



The Meath Foundation Fondúireacht Na Mí

Healthcare Research, Education, Quality Improvement
& Arts in Health at Tallaght University Hospital

Meath Foundation Research Fellowships

The Meath Foundation Research Fellowship Program will fund exceptional innovative, ground-breaking projects that have the potential to advance knowledge or open a new approach to research.

You may submit only one application per round.

The amount of the award will depend on the nature of the work proposed but the maximum total value of a fellowship cannot exceed €75,000

There are four stages for assessing the proposals

Stage 1

Following receipt of the application it will be reviewed to ensure that the eligibility requirements are met

Stage 2

Applications meeting the requirements at stage 1 will be sent to external Assessors for review using the attached criteria for assessment

Stage 3

Assessors will present their reports to the Research Committee

Stage 4

The Research Committee will recommend the successful applicant(s) to the Board of the Foundation for approval.

The formal announcement of award(s) will be made at the Meath Foundation Research Symposium held on the last Friday of November each year.

The Meath Foundation does not provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants and all decisions of the Foundation Board on the awarding of Fellowships are final.

Meath Foundation Research Fellowship

Eligibility, Criteria and Procedure

1. The Meath Foundation Research Fellowship:
 - is a non- taught programme of independent research under an established supervisor that may lead or contribute to a higher degree
 - funding will cover 12 month's salary, or can be paid pro rata over a number of years.
 - will not be awarded more than once to the same applicant.
- 2 Applicants **or their Supervisor must be** employed in a defined capacity by Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) or hold a contract with another institution e.g. Trinity College, Dublin with a contractual arrangement to work in TUH for the duration of the project. Laboratory based research work should preferably be carried out in the Meath Foundation Research Laboratory at TUH. We recognise however that this may not always be possible and consideration will be given to candidates whose work is located elsewhere.
- 3 Applicants must hold a third level primary degree. The proposed research programme must be supervised by an established investigator who should be based on the TUH Campus, Trinity College or another agreed recognised higher educational institution.
- 4 Funding will **cover 12 month's salary**, or can be paid pro rata over a number of years, appropriate to the grade of applicant up to the level of Specialist Registrar or equivalent grade in respect of other disciplines. In addition, it will cover university fees of up to €7,000.
- 5 Successful applicants **will be paid by TUH** for the duration of the Fellowship. Contractual commitment to work in TUH may be a condition of the award depending on the applicant.
- 6 The successful Meath Foundation Fellow will provide timely annual and/or completed written reports, each signed by the supervisor and will be expected to present a report at the annual Meath Foundation Research Symposium.

Holders who do not comply with this requirement will be deemed ineligible for further funding and such failure will be brought to the attention of other grant giving bodies. Failure to provide a project report will mean that the Fellow will be held liable for all monies received from The Foundation during the Fellowship.

- 7 Applicants must state if the Research planned is:
 - (a) Clinical trials
 - (b) Bench-based research at the Meath Foundation Research Laboratory / Other Laboratory
 - (c) Population Health Study
 - (d) Quality, Safety or Risk Study in Healthcare Management
 - (e) Health Services Management Study
 - (f) Other (*please specify*)
- 8 The established investigator must provide a letter of support for the applicant and provide details of relevant experience in supervision and or research including any current supervisory roles.
- 9 The application form must provide a project outline (no more than 2 A4 pages) under the following headings:
 1. Background - Citing relevant literature
 2. Supporting Data

3. Hypothesis or Research Question
4. Outline Programme of Research
5. Gantt Chart/Timeline identifying key project milestones

10 Non-EU applicants must provide evidence of work permit/residency with their application which must be valid to cover the term of the award. In addition where English is not the first language, confirmation of appropriate competencies may be requested.

11 **Award Conditions and Financial Support:**

Applicants must have support from their Line Manager and Executive Team Member/Clinical Director and their agreement to grant leave to undertake the Fellowship.

Once approved successful applicants will be paid through TUH payroll.

TUH will recoup pay-costs from the Meath Foundation.

University/Institute Fees where applicable will be paid by the Meath Foundation upon receipt of an invoice/receipt.

Successful Non Consultant Hospital Doctors will be eligible to participate in the on-call rota and therefore can be covered by the Clinical Indemnity Scheme.

The administrative approach for Fellowship funds is through the Meath Foundation. All payments will be made through the Foundation and will be disbursed according to the terms of the letter of award. Expenditure from the award shall be limited to expenses properly and necessarily incurred for the successful completion of the approved research project.

NOTE: As a charity the Meath Foundation is not in the position to compensate Fellows for administering the Fellowship, institutional overheads, bench fees or indirect costs. These costs cannot be deducted from any of the Fellowship allowances.

12 **Equipment**

The award may be used to purchase a computer, research equipment, supplies and other items for the research project. At the end of the Fellowship, research equipment may be kept by the Fellow upon application and at the discretion of the Meath Foundation.

13 **Publication and Intellectual Property Rights**

Results of research funded by the Meath Foundation must be published in National and International Peer reviewed scientific journals. **The support by the Meath Foundation must be expressly acknowledged** in any publications resulting from work carried out under the Fellowship. Two signed copies must be forwarded to The Foundation office. These may be used by The Foundation in the promotion of its mission.

The Fellowship holder agrees to make themselves available, to all reasonable requests from the Meath Foundation, for their participation in activities relating to furthering the aims of The Foundation e.g. Research Symposium, Foundation Meetings, Fund-raising events etc.

The assignment of intellectual and industrial property rights generated from research conducted under the Meath Foundation Fellowship will be determined by the parties' concerned on a case-by-case basis.

14 **Ethics**

Fellowship awards **are subject to** ethical approval from the TUH/St James's Hospital Ethics Committee for the project submitted.

The successful candidate is expected to maintain a high standard of professional and personal behaviour throughout the tenure of the Fellowship.

In accepting a Fellowship the successful applicant agrees to release the Meath Foundation of all liability for any damage or injuries which may occur while carrying out the funded research project.

15 **General Terms**

The Foundation reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship upon 30 days written notice in the event of the Fellowship holder breaching any of the Regulations contained herein. The Fellow will be required to furnish all necessary reports of research completed or in progress through to the date of termination.

The Foundation and the Fellowship holder shall negotiate in good faith with a view to resolving any dispute arising from an award made by The Foundation, and if necessary involve an agreed third party for that purpose.

16 The Foundation reserves the right to amend these Regulations from time to time and will inform the Fellowship holders thereof.