to the Parkinson Canada/Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé FRQS Partnership Program, the program offers up to two years of support with the possibility of renewal for a third year from FRQS. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships. The amount of funding available for the third year is based on eligibility for funding renewal in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions and is restricted to [FRQS](#) regular funding amounts.

Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/FRQS funding opportunity must submit applications to both FRSQ and to Parkinson Canada. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.

Candidates for the Parkinson Canada/NBHRF funding opportunities must submit applications to Parkinson Canada only and indicate on their application that they wish to be considered for this partnership award. Research under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated

institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of New Brunswick. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which are offered for Basic Research and Clinical Research Fellowships.

Candidates for the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF)/Parkinson Canada funding opportunities must submit applications to both SHRF and to Parkinson Canada and must indicate in their Parkinson Canada application that they would like to be considered for this partnership. Stipends in this program for fellowship candidates are the same as that which is offered for the Basic Research fellowships plus a \$5,000 research supplement. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Saskatchewan <http://shrf.ca/saskatchewan-health-research-foundation/Funding> .

ELIGIBILITY

Parkinson Canada wishes to support training excellence and development of the wide scope of Parkinson's biomedical research in Canada. Applications will be accepted from applicants who meet the eligibility criteria established by Parkinson Canada (as summarized in this Request for Applications) and who propose to continue their training or conduct research with the following organizations (an "Approved Institution"):

- Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions, including hospitals and research institutes; or
- Other organizations, as determined by the Research Policy Committee of the National Board of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant's research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

Applicants must hold a doctoral degree (MD or PhD) obtained in the last 5 years and be graduates of a university recognized by Parkinson Canada. MD degree holders may register in a graduate program leading to the MSc degree or the PhD degree. Post MD applicants must be licensed to practice in Canada or should have a Canadian educational license.

In the evaluation of an Application, Parkinson Canada will typically consider any research experience acquired after the receipt of a doctorate degree as postdoctoral research training. Such work experience may be either full or part time and may be in an academic or private setting. Applicants will be given an opportunity to describe any career interruptions.

LOCATION OF TRAINING & SUPERVISION

Awards granted under the Program shall be held in trust by the Approved Institution at which the proposed supervisor of the successful applicant (an "Approved Supervisor") holds a faculty appointment.

An Approved Supervisor should be an investigator actively directing research either in the field of Parkinson's disease or working in a highly relevant discipline and must be able to provide the successful applicant with a strong training environment. Other training locations may be considered

by the Advisory Council, provided that the facility is an Approved Institution and the research or research-related activities conducted at such location falls within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

Under the terms of the Program, Applications will be accepted from Canadian citizens who propose to train at an Approved Institution located inside or outside of Canada, and from international applicants proposing to train at an Approved Institution located in Canada.

REVIEW PROCESS

The evaluation of Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada will be completed by the Advisory Council through a peer review process. The Advisory Council is composed of prominent neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropathologists and neuroscientists from across Canada. The peer review process is a cornerstone of Parkinson Canada's research program and provides for the highest quality of objective adjudication.

The Advisory Council is responsible for the evaluation of all Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada in response to this Request for Applications, to rate each of the Applications so that they may be ranked in order of priority and to recommend to Parkinson Canada the size of the award needed to support the research should the Application be approved.

External reviewers will be solicited for additional expertise as needed.

The Advisory Council anticipates that it will provide each applicant whose Application to participate in the Program has been declined with written notice of such decision and where possible, a brief written critique of the substance of their Application.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The principal consideration used to evaluate Applications is research excellence potential. There are, however, a variety of additional criteria that may be considered by the Advisory Council in the evaluation process. Each of the criteria listed below will be considered in assigning the overall ranking of the Application, weighting them as appropriate for each Application.

- Does the applicant show promise of significantly advancing research in the area of Parkinson's disease? Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to enter into this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the applicant? Is this project relevant to pursuing a greater understanding of Parkinson's for the applicant?
- Is the research work that the applicant will be involved in of high quality? Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses of the proposed project/area of study adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate? Does it contribute to Canada's leadership potential in Parkinson's knowledge in that field? Where does this work position itself in relation to world knowledge of Parkinson's at this time?
- Is the project or project supervisor positioned to build significantly on the existing strengths of the individual researcher? Does the work stretch the experience and professional knowledge of the applicant?
- Is the scientific environment in which the work will be done likely to contribute to the applicant's learning? Is there evidence of institutional support of the training program?

In addition to the above criteria, all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the following:

- The adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The Advisory Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

Where a trainee and supervisor are submitting an application to the same competition, trainees submitting their own proposal (not identical to the proposal submitted by their supervisor) will be given priority ranking.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Request for Applications made by Parkinson Canada is subject to the terms and conditions (the “Terms and Conditions”) contained in Parkinson Canada’s Research Program Application Guidelines (the “Guidelines”), which the applicant shall be deemed to have accepted upon submission to Parkinson Canada of an Application to participate in the Program. Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions may result, in addition to any other remedies Parkinson Canada may have at law, in termination of the Program and exclusion of the applicant from future grant and fellowship award competitions.

A successful applicant who has received an award under the Program may not transfer the award to another institution unless exceptionally approved by the chairs of the Research Policy Committee and Scientific Advisory Council (please see Guidelines).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF FUNDING

All successful applicants shall comply with the reporting obligations outlined in the Guidelines.

Parkinson Canada requires fellowship recipients to submit Annual and Final Progress Reports. The advance of the portion of the award to be made in the second year of the term of the Program is conditional upon submission of an Annual Progress Report to Parkinson Canada in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council at the end the first year of the term of the Program. The report shall be submitted to the attention of the Director, Research Program at Parkinson Canada’s Toronto Office no later than the 1-year anniversary date of the start of the Program. Progress report guidelines and instructions will be provided by Parkinson Canada in advance of the report deadline.

A Final Progress Report detailing the results of the successful applicant’s progress, in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council, shall be submitted to the attention of the Director, Research Program at Parkinson Canada’s Toronto Office no later than three months after the termination of the two-year term of the Program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located at <https://parkinsonresearch.ca> no later than **February 1, 2021 (11:59pm EST)**.

Applications for Basic Research Fellowships include the following:

- Project Summary (maximum 600 words/ 1 page) **(To save space, you do not need to include basic information, such as the description of Parkinson's disease.)**
- Project Narrative **(three (3) pages*** - page amounts are suggestions only) including:
 - Background rationale (1 page)
 - Specific aims and training goals (1/2 page)
 - Details of proposed study, including methods and procedures (1 page)
 - Statement describing relevance of proposed studies to Parkinson's (1/2 page)

*The three page limit applies only to the project narrative and does not include references, biographical information, ethical approvals or other support documents.
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support (4 page maximum).
- An explanation of any interruption in the applicant's academic career.
- Assessment Forms of Candidates for a Fellowship completed by two (2) sponsors. Sponsors should be recent supervisors familiar with the applicant.
- Relevant and reasonable support materials, including but not limited to photographs, tables, figures, literature references, and letters of collaboration, appendices, and a maximum of three (3) publications may be included.
- Signature of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Letter of support from supervisor.
- Summary submitted by proposed supervisor outlining the proposed training program, including details of time allocation, publications of supervisor and supervisory experience, as well as a statement from the prospective supervisor(s) describing the training environment and the collaborative milieu, including the responsibilities to be assumed, the teaching to be provided and the research project to be undertaken.
- Supervisor's biographical information (using the Parkinson Canada 4 page biographical sketch form).

Applicants do not need to courier any documents to Parkinson Canada; however, we do ask that you keep the original signed documents which may be requested in the event that your application is successful in the competition.

Incomplete applications or applications received later than **February 1, 2021 (11:59pm EST)** will not be considered **under any circumstances.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO:

The Parkinson Canada Research Program Application Guidelines Manual available from the Parkinson Canada Web site at www.parkinson.ca.

OR CONTACT:

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