



Briefing Session for 2022 Open Call for Research Fellowship Scheme

Research Fund Secretariat
Research Office
Health Bureau
November 2022



Outline

- Overview of the Scheme
- Eligibility and Requirement
- Review Process
- Points to Note
- Monitoring and Presentation

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Overview of the Scheme

Research Fellowship Scheme

Administration

- Research Fund Secretariat, Health Bureau

Establishment

- August 2015

Operation

- Annual basis

Components

- Training programme
- Research project

Objectives

- Support researcher or professionals, particularly healthcare professionals, in their **early to mid-career** to enhance their skills in **public health and health services research**.
- Provide an opportunity to attend overseas training programmes –
 - To broaden horizons and equip with the knowledge and skills to become independent scientists/researchers
 - To apply the acquired knowledge/skills to conduct a small scale original research project

Framework (1)

Support successful applicant -

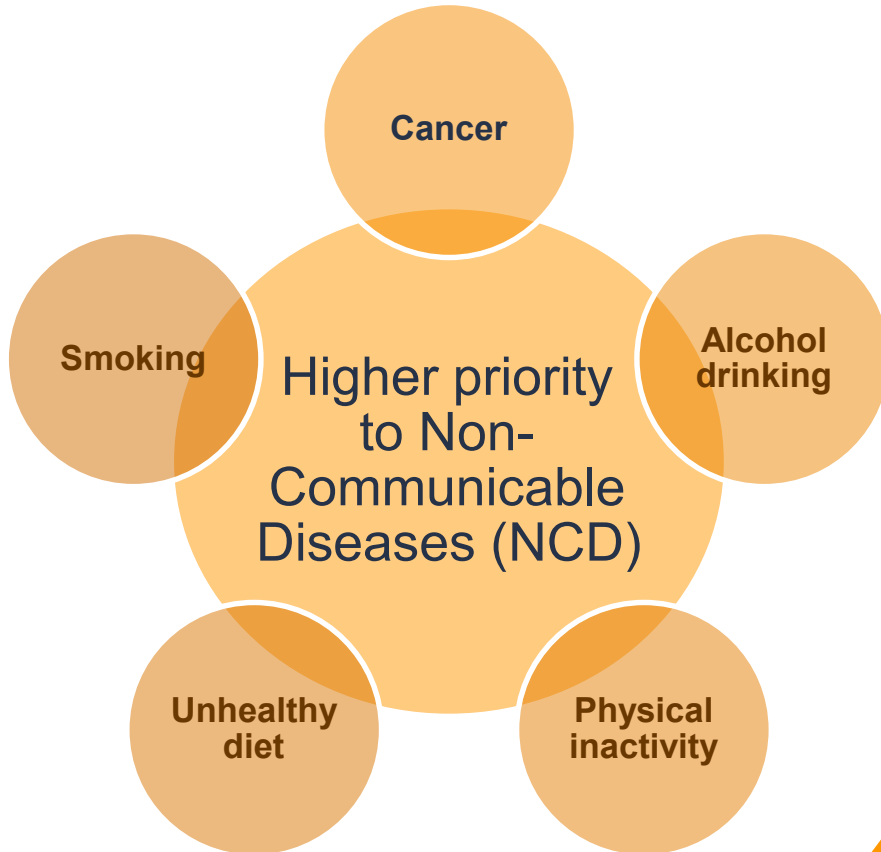
- To attend overseas training programme (at least 3 months cumulatively)
- To carry out an original research project in public health or health services

Projects will not be considered -

- Basic science research
- low translational value
- long time for influencing health practice



Framework (2)



Grant Size

■ **\$1.2 million** for up to **2 years**

1

\$0.4 million (**maximum**) for **overseas** training programme

- Training/course fee
- Air package (up to **two round-trip** economy class)
- Accommodation expenses
- Subsistence allowances

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\$0.8 million for research project

- Staff costs (including cost for research staff and reliever)
- Other expenses
- Equipment

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Eligibility and Requirement

Application Streams

Stream A (16 awards)

Tertiary institutions funded by the UGC

Stream B (4 awards)

Designated **teaching hospitals** of the medical schools of CUHK and HKU, i.e.

Prince of Wales Hospital and **Queen Mary Hospital**

Eligibility (1)

Fellowship Applicant (FA)

- Medical and health-related professionals or researchers
- < 10 years' post-doctoral or post-qualification
- Full-time employees of the Administering Institutions (AIs)
- Based at same AI throughout the fellowship period
- Support from a Mentor*

*A full-time staff of the AI. For Stream B, the Mentor can be a full-time staff of the respective medical school of HKU & CUHK

Eligibility (2)

Ineligible Applicant



FA with ongoing fellowship project



Resubmission of previously rejected application

Requirement for training programme



Train FA to become a scientist/researcher

Clinical attachment that cannot improve FA's research capability

Knowledge/skills should be relevant and applicable to the research project

Degree programme (e.g. Master or PhD degree)

Details of purpose, duration, activities, relevance to the research project and deliverables

Requirement for research project (1)



- Health and health services related
- Apply knowledge and skills acquired in the training programme
- Original with advancement in scientific knowledge
- Translational potential within short-to-medium timeframe
- Small-scale study with ≤ 3 research objectives
- Pilot studies or proof of concept studies*

*Studies which aim to verify the practical potential of some concepts or theories. E.g., early testing of potential efficacy, safety or feasibility of a treatment.

Requirement for research project (2)



- Simple replication of previous overseas studies
- Develop methods/ techniques/research platforms without evaluation of the tool in a clinical setting

EXAMPLE

An engineering project aims solely to develop a medical device without evaluation of the accuracy, reliability and feasibility of the device on patients



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Review Process

Application submitted via eGMS

Complete the e-form

- <https://rfs.healthbureau.gov.hk/eGMS/>

Attachments

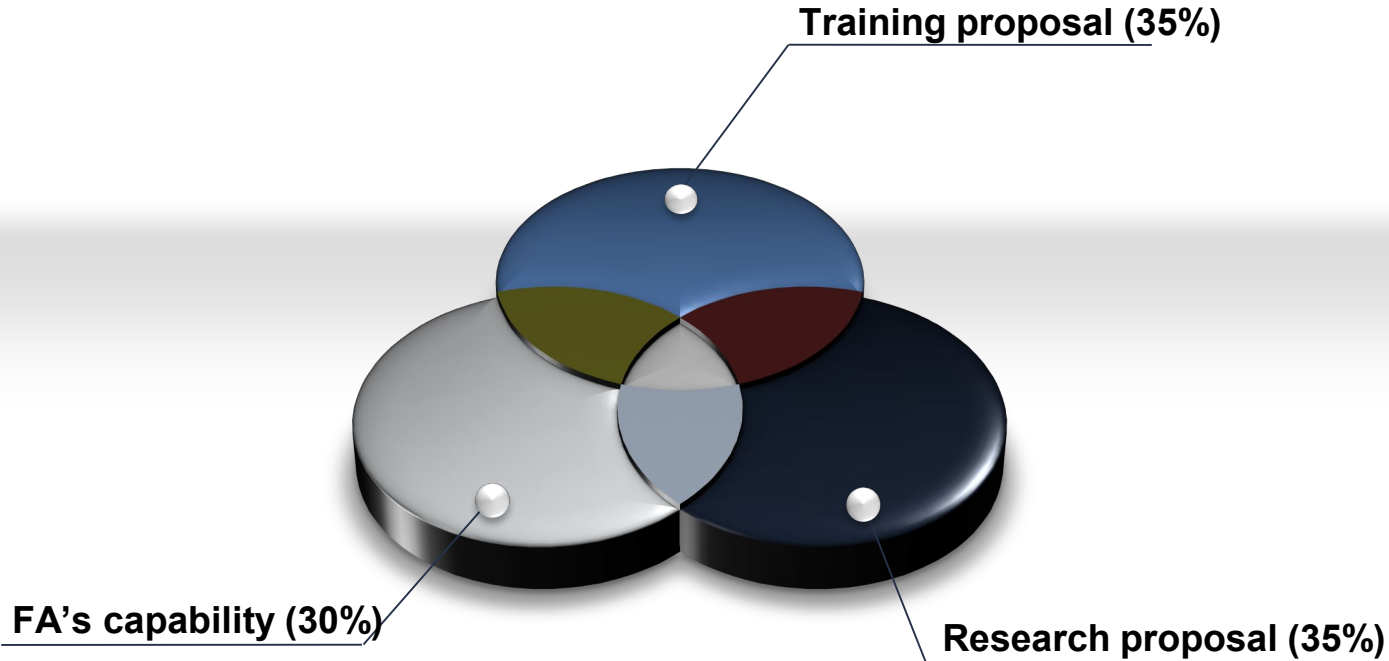
- Nomination letter from President/Vice-Chancellor (for Stream A) / Hospital Chief Executive (for Stream B)
- Mentor's endorsement and CV

Review process



[^] Fellowship should commence within 6 months from the date of approval letter

Assessment criteria



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Points to Note

Points to note - submission

eGMS electronic Grant Management System

- Submission via AI in eGMS by 31 Jan 2023 (18:00 HKT)
- FA will receive acknowledgement email



Pay attention to AI's internal deadline, if any



Application with incomplete signatures/ electronic endorsement may not be considered



1 application per FA



Maximum 8 applications per AI,
except HKU and CUHK for up to 10 applications

Points to note – Regulatory / Ethics Approval / Consent for accessing third-party data

Ethical/safety/regulatory approvals/consent

- Submit within 12 weeks (or as specified by the Secretariat) after announcement of funding decisions

Clinical Trial Certificate/Medicinal Test Certificate

- Confirm with Department of Health if required as early as practical

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Monitoring and Presentation

Monitoring

Training report
(1 month after training)

Evaluation surveys

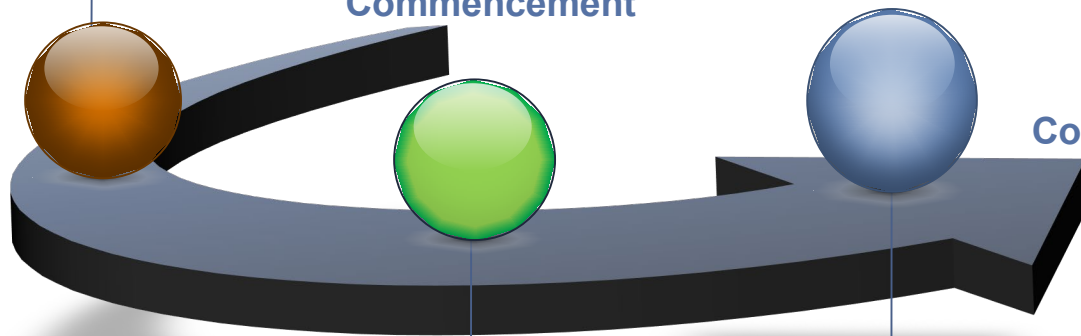
For outcomes and impacts
at 2 and 4 years after
completion

Commencement

Completion

**Interim report & certified
financial report**
(every 12 months)

**Final report,
dissemination report &
audited accounts**



Presentation

Achievements

**Project
Deliverables**

**Learning
Experience**





THANK YOU




<https://rfs.healthbureau.gov.hk/>



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Points to note – Management of track records of applicants

- 
- Unethical practices
 - Non-disclosure of relevant information
 - Non-compliance with agreement
 - Plagiarism
 - Double dipping

Points to note - Award

Conditional & Not transferable

Changes to training/research plan

- Prior approval required
- Provide strong justifications
- Normally not allowed on scope / objective of research or training plan

Project Extension

- ≤ 12 months cumulatively: valid justifications needed
- > 12 months cumulatively: on a discretionary basis