



**EDCTP**

*The power of sharing science*

## **Frequently asked questions (FAQs) Career Development Fellowship 2020 (TMA2020CDF)**

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](http://www.edctp.org)



## **Purpose of the FAQs**

These FAQs provide guidance for applicants to the EDCTP2 Call for Proposals '*Career Development Fellowships 2020*' to supplement the information provided in the [call text](#) and [call documents](#). The FAQs could be updated in response to questions received from applicants to the call. Please also refer to the [EDCTP2 general FAQs](#).

### **Q: Which diseases are in scope for this call?**

**A:** In the EDCTP2 programme, "poverty-related diseases (PRDs)" include HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and the following neglected infectious diseases (NIDs): dengue/severe dengue; rabies; human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); leishmaniasis; cysticercosis/taeniasis; dracunculiasis (guinea-worm disease); echinococcosis; foodborne trematodiasis; lymphatic filariasis; mycetoma; onchocerciasis (river blindness); schistosomiasis; soil-transmitted helminthiasis; Buruli ulcer; leprosy (Hansen disease); trachoma; yaws; diarrhoeal infections; lower respiratory infections; as well as emerging infectious diseases of particular relevance for Africa, such as Ebola or yellow fever. Due to the extraordinary global crisis of COVID-19 that is also affecting African countries, this topic should also be considered by applicants.

The remit of the call is expanded beyond the EDCTP standard remit to incorporate the focus areas of two organisations that provide cofunding: Fondation Botnar and Novartis International AG.

Fondation Botnar will co-fund this call with a contribution of € 1,500,000 for proposals conducting research in the area of child and adolescent health and wellbeing. Fondation Botnar's contribution to this call aims to address the shortage of suitably trained early- to mid-career paediatric researchers in sub-Saharan Africa. In the frame of this call, Fondation Botnar encourages research proposals aimed at improving the wellbeing of adolescents suffering from PRDs (e.g. mental health, malnutrition) through the development, validation and/or implementation of new solutions. In keeping with its strategy and approach, Fondation Botnar wishes to support applications aiming to exploit scalable and sustainable Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies in urban environments.

Novartis International AG aims to co-fund this call with at least five additional fellowships (to a maximum value of € 750,000) for proposals conducting research in the area of maternal and child health on the interaction between PRDs and non-communicable diseases (NCDs, including e.g. sickle cell disease). The contribution from Novartis aims to address a shortage of suitably trained mid-career researchers in sub-Saharan Africa working on maternal and child health in the context of a growing double burden of infectious diseases, malnutrition, and child and maternal mortality, in addition to emerging challenges of NCDs.

### **Q: What types of research studies can be funded under this call and can the studies be part of a larger study that is already funded?**

Studies supported under the Career Development Fellowship (CDF) scheme must be new and discrete research and training activities conducted by the fellow that are not already funded elsewhere. It is possible for the CDF to comprise a sub-study of or be embedded/linked to a larger study that is already funded. However, the CDF must cover new and specific activities that are not already funded in the larger study. The relationship between the CDF and the larger study must be explained clearly in the EDCTP application. EDCTP may request the full details of the related study to verify no overlap in funding.

### **Q: How is the number of years of research experience counted in terms of the eligibility for this call?**

EDCTP considers research experience to be any professional or academic research activities conducted in the public or private sector. The time spent doing a PhD is counted as research experience for medical doctors (see also the next question). Part-time research experience should be counted pro-rata. Each applicant must explain clearly making reference to their CVs, how they calculated the number of years of research experience. EDCTP will request copies of the degree certificates during the grant preparation to verify the eligibility of applicants. See the questions below for further information on eligibility.

**Q: I am a medical doctor with a PhD in immunology in the area of malaria which I obtained in 2008. Presently, I work at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) since 1 March 2017. Having worked mainly as a lecturer for over ten years, do I still qualify as a mid-career researcher?**

**A:** If you are a medical doctor, you must count the number of years of your research experience from the date of your medical qualification. However, if you are not a medical doctor, then you must count the number of years of your research experience from the date of your PhD. If you are a medical doctor who also has a PhD, the years of research experience are counted from the date of your medical qualification not from the date when you received your PhD. The years when you were conducting your PhD are counted as research experience. If you have 10 years of research experience, you are not eligible for this grant scheme. However, if during your employment as lecturer you were not involved or part of research projects, you will need to demonstrate and explain how you counted the number of years of your research experience, including details on the research projects and their duration in which you have been involved (if applicable).

**Q: I currently work as a researcher and project coordinator at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) in Durban, South Africa. I received my PhD in December 2010, but only started my post-doctoral research in October 2016. Between 2010 and 2016, while my children were still young, I worked on a part-time basis as a project coordinator at the Africa Centre. Does EDCTP make any allowances for women to take career breaks due to family commitments?**

**A:** For this grant scheme, the applicant must not have more than five years research experience at the time of the deadline.

If you are a medical doctor, you must count the number of years of your research experience from the date of your medical qualification.

However, if you are not a medical doctor, then you must count the number of years of your research experience from the date of your PhD.

If you are both, a medical doctor who also has a PhD, the years of research experience are counted from the date of your medical qualification not from the date when you received your PhD. The years when you were conducting your PhD are counted as research experience.

In the application, you will need to explain how you are counted your research years. In your situation, you were employed on part-time basis due to parental leave from January 2011 to 2016, so you will need to reflect the length of the break(s) due to caring responsibilities and the length of your research experience in the projects in which you were involved (if applicable) in each calendar year.

**Q: For this fellowship programme a supporting letter from the host organisation is a requirement. What statements must include such letter 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 (employer) 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: Will I be eligible for this programme if I am already employed at the host organisation where I want to conduct my research? What are the host institution requirements?**

**A:** Yes, you will be eligible so long as your employer (i.e. host organisation or coordinator) fulfils the eligibility requirements: is an established legal entity registered in sub-Saharan Africa that employs and guarantees your employment for the duration of the fellowship and for two years post-fellowship. Furthermore, host

organisations (applicant's legal entity) selected for funding from this programme will be required to conclude an employment agreement with the fellow prior to the conclusion of the grant agreement with EDCTP.

**Q: Should I be employed by the host institution to apply for this grant scheme?**

**A:** No, you do not need to be employed at the host institution during the application process, but you must be a resident of or be willing to relocate to the host Institution in a sub-Saharan African country during the duration of the fellowship. Furthermore, if your application is successful the host organisation must employ you during the fellowship and for two years post fellowship.

**Q: Is it compulsory to have a mentor for this fellowship programme? Should the mentor be employed at the host institution or would it be acceptable to appoint a mentor at my previous employing organisation?**

**A:** Yes, it is compulsory to have a mentor for this programme. The mentor should be an internationally recognised scientific leader working at the same institution as the fellow in sub-Saharan Africa, who has agreed to provide support and advice during the fellowship. You should upload a letter of support signed by the Mentor, giving details of the support to be provided during the grant. The letter should also indicate the Mentor's input into the preparation of the application.

In exceptional cases it may happen that the most suitable mentor is not based at the host institution. In such cases we recommend that the mentor explains in their letter how mentorship will occur, and we recommend that the fellow finds an additional mentor at their host institution. Both support letters can be uploaded as one package in the online application.

**Q: I am a holder of a career development fellowship from EDCTP ending this year. Can I submit an additional application for this grant scheme?**

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

**Q: What is the maximum duration of a career development fellowship?**

**A:** The maximum duration of a career development fellowship is 36 months, with a foreseen start of the action no later than 1 October 2021. If you apply for a shorter time period, then you should adjust the budget pro-rata. For example, if you apply for 24 months support then the budget request should be 100,000 EUR maximum.

**Q: Should I upload proof of my PhD or medical degree diploma?**

**A:** No, this is not required at application stage. Instead, fellows invited to grant preparation will be requested to share a copy of their diploma(s) as evidence.