Application Guidelines for the Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship for the 2020-2021 Application Cycle

Introduction

The Global Health Equity Scholars (GHES; http://ghes.berkeley.edu) fellowship is a 12-month research training program for post-doctoral fellows, advanced PhD students and professional school (MD, DVM, DrPH, DDS, PharmD) students. We are part of the Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars (http://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/scholars-fellows-global-health.aspx), sponsored by the Fogarty International Center (FiC) and several collaborating institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The main objective of the program is to generate a new cadre of global health researchers, educators, and professionals who will be prepared to address the emerging challenges in global health and inequity. These may include health challenges that arise from the world’s burgeoning human settlements known as slums that have developed in urban and rural communities of many low and middle income countries.

The GHES fellowship is designed for: U.S. doctoral students (PhD, DrPH, etc.), professional students (MD, DDS, DVM, PharmD, etc.), post-doctoral fellows, and also non-U.S. post-doctoral fellows) from GHES affiliated LMIC sites.

**U.S. trainees accepted into this program will spend at least 10 months at the collaborating LMIC training sites in their application.** (Please review the GHES International Sites). **Awarded LMIC fellows will spend their fellowship at their GHES affiliated LMIC training site.** All trainees must also attend a mandatory five-day orientation session at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda at the beginning of their fellowship, anticipated to be held mid-July 2020.

Additional details can be obtained from the GHES website (http://ghes.berkeley.edu)

Eligibility

This fellowship is open to:

1. **U.S.-based post-doctoral fellows (PhD, MD, DVM, etc);**
   - Postdocs with an existing appointment at UC Berkeley, University of Arizona, Stanford or Yale are eligible;
   - Postdocs who are offered a postdoc position through this fellowship by a GHES mentor (at UC Berkeley, University of Arizona, Stanford or Yale) are eligible;
   - Postdocs with an appointment at U.S. institutions not affiliated with the GHES. These applicants cannot directly apply without approval from the program manager Maria Teresa Hernandez
(maria.hernandez@berkeley.edu). The program manager needs a CV and a statement of research goals. Any non-affiliated candidates applying without approval will not be considered.

All doctorate candidates must complete the degree by **June 1, 2020** to be eligible as postdoctoral fellow.

2. **U.S.-based advanced doctoral students** enrolled in health-related doctoral programs, supported by a mentor (PI) at one of the four GHES institutions, who have passed their qualifying examination, whose dissertation project can be conducted at one of the GHES sites;

3. **U.S.-based senior professional students** (MD, DDS, DVM, PharmD, etc.) who have completed 3 years of professional school, who have a mentor (PI) at one of the four GHES institutions;

4. **LMIC researchers/investigators** from GHES affiliated LMIC institutions: investigators who have received their doctoral degree within the past 5 years. Please note that when fully supported by the GHES fellowship, the fellow cannot be receiving additional salary from her/his home institution.

- **A U.S.-based applicant must be a citizen of the United States or its territories or possessions, or be a U.S. permanent resident.** A green card number must be included in the application of a U.S. permanent resident.
- **LMIC applicants** must be citizens of any nation exclusive of high-income countries as defined by the World Bank ([http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups](http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups)) or a G20 country.
- All applicants must have demonstrated interest in, and statement of commitment to, a career in global health research.
- All applicants must secure the commitment and letter of support of an affiliated GHES U.S. mentor and an affiliated GHES LMIC mentor.
- For U.S.-based post-doctoral applicants, preference is given to those who have received support from their institution’s NIH T32 or other research training grants, or from their institution’s research-oriented global health residency and fellowship training programs.

**For applicants with other sources of funding:**
- The program can provide partial fellowship to applicants already supported: for instance, T32 fellows can be awarded research-related and travel funds while their stipends are being supported by the T32 fellowship.
- Keep in mind that FIC concurrent support must be allowable from the other sources’ perspective.
- Our program encourages the application of candidates who have additional funding. However, when describing your research proposal, keep in mind that FIC cannot support research activities already funded. You will need to highlight how the GHES proposal differs from your funded activities, and/or how the GHES award would cover expenses not supported by your additional funding.

**Application Instructions**

The application includes the following:
- Personal Statements: prior research experience; career goals and plans
- Research plan: description; site; mentors; additional funding
- NIH Biosketch of the applicants and the GHEs mentors
- Letters of support: from GHEs mentors who are committing to provide support and training for the applicant during the fellowship

2. Upload the following requested attachments:

   **All documents must be uploaded as PDF files.**

   a) **NIH-style Biosketch:** For instructions on how to format your biosketch please refer to NIH guidelines of a FELLOWSHIP biosketch:

   http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

   b) **Transcript:** Applicants who do not yet have their doctoral degree at the time of application must provide a copy of their most recent transcript (non-official transcripts are allowed).

   Postdoctoral applicants already appointed in a research position or in a residency do not need to include a transcript.

   c) **NIH-style Biosketch of both the US and LMIC mentors:** For instructions on how to format please refer to NIH guidelines for biosketch Forms D:

   http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm

3. Letters of Support

   **All applicants must submit a minimum of two letters of support, and a maximum of three letters of support.**

   *Letters should be addressed to the Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship Selection Committee, should be scanned, or saved as a PDF file and emailed directly by the referee to ghes2019application@gmail.com*

   - The first letter should be from a faculty member at the U.S. or LMIC institution who has agreed to serve as the applicant's primary research mentor. The mentor should describe the following items: 1) plan for the fellowship; 2) previous track record in mentoring postdoctoral fellows; 3) on-going collaboration with the site; 4) potential matching between a U.S. and an LMIC colleague (matched research collaborators).

   - The second letter should come from someone who knows the applicant well and can address research accomplishments, research potential, and likelihood of a successful research career in global health
- The third letter/statement should be from the LMIC mentor for U.S. applicants or from the U.S. mentor for the LMIC applicants. It should confirm the commitment to support the candidate during the fellowship, i.e. providing technical and career advice, and support the research project.

Applications must be completed and submitted online by 5:00 PM PDT on November 15, 2019. The online application system will save your partially completed application using your computer ip address and you can return to it later. Please do not submit your application until all required components and attachments have been completed and uploaded. Letters of support will be emailed separately by the referees but must also arrive by November 15, 2020.

Selection Process

A panel of external reviewers will read application materials for all eligible candidates, and will assign a score to each application. The GHES PIs may conduct phone or Skype interviews with applicants as needed. Final selection of fellows will be made by the GHEs executive committee based on candidate’s application materials, the external reviews and, where applicable, a phone/Skype interview.

The first round of fellowship awards will be offered in early March 2020. The second round of fellowship awards may be offered in May 2020. A formal letter of award will be sent to each fellowship recipient. Candidates who were not selected will be informed by email.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- Candidate background (education, research, publications, international experience, language); career statement (evidence of commitment to global health research)
- Research project; feasibility, context and contribution to global health research
- US and LMIC mentors; mentor background (research training experience, publications, commitment to mentoring the applicant)
- Letters of support; mentorship plans for the applicant and training support

Please anticipate these deadlines to avoid a last-minute submission.

Please direct inquiries regarding the GHES program or eligibility to the GHES program manager or GHES coordinators:

Maria Teresa Hernandez, E-mail: maria.hernandez@berkeley.edu

Griselda Ruiz-Braun, E-mail: gr1@email.arizona.edu

Elsio Wunder, E-mail: elsio.wunder@yale.edu

Alisha Rashel Medina, E-mail: alisharm@stanford.edu