

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Guidelines

These Guidelines describe the requirements for the Canadian Blood Services Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PDF). The Fellowship terms and conditions may be altered without notice. Applicants should always refer to the latest edition of the Guidelines.

I. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION AND PRIORITIES

Canadian Blood Services manages the national supply of blood, blood products and stem cells, and related services for all the provinces and territories (excluding Quebec). Canadian Blood Services also operates an integrated, pan-Canadian service delivery model that includes leading an interprovincial system for organ donation and transplantation. Through our Centre for Innovation, Canadian Blood Services facilitates the creation, translation and application of new knowledge to support a safe, effective and responsive system of blood and related biologics for Canada.

The Centre for Innovation training programs attract, train and retain professionals to the field of transfusion science and medicine. The training programs address skill gaps relevant to these areas. The trained professionals will contribute to building a community of experts that will ensure the relevance and safety of the blood system and transplantation system for now and the years to come.

The Postdoctoral Fellowship Program provides salary support on a competitive basis to highly qualified candidates in the field of blood transfusion and transplantation science in Canada. The value of each Fellowship is related to the major degree(s) and experience the applicant holds. The Fellowship offers support based on current Canadian Institute of Health Research rates for each of the possible three years, as well as a one-time research allowance of \$10,000.

The proposed project for the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program must be aligned with one or more of the research priorities identified below. Proposals that are not relevant to any of these priorities will not be considered for funding.

Research Priorities:

- Promoting appropriate blood product utilization
- Ensuring an adequate blood product supply
- Minimizing the adverse effects of blood product transfusion
- Optimizing blood product quality
- Replacing or improving blood products through new therapies or technologies.

Blood product is defined as a therapeutic product derived from donation of blood or of stem cells capable of producing blood cells after transplantation. Blood products include red blood cell and platelet concentrates, plasma and plasma derivatives (including plasma protein products), and hematopoietic stem cells (including those derived from cord blood). At this time, applications focusing predominantly on therapies that do not involve blood products will only be considered if a convincing case is made that the research addresses one of the research priorities stated above.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants must hold a relevant prerequisite degree (Ph.D., M.D., D.D.S., or D.V.M.) from a recognized academic institution.
- Applicants must be within five (5) years of completing their prerequisite degree.
- Applicants' proposed research must be relevant to one or more of the research priorities described in Section I of these Guidelines.
- Applicants must secure the sponsorship of a primary academic supervisor who is either a Canadian Blood Services Scientist/Investigator, a Canadian Blood Services Adjunct Scientist, or a Medical Officer/Director (blood.ca/en/research/our-team).
- Applicants must not hold the Postdoctoral Fellowship with their Ph.D. supervisor.
- Applicants must not hold another salary or stipend award at the same time as the Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- There is a limit of one Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded per laboratory per competition, and a maximum of two Postdoctoral Fellowship awards per laboratory at any one time.

III. PROCESS

- Complete the Canadian Blood Services Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Application Form.
- Prepare the supporting documents for the application package as per Instructions in the Application Form.
- The Application Package (Application Form and supporting documents) must be submitted by the competition deadline as per Instructions in the Application Form. **No applications or additional material will be accepted after the deadline.**
- The duly received Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Application Package constitutes an agreement to adhere to the conditions governing the fellowship.
- Canadian Blood Services will acknowledge receipt of the application. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure the Application Package has been received by Canadian Blood Services.** Please contact the Centre for Innovation if your Application Package is not acknowledged.
- Canadian Blood Services will convene a peer review committee to review applications and make funding recommendations. In assessing the applications, the following criteria are considered:
 1. Project relevance to Canadian Blood Services and to the research priorities listed in Section I of these guidelines;
 2. Applicant's qualifications (i.e., academic and training qualifications, research experience and ability, and career goals);
 3. Merit of the research proposal (i.e., scientific excellence and project plan); and
 4. Research and training environment.
- Canadian Blood Services will inform applicants and their primary supervisor of the competition outcomes within four (4) months of the submission deadline.
- The funding decision will be made public on Canadian Blood Services website.

IV. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD

Supervisor Responsibility

The primary supervisor must agree to provide adequate research facilities and to administer the award in accordance with the terms laid down by Canadian Blood Services. Accountability of funds is the responsibility of the primary supervisor.

Start Date

The Postdoctoral Fellowship should begin within six (6) months of the notification of award.

Duration of Award

The duration of the Postdoctoral Fellowship is three (3) years.

Conditions of Funding

Postdoctoral Fellowship recipients must contact Canadian Blood Services as soon as possible if their eligibility changes at any point during tenure of the award, as it may render them ineligible to receive funding. Awardees must notify Canadian Blood Services by email (see Section VI). The salary support and research allowances will, in such circumstances, be prorated.

Should Canadian Blood Services funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, Canadian Blood Services reserves the right to reduce, defer or cancel funding of Postdoctoral Fellowships received through this funding opportunity.

Salary Support

The value and duration of salary support is determined by the degree(s) held, licensure (where applicable), location of tenure, and experience of the Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient, as per the following.

The salary support for

- Trainees with a **PhD degree** is \$40,000 CDN (plus benefits) per annum.
- Health Professionals **who hold licensure (full or educational) in Canada and have less than two (2) years** of research or clinical training experience is \$40,000 CDN (plus benefits) per annum. Upon completion of two years of postgraduate research training, the awardee may be eligible to receive an increase to \$50,000 CDN (plus benefits) per annum.
- Health professionals **who hold licensure (full or educational) in Canada and have two (2) or more years** of research or clinical training experience is \$50,000 CDN (plus benefits) per annum.
- Health professionals **who do not hold licensure in Canada** is \$21,000 CDN (plus benefits) per annum. Upon completion of two years of postgraduate research training, the awardee may be eligible to receive an increase to \$40,000 CDN (plus benefits) per annum.

Benefits

Canadian Blood Services offers a generous benefits package to Postdoctoral Fellowship recipients including health and dental care, insurance, paid vacation and a pension plan after one (1) year of employment. The terms of employment are set out in the Letter of Offer and in accordance with the applicable Human Resources Bulletin.

Taxation

The Postdoctoral Fellowship is subject to income tax. Deductions will be made at source by Canadian Blood Services, for income tax purposes. Award holders will be issued T4 slips by the organization.

Income from Other Sources

Postdoctoral Fellowships recipients are required to devote themselves full time to the objectives of their award. They are not permitted to receive remuneration for any work other than activities which contribute to their development as scientists and which are approved by their primary supervisor. Notwithstanding, such activities should not occupy more than 20% of working time.

Relocation Allowance

Recipients of a Postdoctoral Fellowship tenable in a city other than the one in which they reside may be paid a relocation allowance in an amount equivalent to one-way economy airfare. Such costs may also be paid for their spouse and dependent children, provided they accompany the candidate for the full tenure of the award. No allowance is provided for transporting personal belongings.

Research Allowance

Postdoctoral Fellowship recipients are expected to develop new research activities. For this purpose a Research Allowance of \$10,000 is made available to each Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient during the first year of their award for development of a project grant. This allowance may be used, with the primary supervisor's approval, for the purchase of materials, supplies, and services required for the development of the Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient's research project. Equipment purchased using these funds, including computers, is not the personal property of the individual, but belongs to Canadian Blood Services and must be returned at the end of the Postdoctoral Fellowship.

The Research Allowance may also be used for research travel to collaborating laboratories or to research conferences for the purpose of presenting results. **Use of the Research Allowance funds for travel must be requested in writing by the awardee through a travel request form (to be provided by Canadian Blood Services) in advance of the proposed travel.**

Revision to Research Plan and Research Location

Any change in the research plans or in the location of tenure of the Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient requires the prior approval of Canadian Blood Services. Revisions must be submitted to Canadian Blood Services by email (see Section VI).

Transfers

An awardee may request permission to transfer to a new supervisor by writing to Canadian Blood Services (see Section VI) and by arranging to have the following submitted:

1. a letter from the proposed new supervisor indicating acceptance, AND
2. a letter from the primary supervisor under whom the award was originally tenable, indicating that they have been informed of the proposed transfer.

Please note that the proposed new primary supervisor must meet the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program eligibility criteria.

Report

Annual progress reports are due annually in March for the duration of the Postdoctoral Fellowship. A final progress report is due within one (1) month of the Postdoctoral Fellowship end date. The progress report template will be provided.

Publications

Any publications, reports or public presentations resulting from work conducted during the tenure of a Canadian Blood Services Postdoctoral Fellowship must acknowledge the support of Canadian Blood Services. Detailed instructions on acknowledging support from the Postdoctoral Fellowship Program will be provided.

V. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF AWARD FUNDS

Financial administration of Postdoctoral Fellowship funds will be through the Canadian Blood Services Centre for Innovation.

Disbursement of Salary Support and/or Research Allowance

1. Each Postdoctoral Fellowship is assigned a unique number representing the trust account maintained for it by the Canadian Blood Services Centre for Innovation. For financial reporting purposes, this number is treated as a separate Cost Centre. Canadian Blood Services Financial Services transfers the approved funds as revenue to each Cost Centre, for which salary support and research allowance expenses are charged. Financial reports on each Cost Centre are prepared by the Canadian Blood Services Centre for Innovation from data supplied by Canadian Blood Services Financial Services.
2. Expenditures from each Postdoctoral Fellowship Cost Centre must be authorized by the awardee and the primary supervisor.
3. In no case, should the total disbursement exceed the funds available for each Postdoctoral Fellowship (i.e., the amount of the current year's award plus any remaining portion of a previous year's award). Expenditures exceeding the award will be neither assumed nor reimbursed by Canadian Blood Services.

VI. Contact and Enquiries

Enquires should be address to the Centre for Innovation at centreforinnovation@blood.ca or by phone at (613) 739-2496.