



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program

Faculty of Medicine

University of British Columbia Healthy Aging Postdoctoral Fellowship Application Guidelines

Updated Thursday, September 22, 2022

Award Description

The University of British Columbia (UBC) Healthy Aging Postdoctoral Fellowship is intended to provide financial support to exceptional postdoctoral researchers to conduct research relevant to healthy aging at UBC. The goal is to attract, develop and train promising researchers, early in their careers, to support the advancement of world-class aging research in British Columbia (BC).

Award Terms

Awards are for 1 year in duration and must be taken up between June 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023. Awards are valued at \$60,000 CAD, with the possibility of a one-year renewal contingent upon satisfactory research progress and engagement with the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program. We anticipate there being enough funds for two fellowships in this initial competition.

Eligibility

The applicant must:

- Hold a PhD or MD, or will hold a PhD or MD, prior to the anticipated start date of the award.
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or foreign nationals. Although there are no restrictions regarding nationality of applicants, successful candidates must be able to meet all [Canadian immigration requirements](#).
- Be licensed to practice in Canada, if the applicant is a health professional (MD).
- Have a confirmed postdoctoral appointment at UBC prior to the anticipated start date of the award. Note that the appointment does not have to be confirmed prior to the application deadline just before the start date of the award (June 1 – Nov 30, 2022).
- Be supervised by a faculty member of the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program.
- Commit at least 80% of their work week actively engaged in research related to their proposed research project.
- Not hold another training award valued at more than \$60,000 CAD. Successful applicants who hold other training awards providing a stipend less than \$60,000 will be offered a top-up award in an amount that provides a total of \$60,000 CAD for all awards.
- Be engaged in research training related to healthy aging and in line with the vision of the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program to help people in BC, Canada and around the world stay healthy, happy and active longer into old age. The research to be conducted by the candidate should directly align with one or more of the four focus areas of the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program [Research | Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program \(ubc.ca\)](#):
 - Geroscience; Understanding the genetic, molecular, and cellular changes that occur with aging and that make aging a risk factor for chronic health conditions and diseases
 - Society-to-cell: Understanding how environmental and social factors throughout the life course influence aging trajectories and health and well being in the later years
 - Prevention and intervention: Developing and implementing strategies to keep people healthy, happy and living in their own communities longer into old age
 - Age-associated diseases: Understanding the mechanisms of disease onset and progression and developing new strategies for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment

- While there are no restrictions regarding time since completion of the doctoral degree or postgraduate medical education, preference will be given to applicants who are earlier in their careers and who are completing their first postdoctoral appointment.

Application Requirements

- A completed **UBC Healthy Aging Postdoctoral Fellowship Cover Sheet** (available on the website).
- Written sections. All written sections should be completed in Calibri 11-point font, single spaced, with 1-inch margins. Including:
 1. **Proposed research** (2 pages maximum): A description of the research project to be completed during the duration of the award, including the relevance to the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program, the objectives, methods/approach, and significance and impact of the project. An additional 1 page can be provided for references and 1 page for figures/tables.
 2. **Description of applicant's career goals** (350 words maximum): The applicant should describe their academic and/or career goals and how the UBC Healthy Aging Postdoctoral Fellowship will help them achieve those goals.
 3. **Significant contributions** (1 page maximum): Applicants should describe up to five of their most significant contributions relevant to their field of research and/or practice. Examples may include publications, symposium presentations, outreach activities, etc.
 4. **Contextual perspective** (optional, 350 words maximum): To assist reviewers in understanding the context of an applicant's career trajectory or field of research, they should provide any relevant contextual information. For example, the specifics of the applicant's field of research and/or practice (e.g. standard type or quantity of publications for a given career stage, authorship, choice of journals to publish in, type of scholarly outputs typical for the field, length of time to complete studies, etc.). If an applicant's training or career has taken place outside Canada and the research or educational environment was significantly different from that in Canada, they can explain these differences, as relevant to their research and career (e.g. availability of research funding, academic positions, etc.). Applicants are also invited to describe any lived experiences that relate or contribute to their research.
 5. **Career interruptions** (optional): If relevant, applicants should describe any academic and/or career interruptions due to personal circumstances that may have influenced past progress or productivity.
- **Curriculum vitae (CV)**: Any format is acceptable and should include current appointment(s)/affiliations, past appointments/positions, education, awards and recognitions, research grant funding held (if applicable), conference presentations, publications, and knowledge exchange/outreach activities. Other relevant information can also be included. If the applicant has a Canadian Common CV (CCV) account then it is suggested they submit a version of the CCV that is relevant to their discipline (e.g. CIHR Project Biosketch CCV).
- **Two reference letters**: One reference letter must be from the applicants PhD supervisor (for applicants holding a PhD). For candidates holding an MD, one reference letter should be written by an individual who can attest to the applicant's research experience and aptitude. In extenuating

circumstances, where a letter from the applicant's PhD supervisor is not feasible, a member of the applicant's PhD supervisory committee may provide a letter. **Reference letters should be emailed by the Referee directly to the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program, and not by the candidate, to ensure confidentiality. Letters can be emailed to healthy.aging@ubc.ca prior to the award deadline.**

- **Supervisor support letter:** A letter written and signed by the faculty member who will serve as the supervisor during the tenure of the fellowship. The letter should indicate support for the applicant to conduct the research project under their supervision and that the appropriate resources are in place, or will be in place, to ensure the proposed project is successful. In the case that the applicant is co-supervised, a separate letter should be written by each co-supervisor indicating their support. **Supervisor support letters should be emailed by the Supervisor directly to the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program healthy.aging@ubc.ca prior to the award deadline.**

Submission Procedure

Completed applications should be emailed to healthy.aging@ubc.ca. Applications are due **March 1, 2023 by 4 PM PST**. Applicants should attach just one PDF document that includes the application form, the written sections, and their CV merged as one PDF file. The name of the PDF should include the applicant's last and first name(s). Late submissions will not be accepted.

Evaluation Criteria

Excellence in scholarly work and independent research (50%)

- Quality of scholarly contributions to research to date, taken into consideration career stage, career interruptions, disciplinary standards, and academic path (e.g. MD or PhD)
- Scholarships and awards held
- Ability to conduct research independently and to complete projects in a timely manner
- Duration of academic studies and time since completion of doctoral degree or since completion of postgraduate medical education (for applicants with a MD), taking into account the nature of the program and relevant personal circumstances

Quality of proposed research project (30%):

- Relevance of the proposed project to advancing the science of healthy aging and to the vision of the Edwin S.H. Leong Healthy Aging Program
- Originality and feasibility of the proposed research question(s) and objectives(s)
- Clear description of proposed methods and approach
- Potential significance and impact of the research

Communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities of the applicant (20%)

- Well articulated career goals that have a clear connection to the proposed research
- Participation in knowledge exchange or outreach activities
- Teaching, supervising, or mentoring experience

- Leadership and contributions to field of study, for example, chairing committees, reviewing for journals, organizing conferences and meetings, etc.