



Frequently asked questions (FAQs) Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships (CRDF) – Joint call with WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases 2019 (TMA2019IF)

Disclaimer: The FAQs are for information only and do not constitute a legally binding document. The legal basis for information in the FAQs can be found in the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation and the EDCTP Annual Work Plans

For more information, please go to the EDCTP website: www.edctp.org



Purpose of the FAQs

These FAQs provide guidance for applicants to the EDCTP2 Call for Proposals 'Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowships (CRDF) – Joint call with WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases 2019' to supplement the information provided in the call text and call documents. The FAQs will be updated regularly in response to questions received from applicants to the call. Please also refer to the [EDCTP2 general FAQs](#).

Rules for participation and funding

Q: I am a researcher employed in a sub-Saharan African registered legal entity, but I am not a national of a sub-Saharan country. Am I still eligible to apply?

A: Yes, nationals and citizens who are resident in sub-Saharan Africa are eligible to apply as long as they have been employed for the last 12 months in the organisation, where they have been conducting clinical research activities in the scope of the EDCTP2 programme. Furthermore, applicants must have a guarantee from their home organisation that they will be employed upon their return and for 2 years post fellowship.

Q: Will I be eligible for this programme if I am already employed or have an affiliation with the host organisation where I want to pursue the training placement?

A: The aim of this fellowship is to provide opportunities to acquire experience and to develop skills outside of academic or public sector settings. If you already have employment with or are affiliated to the host organisation where you wish to conduct your placement then this does not fit with the aims and objectives of this call. This call provides new opportunities to researchers in Africa and therefore you should not already have an affiliation to your chosen host organisation.

Q: Can I submit an application to both EDCTP and WHO/TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases?

A: Yes, you can apply to both organisations however carefully read the eligibility criteria for both EDCTP and TDR call for proposals on their respective websites as they have different requirements.

Q: Should I be employed by the home organisation to apply for this grant scheme?

A: Yes, you need to be employed at the home organisation at the time of application, resident in the country of the home organisation and have been working there for the past 12 months. You must have guaranteed employment from the home organisation for the duration of the fellowship and for two years post-fellowship.

Q: For this fellowship programme a supporting letter from the host organisation is a requirement. What declarations statements must be included in this letter for it to be acceptable?

A: The support letter must include the following points: confirmation that the fellow is a current employee of the home organisation (details of contract duration should be included); confirmation that the home organisation supports this fellowship application; confirmation that the fellow is fully eligible in accordance with the criteria as set out in the call text; confirmation that the fellow will be supported with a leave of absence for the duration of the fellowship; confirmation that the fellow has the ability to successfully undertake the training he/she is applying for; details on how the fellowship will enhance the career development of the fellow; explanation of how the proposed training will strengthen the home organisation's

capacity to conduct clinical research upon return of the fellow; confirmation that the fellow will have a similar position at the home organisation once the fellowship has been completed.

Q: Is it compulsory to have a supervisor for this fellowship programme? Should the supervisor be employed at the home organisation?

A: Yes, a supervisor with internationally recognised scientific leadership working at the same home organisation (in sub-Saharan Africa) as the fellow should be appointed. He/she must have agreed to provide support and advice for the duration of the fellowship. The supervisor will also be required to be present during the placement interview should be selected for an interview by a host organisation.

Q: Can I conduct my own research at the host organisation if offered a placement?

A: No, the purpose of this call is to support fellows to acquire specific skills in clinical research and development through placements at host organisations where they will work on the host organisation's projects during the placement. It will not be possible to carry out any activities other than those activities set by the host organisation during the placement. Each host organisation has listed training in specific areas that is offered in their organisation. Please refer to the 2019 list of host organisations for further information.

Q: I am a holder of a Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowship from TDR ending this year. Can I submit an additional application for this programme to EDCTP?

A: No. Fellows can only be funded once under this grant scheme.

Q: What is the maximum duration of a Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowship?

A: The maximum duration of the Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowship is 21 months (up to 3 months preparation phase, up to 12 months placement training and up to 6 months reintegration phase). The EDCTP2 programme runs until the end of December 2024. Applicants should take into consideration the programme end date when planning their proposals.

Q: I do not know what training I will be pursuing at the host organisation therefore how will I know what reintegration activities I can implement upon my return to my home organisation?

A: It is recognised that that you may not be fully aware of the activities that will be implemented upon your return to your home organisation however, based on your training needs and the type of training on offer in the placement, we request summary information on what you can implement upon your return to the home organisation. At this point in time you may already know the capacity gaps and needs at the home organisation that the fellowship will be able to address. A detailed training plan will be developed by you in collaboration with the host organisation and home organisation as a deliverable of the project. Nearing the completion of your training phase, a detailed reintegration plan based on the ideas presented in the proposal and competencies gained will be required to be submitted to EDCTP before you return to your home organisation.

Q: What type of activities can I implement as part of the reintegration phase?

A: The fellow is expected to implement and complete the reintegration activities that contribute to strengthening clinical research capacity at their home organisation. These activities could take the form of peer trainings, workshops, etc and should be implemented within 6 months. Activities should be feasible and realistic in the time period and may comprise capacity building activities as well as small scale studies that can be initiated and completed within six months including any ethics and regulatory approvals required. It is not expected that fellows will conduct large-scale clinical studies in the re-integration period

Q: Does EDCTP support family or spousal relocation?

A: This fellowship which offers a time-limited placement of up to 12 months does not support a family or spouse relocation package but covers only the costs of the fellow.

Q: What does the EDCTP grant cover and how can I budget for my monthly stipend if I do not know which country I will be going to?

A: The grant covers both the training and reintegration phase in total. During the training phase, on average the grant can cover but is not limited to visa application costs, one economy class return air ticket (home – host training organisation – home), a monthly stipend, a small allowance for educational support materials and limited travel budget to attend relevant conference(s). We encourage you to investigate thoroughly before you submit your proposal the average costs of living in Europe, health insurance costs, economy class return air tickets and take into account any possible tax implications so that you can request an appropriate budget in the fellowship. Some information on living costs is also provided in the 2019 list of host organisations.

Q: I would like to find out if you could please share some information regarding the definitions/categories for eligible costs for a Clinical Research and Product Development Fellowship.

A: See below for some general guidance on this:

Please note that if your proposal is selected for funding, our financial team will review the detailed budget and provide recommendations on how to handle the cost allocations. At the application stage this detailed budget is not required and only high-level information on budget by cost category is needed.

For detailed information, please visit the link to our Financial Guidelines for Beneficiaries available on <http://www.edctp.org/templates-and-guidelines/>

Q: Will EDCTP assist with my visa application?

A: No EDCTP does not assist with visa applications. This is the responsibility of the home and host organisations. EDCTP will provide the required supporting documentation. You may also wish to consider contacting EDCTP-TDR fellows on the EDCTP Alumni <https://edctpalumninetwork.org/> for advice on the appropriate visa categories to apply for.