



Future Leader Fellowship

Eligibility and Award Stipulations

Please read this document in conjunction with the How to Apply document carefully before completing an application form.

The Heart Foundation: supporting life-saving research

The Heart Foundation is an independent, Australia-wide, not-for-profit health organisation, funded almost entirely by donations from the Australian public.

Our purpose is to reduce premature death and suffering from heart, stroke and blood vessel disease in Australia.

The Heart Foundation offers awards to fund research which is conducted primarily in Australia and is engaged in research related to cardiovascular health.

Research Program Contact

Email: research@heartfoundation.org.au

Phone: (03) 9321 1581

How to apply

All applications must be submitted through the Heart Foundation's Researcher Portal. This link will be accessible through the Heart Foundation website, along with further award details

<https://portal.heartfoundation.org.au/>

Please note, you should direct all eligibility and application content enquiries to the research office of your institution.

General information

The Heart Foundation may vary the conditions under which the award is made by granting prospective or retrospective awards.

Administering Institution

The research supported by the Heart Foundation award must be administered by an [NHMRC Administering Institution](#).

The Administering Institution (or its affiliate) shall provide the facilities and services necessary for the efficient conduct of research during the term of the award.

The Heart Foundation requires that all Administering Institutions will have appropriate policies and procedures in place to deal with any allegations of research misconduct that may arise.

An application must be endorsed by the Administering Institution's Research Office, before it is regarded by the Heart Foundation as submitted. The Heart Foundation funding process only recognises NHMRC Administering Institutions.

It is the responsibility of the applicant and the Research Administration Officer (RAO) to ensure that the application is complete and accurate.

Applications must be endorsed by the Research Office of the Administering Institution and submitted online by 5.00pm (AEST) on the due date. Applications that are late, or do not adhere to the instructions will not be considered further.

Funding from the tobacco industry

The individuals, research groups or research institutions associated with a Heart Foundation grant or award shall not accept any money by way of research grants, consultancies or sponsorships from the tobacco industry or persons connected with the tobacco industry. This includes direct funding, as well as advertising, sponsorship, gifts or loan of goods or services, or funding by any other means.

Eligibility Criteria and Conditions

The Future Leader Fellowship (FLF) supports researchers in developing their own research portfolio and assisting them in becoming leaders of cardiovascular research groups. Eligibility for the two levels of funding offered within this award is as follows:

- Applicants must be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, a permanent Australian resident or have applied for Australian permanent residency at the time of the application.
- Applicants are expected to have spent at least two years actively contributing to cardiovascular research.
- Applicants must adhere to application word limits.
- For the Level 1 Fellowship applicants must be three to seven years post awarding of their PhD on the application closing date.
- For a Level 2 Fellowship applicants must be seven to ten years post awarding of their PhD on the application closing date.
- Current level 1 awardees may apply for a level 2 FLF, however if successful they will be required to relinquish their level 1 award.
- Applicants may apply in a level higher than they are eligible for based on the number of years since their PhD confirmation, however, applications will only be considered in the requested category.
- Applicants may apply in a level lower than they are eligible for if they can demonstrate that their 'effective' number of years since the date that their PhD thesis was passed falls within the eligibility range, once Career Disruption (detailed in question 'Relative to Opportunity') is considered.
- Career Disruption includes major illness, and or carer responsibilities including parental leave. Career disruption is not:
 - absence from work less than 28 calendar days;
 - employment outside the research sector including time spent working in industry;
 - clinical, administrative or teaching workload;
 - relocation of laboratory or clinical practice setting
 - other similar circumstances that impact upon research productivity.

Applicants may only apply within one Heart Foundation fellowship category or type (including the Heart Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowships) in any year. Should an applicant apply within multiple fellowship categories or types, all applications from that candidate will be removed from further consideration.

Length of fellowship

All Future Leader Fellowships are tenable for four years. They may be full time or part time at a minimum of 0.6 FTE.

Requests for FTEs less than 0.6 FTE will not be considered by the Heart Foundation.

Awardees may apply to reduce their FTE during the period of the Fellowship for personal reasons such as carer responsibilities. Requests to reduce FTE for vocational reasons will typically not be granted, however requests will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Awardees may apply to extend the length of the award as a result of the approved FTE reduction, reduction in full-time FLF and extension applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The total length of the reduced FTE Fellowship will be no more than the equivalent of four years at 1.0 FTE.

Partner/Co-funding

The Heart Foundation may seek funding opportunities with other nationally competitive institutions and funding bodies to fund as many top-quality researchers as possible. Applicants who have successfully applied for similar awards to other agencies within the same year may be offered the opportunity to receive a co-funded award.

Timing

Successful applicants may choose to commence their Fellowship on either 1 January, 1 April, or 1 July. Special permission to commence on a different date must be approved by the Heart Foundation, prior to signing of a funding agreement.

Other activities

Fellows shall spend a minimum of 80% of their FLF FTE time on research. Participation in teaching and attendance at advanced courses relevant to the research program may be allowed if they occupy only a small proportion of FLF time. The private practice of medicine and routine clinical or administrative duties are not compatible with the fellowship. Fellows may not receive regular remuneration or grants that contain additional salary support in addition to the fellowship award except with prior approval from the Heart Foundation.

Concurrent or other appointments involving remuneration

The Heart Foundation may allow a fellow to engage in a small amount of additional paid work; however, permission must be sought from the Heart Foundation prior to the work being undertaken.

A Fellow proposing to accept a substantive paid appointment will normally be required to relinquish the fellowship. In such cases, the Fellow shall advise the Heart Foundation in advance of accepting the new appointment.

Application assessment

Only eligible and complete applications will proceed to peer review. The Review is conducted by an independent Peer Review Committee made up of eminent cardiovascular researchers with broad research experience in areas including biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research.

Applications are assessed on:

- relevance to cardiovascular health,
- leadership potential,
- track record,
- the quality and feasibility of the research proposal.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in October and successful applicants will be provided with administrative details for their funding.

Stage 1: Executive Summary Review - Assessment of leadership potential and relevance to cardiovascular health

The Committee will assess all applications against each other based on **the executive summary** consisting of:

- leadership potential
- relevance to cardiovascular health
- Project Synopsis/Outcomes
- Career Disruptions
- Relative to Opportunity
- Equity
- Project plan (abridged version)
- Research Environment

The assessment of 'leadership potential' will be based primarily on the 'indicative criteria' provided in the how to apply document.

It is expected that only the top 30-50% of applications will proceed to the next stage of assessment.

Feedback will not be provided to candidates who are unsuccessful at this stage (up to 70% of applications).

Stage 2: Detailed review of full application

Each application which has progressed from Stage 1 of the peer review process, will undergo a detailed review that will assess:

- track record (*weighted 50%*)
- significance and potential impact of the research (*weighted 25%*)
- quality and feasibility of the research proposal (research environment; scientific merit of the project plan; potential impact of the research; quality of the

proposed project budget and how it allocates support payments) (*weighted 25%*)

The Committee will rank all applications and select approximately 30 applications to proceed to interview.

Applicants who do not proceed to interview will receive quantitative feedback on their ranking.

Stage 3: Interview

Applicants who have progressed from Stage 2 of the peer review process will be interviewed by the entire Peer Review Committee.

Fellowship interviews will occur at the beginning of October. Unsuccessful interviewees will receive post-interview feedback.

It is expected that invited interviewees will attend at their own expense.

The Committee will then make funding recommendations to the Heart Foundation. Funding recommendations are considered by the Heart Foundation's Research Committee and Research Strategy Committee.

Successful Applicants

Payment of Award

Future Leader Fellowships provide both salary support and project funding. Stipend and project support funding levels for Fellowships:

	Level 1	Level 2
Project support	\$40,000 p.a.	\$50,000 p.a.
Stipend – Year 1	\$90,000	\$110,000
Stipend – Year 2	\$91,500	\$112,000
Stipend – Year 3	\$93,000	\$114,000
Stipend – Year 4	\$94,500	\$116,000

Payments will be made quarterly and in advance. Administering institutions will be required to submit a tax invoice (in accordance with the GST Act) to the Heart Foundation at the start of each quarter.

The Heart Foundation operates on a calendar year basis and funds not invoiced for within the calendar year will not be available after 31 December of that year.

Stipends offered are exclusive of Superannuation Guarantee Contribution, workers compensation, leave loading and payroll tax.

Funding agreements

All applicants and administering institutions will be required to sign the Heart Foundation funding agreement. Failure to do so will preclude eligibility for the award.

The funding agreement includes reporting requirements and stipulations of the award (including changes). It is important that administering institutions and awardees are familiar with the funding agreement.

The funding agreement will be prepared by the Heart Foundation and its content is not open to negotiation.

Awardee Obligations

As required, awardees are expected to:

- Submit progress reports and financial acquittals in accordance with awardees funding agreement
- Notify the Heart Foundation of any amendments /changes to the project or awardee employment.
- Make the results of their research available through the usual scientific channels
- Contact the Research Program in advance of publications going to press or conference presentations occurring (where possible)
- Acknowledge the Heart Foundation in publications and presentations
- Send published papers to the Research Program
- Participate in peer review of applications
- Participate in Heart Foundation promotional initiatives

Conduct of research and clearance requirements

Safeguarding the rights and welfare of human subjects involved in research and maintaining high standards for the humane treatment and welfare of animals used during the tenure of a Heart Foundation award is the responsibility of the awardee and of the institution in which the award is tenable.

Research funded by the Heart Foundation shall be conducted in accordance with the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)*.

Ethics clearances required for the award, as outlined in the funding application, must be obtained and maintained for the duration of the Project and copies of these clearances shall be provided to the Heart Foundation within 30 days of approval, or as requested.

Individuals, investigators or research institutions associated with Heart Foundation awards shall abide by the current NHMRC Guidelines issued pursuant to Section 95 of the Privacy Act 1988.

Confidentiality and Commercial-in-Confidence

All applications will be treated confidentially and will only be viewed by assessors, the review committees, and Heart Foundation Research Program staff.

The Heart Foundation acknowledges that some applications may have commercial outcomes and that in some instances commercially sensitive information may not be included in a funding application to protect the Intellectual Property (IP) of the project. However, applications must include sufficient information pertaining to the scientific rationale and principles underpinning the research for it to be vigorously peer-reviewed and assessed. As all applications are kept Commercial-In-Confidence, and the Heart Foundation adheres to the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, which protects any IP in the application, the provision of sufficient detail for peer review will not jeopardise their commercialisation potential.