

NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards* 2021 Competition Guide

Deadline: Friday 23 July 2021 at 5:00 pm in the applicant's time zone

NMIN's Priority Areas for the Development of HQP

The NanoMedicines Innovation Network's (NMIN) Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Program seeks to cultivate the next generation of nanomedicine scientists and entrepreneurs, and to train the skilled workforce required by the burgeoning Canadian nanomedicines ecosystem.

- *Priority Area 1:* Nanomedicine Research Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 2:* IP Creation and Commercialization Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 3:* Entrepreneurial and Leadership Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 4:* Communication and Knowledge Mobilization Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 5:* Genetics, Ethical, Environmental, Economic, Legal and Social (GE³LS) Issues Awareness and Understanding

Program Overview

The goal of the NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards* is to enable exceptional postdoctoral fellows (PDF) to pursue nanomedicine academic research training with Canadian experts. The award is intended to develop nanomedicines academic research expertise across Canada.

The quality of the research project and training opportunity is the principal criterion on which applications will be judged. Eligible academic foci include Proof-of-Concept (PoC) and Proof-of-Principle (PoP) nanomedicine projects.

Preference will be given to:

- I. Projects jointly funded by industry partners, or,
- II. Projects that exhibit a high potential for commercialization.

Available Awards

A total of one (1) award is available for up to two (2) years in duration:

- One (1) NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Award* in Gene Therapy

Value and Duration of the Award

- NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Awards* provide a stipend of \$40,000 a year for a maximum of two years, ending no later than 31 March 2024.
 - Supervisors are encouraged to augment this award with funding from other sources.

- Awardees will be eligible to receive year-two funding subject to NMIN's satisfactory evaluation of a written report demonstrating progress.

Applicant Eligibility

- Postdoctoral fellows employed by a Canadian university or Canadian partner institution and in good academic standing are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- Applicants must be supervised by an NMIN Investigator.
- The Award must be held at a Canadian university or research institute.
- The host institution must be an NMIN signatory or become a signatory by agreeing to the terms and conditions of Network participation, as set out in the NCE Network Agreement.
- Should a successful applicant already hold a concurrent federally funded award, the Award will be pro-rated according to CIHR guidelines. Should an awardee receive additional federal awards, a similar reduction will be made according to CIHR guidelines.
- Awardees are required to notify NMIN immediately of any and all awards received during the term of the NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Award*.

Conditions of Funding

- All conditions specified in the [CIHR Application Administration Guide](#) shall apply to applications funded through this Call for Applications.
- Any unspent funds must be returned to NMIN immediately on the last day of the three-month period following the official termination date.
- NMIN will specify any additional conditions of funding in the award offer and/or funding letter.

Application Content

Applicants are requested to complete the NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Award* application form, which includes the following:

1. Applicant Details
2. Relevant Work Experience
3. Academic Background
4. Scholarships and Other Awards
5. Partner Funding in hand or pending
6. A description of the proposed research project (maximum five pages, 11pt Arial, excluding references, which may be appended on a separate page). Include information on:

- a. The potential to commercialize research results
- b. Funding from industry partners
7. A brief (maximum two page, 11pt Arial) applicant statement describing:
 - a. How the NMIN *Postdoctoral Fellowship Award* will contribute to your career development and the training opportunity to be provided.
 - b. The impact of your research as a foundation project for your career.
 - c. The training opportunity including the nature of the learning environment and mentoring to be provided.
8. CV of the applicant.
9. CV of the supervisor(s).
10. Three letters of support, one from the candidate's proposed supervisor(s). The supervisor(s)' letter must indicate institutional support for the fellowship, *i.e.*, resources to be provided, protected research time, additional financial support held or anticipated for this applicant, *etc.* Letters of support must be sent directly to Leah Graystone, leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca.
11. Official transcripts of the applicant's graduate training, including proof of any degrees completed, in the original sealed envelope or sent directly to Leah Graystone, leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca.
12. Disclaimer and Signatures

Application Submission

Please submit the application package electronically in PDF format to Leah Graystone, HQP and Events Coordinator, at leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca. Only electronic applications will be accepted.

Letters of support and transcripts can be submitted directly to Leah Graystone at leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca. If electronic transcripts are not available, please follow up with Leah Graystone, leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca, for a mailing address.

Evaluation Process

- Applications will be screened by the NMIN Administrative Centre staff for completeness.
- Eligible applications will be subject to peer review arranged by NMIN, which will recommend applications for final decision by NMIN's Research Management Committee (RMC).

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence of the Applicant:

- i. Relevance of work experiences in relation to the proposed project
- ii. Excellence of academic achievements

- iii. Number and relevance of scholarships and other awards received
- iv. Availability of partnered funding

Excellence of the Research Project:

- v. Quality and clarity of the proposed research project
- vi. Potential for significant scientific contribution to the field of nanomedicine
- vii. Potential to commercialize research results
- viii. Availability of funding from industry partners

Scope of Benefits to the Applicant (Applicant Statement):

- ix. Appropriateness of the proposed research or training project to further the candidate's research capacity and potential for a career in academe or industry
- x. Strength of learning environment and associated research infrastructure

CVs:

- xi. Research accomplishments to date, including evidence of independence and originality
- xii. Extent of publication record and contributions to published work
- xiii. Supervisor/mentor qualifications and track record

Letters of Support:

- xiv. Strength of the Letters of Support
- xv. Provision of additional financial support held or anticipated for the applicant

Transcripts:

- xvi. Academic record to date

Notification Process

Decisions will normally be communicated to applicants no later than November 1, 2021.

Branding, Attribution and Publications

- Awardees must acknowledge the assistance given by NMIN in any publication or presentation made during or resulting from the tenure of the Award, in accordance with the [NMIN Branding & Attribution Guidelines](#).
- NMIN shall be provided with a copy, at the time of submission, of all manuscripts and presentations submitted for publication that arise from the efforts of the awardee during the tenure of this Award.

Monitoring, Performance Measurement and Evaluation

NMIN is committed to demonstrating results to Canadians for the public funds it invests on their behalf. Therefore, processes for monitoring progress and appropriate use of funds, as well as

for performance measurement and program evaluation are in place. To this end, funding recipients must:

- Contribute to the monitoring, review and evaluation of NMIN's programs, policies and processes by participating in networking activities including Research Conferences/Scientific Meetings, as well as participating in evaluation studies, surveys, workshops, audits and providing data and reports as required for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results;
- Encourage their associates, trainees and administration to participate in the monitoring, review and evaluation of NMIN's programs, policies and processes as required;
- Sign NMIN's *NCE Network Agreement* and comply with the Agreement's provisions.

Intellectual Property and Commercialization

- Awardees and their host institutions must be signatories to the NMIN *NCE Network Agreement*.
- NMIN requires that it be informed of any commercial exploitation arising from activities supported through the Award in accordance with the terms and conditions of the *NCE Network Agreement*

Contact Information

For further information or assistance in completing the application, contact:
Leah Graystone, HQP and Events Coordinator at leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca, or
289-567-0434

Application Check List

- Application Form – Complete Sections 1 - 13
 - NOTE:
 - Use 11pt Arial
 - Proposed research project - maximum five pages
 - Applicant statement - maximum two pages
 - CVs for both the applicant and the proposed supervisor(s)
 - List of authors of three Letters of Support (to be sent directly to Leah Graystone)
 - List of institutions and degree to which official transcripts of the applicant's graduate training will be provided (to be sent directly to Leah Graystone)
 - Disclaimer and Signatures
- Application Form – Additional Documentation
 - Three letters of support - one must be from the candidate's proposed supervisor(s).
 - Official transcripts of the applicant's graduate training, including proof of any degrees completed, sent separately in the original sealed envelope.