

Industry Fellowships 2003

Information for Industry

Background

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.

Participation by industry

The NHMRC invites all interested industry groups in related health research areas to participate in Industry Fellowships. We believe that it is in our mutual interest to strengthen the links between research and industry and to facilitate the translation of research into useful products, processes and commercial gains.

Fellowships

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.

Fellowships are 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.

The funding package is identical during the industry phase and the research institution phase. Research expenditure incurred during the industry phase should be provided by the industry partner. Applications must detail the operating funding support that will be provided by the industry partner for this phase. During the industry phase of the fellowship, the applicant will be bound by the employment conditions of the industry partner.

Industry Fellowship funding is provided to administering institutions approved by the NHMRC, and the NHMRC must approve the industry placement. The administering research institution will manage the fellowship for the life of the award.

NHMRC Industry Fellowships

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 Funding Policy, Instructions to Applicants and Application Form will be available by **mid-April 2003** 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

The NHMRC 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.

Conditions of Funding

Industry Fellowships are offered under a Deed of Agreement (People), which is available on the NHMRC website at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/general/condnew.htm>

A progress report is to be submitted to the NHMRC at the end of the industry component and a final report is to be submitted within 3 months of the completion of the fellowship. Reports on activities during the industry placement should be cleared by the industry partner in the context of commercial-in-confidence materials, prior to submission to the NHMRC.

For further details contact - Indprog@nhmrc.gov.au or phone 1800 500 983