

Industry Fellowships Information for Applicants

The NHMRC funds up to ten industry fellowships each year. The fellowships have been established to foster closer interactions between Australian researchers and high technology industries.

Purpose

These fellowships target current academic researchers who will spend up to two years in industry and two years in a research institution. Their main purpose is to provide successful applicants with an opportunity to expand their research horizons and gain experience in important facets of the commercial development of research findings, including project planning, business planning, and knowledge of business and industry dynamics. Industry fellowships aim to establish and facilitate interactions between academia and industry, in particular to foster knowledge of the commercial aspects of R&D within academic institutions, which will ultimately benefit the growth of Australian knowledge-based industries.

These fellowships are not intended to simply allow researchers to conduct research in an industry laboratory or to gain access to technology, though these are also desirable outcomes. The commercial experience to be gained should be in a human health related field, for example, diagnostics, medical devices or pharmaceutical product development, biotechnology, bioinformatics, biomaterials, etc.

Fellowship

The package being offered is \$85,250 pa for each of the 4 years, and the package will cover salary and on-costs, travel, allowances and direct research costs.

This package will be identical during the industry phase and the research institution phase. Research expenditures incurred during the industry phase are not expected to be included in the fellowship package but should be provided by the industry partner. Applications should detail the operating funding support that will be provided by the industry partner for this phase.

Industry Fellowships are awarded only to institutions approved by the NHMRC, and the NHMRC Industry Committee must approve the industry placement. The administering research institution will manage the fellowship for the life of the award. During the industry phase of the fellowship, the applicant will be bound by the employment conditions of the industry partner.

Eligibility

Applicants should meet the following criteria:

- up to six years postdoctoral experience;
- hold a doctorate in a health related field of research;
- be actively engaged in research, either full or part time;
- be Australian citizens, or Australian permanent residents;
- be able to be engaged on a full time basis during the industry placement of the tenure if the applicant currently holds an NHMRC grant;
- have evidence of agreement with the industry partner to placement for up to 2 years including operating funding support provided by the industry partner; and
- have evidence of agreement with an Australian academic institution to carry out the program for 2 years and administer the grant.

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Tenure

The fellowship will be available for 4 years full time with the first 2 years (maximum) to be spent at an industry placement and the final 2 years to be spent in a research institution. The industry component may be at an overseas organisation, but the applicant must then return to the Australian host institution or relinquish the last two years of the fellowship.

Application

Applications must be submitted on the approved application form. Applicants will need to read the Instructions to Applicants and comply with application requirements. The NHMRC web site has the Funding Policy, Instructions to Applicants and Application Form at:

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/train/industry.htm>

The application must include evidence of agreement between the industry research fellow, the industry partner and the academic institution, in relation to the ownership and associated rights of intellectual property arising from this research activity. Evidence of agreement with an industry partner for a placement must be provided with the application.

Selection

A selection panel will assess applications based on the following criteria:

- evidence of a significant interest in the commercialisation of research;
- evidence of support from an appropriate industry partner to provide opportunities for the applicant to gain broad experience in aspects of commercialisation;
- evidence of appropriate arrangements provided by the industry partner in supporting the applicant's research proposal;
- a track record of research excellence and commercial interest; and
- the scientific and commercial merit of the proposed program.

Assessment of the industry partner will be based on:

- evidence of a business focus directed to areas of human health, for example, medical devices, pharmaceutical products, diagnostics, bioinformatics, biomaterials, etc.
- evidence of active involvement in research and development at the proposed site of tenure; and
- commitment to provide the applicant with professional exposure to different aspects of project planning and commercial development within an R&D environment.

Industry Fellowships close on 27 June 2003 for funding commencing in 2004.

General information is available on the NHMRC website

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/develop.htm>

For further details contact the Research Office in academic institutions or email:

indprog@nhmrc.gov.au