

HEALTH SCIENCES CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2023 - Postdoctoral Fellowships



CLOSING DATE: 5:00pm Monday 8th May 2023, 2 Fellowships available

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Purpose

The purpose of these fellowships is to fund candidates who have the greatest likelihood of becoming the next generation of successful researchers and academics, and whose career objectives align with the values and strategic priorities of the University of Otago.

Eligibility

- **Applicants should have fewer than three years postdoctoral experience** (from the date of completion of the academic requirements for a PhD - not the date of actual graduation, which can be up to 6 months later than this). Allowances for parental leave or other personal leave will be made.
- Applicants who have held positions of postdoctoral fellow, research fellow, lecturer or senior lecturer or equivalent posts, for more than 36 months in total at the time of application will not be eligible for these fellowships, **irrespective of when their PhD was completed**. Allowances for parental or other personal leave will be made.
- Applicants must hold the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or an equivalent degree. Although applications will be accepted from those who have not yet received results of their thesis examination at the time of application, the award and commencement of the fellowship is conditional on award of the degree. The thesis should preferably have been submitted at the time of application and **must** have been submitted for examination by **1 September 2023**. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
- Where a candidate has worked for a period as an ARF or equivalent prior to undertaking a PhD, scoring will prioritise research that resulted from the candidates' PhD or Master's thesis work.
 - Therefore, candidates should clearly indicate whether publications in their application (e.g. Contribution to Research) arose from PhD or Masters studies.
- Applications will be accepted from international candidates who are supported by an academic mentor from a University of Otago Health Sciences department.
- If the international candidate is clearly a top-ranked candidate, they will be awarded a fellowship, dependent on securing visas to work in New Zealand.
- International candidates are judged as for New Zealand candidates until a point in the process where there is no way to distinguish between two candidates, at which point the New Zealand candidate will be favoured.
- International candidates who are not currently in New Zealand may apply, but in the event of success must be physically in New Zealand by 1 October 2023.

Value and Duration of Tenure

- The annual salary paid to Postdoctoral Fellows will be \$82,460 (PDF01) per annum and is not subject to annual increment. From 1 July 2023, the salary will be \$86,210.
- Postdoctoral fellows (PDF) can apply for promotion to Research Fellow scale during the fellowship, under University regulations.
- The Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded for a period of **two years only**, even if the application is for <1 FTE.
- The Fellowships will be reviewed annually by report and extension of the award beyond 12 months will be dependent on an acceptable level of progress of the research and based on confidential reports from the Fellow's mentors.
- Successful candidates must begin their Fellowship no later than **1 November 2023**

Conditions of tenure

- These Postdoctoral Fellowships are tenable at the University of Otago in a department within the Division of Health Sciences. The department and supervisor must be approved.
- The Fellows are employees of the University of Otago and the general conditions of the appointment are outlined in the accompanying and Conditions of Employment for Postdoctoral Fellowships (Appendix C of Academic Terms & Conditions).
- The costs of the research undertaken by career development award recipients are the responsibility of the department. **Applicants must confirm that such resources are in place before submitting their application to ensure the successful completion of their award.**
- The Fellows may undertake limited clinical duties relevant to their research external to the University to a maximum of 200 hours in a calendar year. They may accept remuneration for such duties if this is approved by the Vice Chancellor (or VC's delegate). For additional teaching or clinical work **internal** to the University the total FTE that the postdoc may be employed at must not exceed 1FTE and additional remuneration will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
- Except in relation to approved limited clinical and teaching duties, Fellows shall not accept any other fellowship, scholarship, award or grant except with the permission of the University of Otago which may impose conditions such as reducing the emolument of the Fellowship.
- **Fellows are encouraged to apply for external research grants and successful proposals can be accommodated by an agreed reduction in the fellowship proposal and FTE**

Mentor

- Each application should have a unique supervising / mentoring staff member, i.e. the staff member may not be named as a supervisor on competing applications for **this fellowship.**
- Mentors/supervisors need to make their HoD aware of the associated costs of the proposal well in advance of the closing date to allow for HoD's consideration of the costs.

Applications

Applications must be made to the Division of Health Sciences through the Head of Department and Dean of School as per the email memorandum circulated by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Health Sciences). **BMS Applications do not require Dean's signature.** An electronic signed copy of the application is required. Candidates should allow for delays in obtaining signatures in order to submit the application on time.

Approvals

The candidates should be aware of any ethics or regulatory approvals that are required to undertake the proposed research and list them as per the application format. The approvals do not need to be in place at the time of application **but will need to be obtained before the research can commence.**

Reporting

Recipients are required to submit an annual report on the approved research report form. A report from the mentor will also be required. These reports are due on the anniversary of commencement of the award in each year of the award. The award recipients are also required to submit a final report on the same form within 28 days of completion of their Fellowship. Reports should be sent to Dr Michele Coleman in the Office of the Division of Health Sciences.

Publications

Publications that result from research undertaken during the tenure of a Health Sciences Career Development Award must acknowledge the assistance of the University by stating that: **"This research was conducted during tenure of a Health Sciences Career Development Award of the University of Otago"**.

Suspension or withdrawal of Fellowship

The University may, at its discretion for what is considered grave cause, suspend the tenure of a Health Sciences Career Development Award for such time as is thought fit, or deprive a fellow of their fellowship, and from that date the emoluments or other payments due shall cease.

Intellectual Property Rights and Commercial Considerations

The University has a policy on intellectual property which applies to the Fellows (as University employees) and the applicant should familiarise themselves with this policy.

Scoring Criteria

- Contribution to Research statement (40%)
- Pathway to Independence (30%)
- Proposed Investigation (30%),

Application format guidelines

Fonts to be used Calibri, Times or Arial, not less than 11 point

Section 1-2 Administrative details

Section 3 Please include a summary of your research written in plain English for the lay reader in no more than 150 words. This may be used to allocate your application for review and will help reviewers not familiar with your area of research.

Section 4 Contribution to Research statement (40%), 1.5 pages

Outline three contributions you have made to research or the research environment (up to half page each, including any references). Please align these contributions to the University's values and the Division's research priorities.

Note that this section should include key achievements from your CV in each example. We can provide an example statement. Your CV will be appended to the application for information but not scored.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Publication of a novel research finding and its impact on the research field
- Presentation of research to government, industry, or policy groups
- Use of your research findings by clinical scientists or health practitioners
- Creation of a research initiative to benefit researchers in your discipline/school
- Examples of research leadership, such as organizing a national conference in your research discipline
- Invitations to present your research at prestigious academic conferences
- Commercialisation of research
- Citations, altmetrics

Section 5 Pathway to Independence (30%), half-1 page

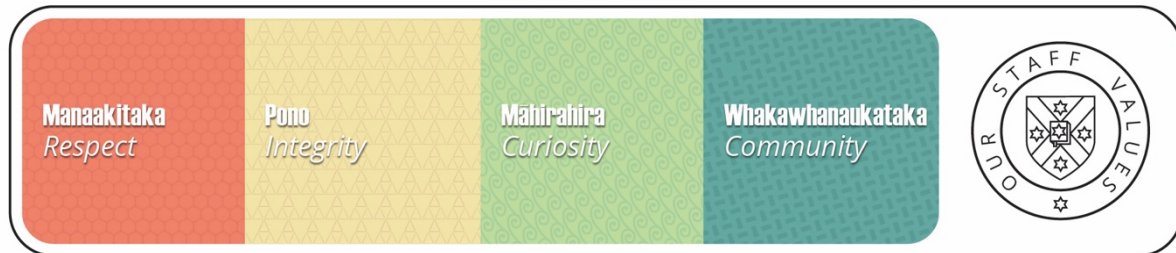
These fellowships are designed to start a researcher's career as an independent researcher. There are many pathways that lead to independent research. Please outline how this fellowship in this department or group will enable you to start your independent research career. It may be necessary to outline conventional pathways to independence in your research area or discipline.

Section 6 Proposed Investigation (30%), 2 pages max

Please include the aims of investigation, background, research design including specific objectives, research hypotheses, experimental/study approach, methodological detail and statistical analysis, significance of this research, relevant previous research you have undertaken, and the results obtained by others with key references. Proposals purporting to examine the effect of size of an intervention should state the approximate effect size they expect to see. Also include an outline on how your research gives effect to Vision Mātauranga or Māori Health Advancement or how else you might contribute to VM or Māori Health Advancement.

This section should show that the proposed research is an independent project that will be led by you as the candidate. It should not usually be a simple extension of your PhD work. If extending your PhD work is appropriate in your discipline, explain how this helps you towards independence. The proposal should clarify what new skills and new areas of knowledge you will undertake and explore as part of the project.

University Values



Divisional Research Priorities

Vision

Healthy people, whānau and communities achieved through quality research that is nationally and internationally relevant.

Based on the Health Sciences Strategic Plan 2021-2027

Six Priority Objectives have been identified and mapped to Strategic Plan Priority Actions:

Priority Objectives
1. Achieving Māori Health Advancement through Transforming the Research Environment
2. Equitable opportunities to succeed in research
3. Achieving Pacific Island Health Advancement
4. Increasing the impact of research and redefining research excellence
5. Improving stakeholder engagement
6. Seizing opportunities for research