

## **Frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

### **Career Development Fellowship 2019 (TMA2019CDF)**

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 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 medical doctor with a PhD in immunology in the area of malaria which I obtained in 2008. Presently, I work at an institution 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 in your proposal 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 in South Africa. I received my PhD in December 2010, but only started my post-doctoral research in October 2015. Between 2010 and 2015, while my children were still young, I worked on a part-time basis as a project coordinator. 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. 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 and 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 2015, 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, taking into account the % time that you worked.

**Q: My host institution will be an organisation located in sub-Saharan Africa, but my employer is an organisation based in Europe. Would I be eligible to apply?**

**A:** To be eligible for this call, the application must be submitted by an institution that is a registered legal entity established in sub-Saharan Africa. The same institution must also be the employer of the fellow and guarantee the employment of the fellow for two years post-grant. Organisations that are located in sub-Saharan Africa but not registered as legal entities are not eligible for this grant scheme. The main objectives of this fellowship programme are to promote retention of postdoctoral researchers and postgraduate medical researchers in the research field and that talented scientists can establish themselves as independent

researchers with ability to initiate their own research teams at host institutions in sub-Saharan Africa for long-term continuity, networking and research ownership in the region.

**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) 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 at the time of application, but you must have guaranteed employment from the host institution for the duration of the fellowship and for two years post-fellowship. In addition, you must be a resident of (or be willing to relocate to the host Institution in) a sub-Saharan African country during the fellowship and for two years post-fellowship.

**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 and details of how it supports the application; confirmation that the fellow is fully eligible in accordance with the criteria as set out in the 'call text'; 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; and explanation of how the proposed training will strengthen the home organisation's capacity to conduct clinical research.

**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, a mentor with an internationally recognised scientific leadership working at the same host institution (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. You may also wish to mention the mentor at a previous institution in the main body of your proposal (note that the online application allows selection of one person only) but a mentor at the host organisation where the fellowship will be located is required.

**Q: I am currently employed at an institution in Ghana and my primary mentor is employed at a different institution in Ghana, can he/she continue in being my primary mentor in my application?**

**A:** A mentor at the host organisation where the fellowship will be located is required and should be indicated in the proposal. You can add someone else as a mentor in addition to the person at your host organisation (note that the online application allows selection of one person only) but you should clearly explain how you envisage the mentorships will be carried out at the different institutions (please note that no costs can be claimed by any party other than your host institution). Your primary mentor can also elaborate on the need

of an external mentor in his/her support letter. Please ensure that you primarily upload/include the support letter from the mentor at the host organisation; you can also upload the support letter from your external/secondary mentor.

**Q: Can I develop collaborations outside Europe, i.e. US and Canada, for supervision and training as part of the application/grant?**

**A:** In principle, you can have collaborations worldwide for this grant scheme. However, please note that while collaborations are permitted, for this grant scheme (mono-beneficiary grants), these should be linked to training of the fellow. The majority of time should be spent conducting the research at the host organisation and periods away from the host organisation should be limited.

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

**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. The EDCTP2 programme runs until the end of December 2024. Applicants should take into consideration the programme end date when planning their proposals. Applicants who intend to submit a proposal of a shorter duration should adjust the budget pro rata depending on the duration of the proposed fellowship.

**Q: I would like to find out if you could please share some information regarding the definitions/categories for eligible costs for a Career 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: The 'call text' of this fellowship programme states that this call is co-funded by Novartis. If successful, may the fellow decide on the choice of funder?**

**A:** All of the funding for this call (including cofunding from Novartis and from other EDCTP Members States) is managed by EDCTP. EDCTP will allocate the funding from Novartis and any other cofunders in consultation with the donor organisation but this will not affect the fellowship as all fellows and their host organisations will sign a grant agreement with EDCTP.

**Q: I am a scientist interested in answering basic research questions on schistosomiasis. Am I eligible to apply, or it is only for clinicians to develop their clinical research skills?**

**A:** Schistosomiasis is in the disease scope of EDCTP2. Proposals may cover clinical, biomedical and/or social science/ethics research within the scope of EDCTP2. Basic research/laboratory activities in your area of expertise can be undertaken in the fellowship proposal but you should explain clearly how your proposal fits

the EDCTP2 scope, the call scope and the EDCTP Strategic Research Agenda. One of the aims of the call is to train and develop the fellow's clinical (and biomedical) research skills so that they can design, plan and execute clinical biomedical and/or social science/ethics research projects within the scope of the EDCTP2 programme. You will also need to describe in your proposal the advances and impact of the research, including potential benefit of the research to the affected populations.

Please visit the EDCTP Alumni Platform (<https://edctpalumninetwork.org/> and <https://edctpalumninetwork.org/fe/profiles>) of our current and past CDF fellows as examples of what types of research have been supported under this grant scheme.

**Q: We are unclear of the impact of a 'no deal' Brexit on our institution's eligibility for this scheme and which seems to sit outside Horizon 2020. I would be grateful if you could advise me if UK organisations would remain eligible hosts or not in that situation?**

**A:** Career Development Fellowships are mono-beneficiary grants where the applicant must be a legal entity established in sub-Saharan Africa (the applicant legal entity). European institutions, including the UK, are indeed not eligible as host institutions under this grant scheme. Other organisations in other countries may have links with a fellow or fellowship proposal, for example as collaborator or training partner, and these may be mentioned in the body of the proposal but may not request funding as part of these mono-beneficiary grants where all funds go to the host institution in sub-Saharan Africa. Brexit is not expected to have an impact here as the sole beneficiary will be a sub-Saharan African institution.