Mitacs and MHRC
Partners for Innovation in Mental Health Research
Workplace Mental Health Fellowship 2024 Application Guide

The fellowship guidelines below outline the eligibility and process for support of post-doctoral fellows. Masters, PhD and College students may be eligible to apply to the Studentship stream of this funding partnership.

Deadline to apply: January 31st, 2024

Mitacs empowers Canadian innovation through effective partnerships that deliver solutions to our most pressing problems. For over 20 years, Mitacs has assisted organizations in reaching their goals, has funded cutting-edge innovation, and has created job opportunities for students and postdocs. We are committed to driving economic growth and productivity and to creating meaningful change to improve quality of life for all Canadians. One of these partnerships is with Mental Health Research Canada (MHRC).

MHRC's Focus on Innovation in Mental Health Research:

The purpose of the partnership between MHRC and Mitacs is to support the development of the next generation of mental health researchers. The fellowships funded under this initiative will provide opportunities for post-doctoral fellows to have a direct impact on their communities. Our model aspires to narrow the gap between research and practice and ensure stakeholder engagement in research.

MHRC's research funding provides financial support for researchers which could encompass grant, fellowships, internships and scholarships. An internship is a form of studentship in which the student gains practical experience in a work environment with stakeholders (i.e. in a community organization, hospital, treatment centre). MHRC aims to drive systemic change by encouraging adoption of effective, research-informed and client-centric approaches to mental health treatment.

iA Financial Group's Contribution to Workplace Mental Health Research:

This initiative is generously funded by iA Financial Group (Industrial Alliance), one of the largest insurance and wealth management groups in Canada and in the United States. iA Financial Group is dedicated to actively supporting the next generation of researchers addressing workplace mental health issues by providing funding for studentships and fellowships.

Goals of this partnership:

✓ To support the next generation of mental health researchers and to ensure that Post-Doctoral Fellows are actively engaged in innovative, useful and relevant mental health research

✓ To narrow the gap between research and its impact on end-users

✓ To strengthen relationships between community mental health service providers and academia through collaboration and knowledge sharing

✓ To contribute to the development of a more accessible and impactful mental health system in Canada

Proposal for Post-Doctoral Fellowship Support:

MHRC and Mitacs are partnering through the [Mitacs Elevate program](), to support the brightest post-doctoral fellows conducting research in mental health at Canadian universities and colleges. These fellows will share their time between academic institutions and community service providers, tying together their research with the end-users to ensure the project is tailored to and appropriate for that community's needs and people with lived experience. This application cycle is for the Summer 2024 term (for projects beginning in **June 2024**).

Eligible candidates must be:
- **A Canadian citizen and/or permanent resident AND;**
- **Be a post-doctoral fellow based at an academic institution (including colleges or polytechnics) located in Canada;**
- **Have their date of graduation from a PhD program <u>less than five years</u> from the proposed start date of the project (June 2024),**
- **Be seeking to conduct a mental health research project in collaboration with both an academic supervisor and an eligible community partner (see call for proposals). Preference will be given to projects addressing the unique needs of diverse and/or vulnerable populations in Canada**

Critical Success Factors for projects:

This fully-funded Mitacs-MHRC collaboration (in partnership with iA Financial Group) is designed to address research gaps and improve mental health service delivery to various communities across Canada. Factors critical to success are as follows:

- All projects must have a clear potential for impact in the workplace mental health research;

- Inclusion of members of the target community, ideally those with lived experience, throughout the development and implementation of the research;

- Presence of both a subject matter expert from the partner organization and an academic supervisor at the candidate's institution on the research advisory team to help guide the development of the project, and ensure research rigour, adherence to academic standards and relevance to the target population. There will be situations where academic oversight must be prioritized (e.g. ethics).

- Collaboration with a direct service provider organization at which the research will be carried out;

- Potential for projects to scale both within the community, and across Canada.

NOTE: Each application must represent a unique candidate's project. The same supervising professor and the same partner organization may be present on several requests; however, each submission must clearly demonstrate how the project is unique from others. Each candidate can only submit one application per cycle.

The Mitacs Elevate program does not allow for candidate substitutions. The candidate named on the project proposal cannot be substituted for a new candidate after the application has been submitted. If the named intern departs a project the project will be cancelled.

Financial Mechanics:

Candidates are eligible for funding of $60,000 CAD, for one year, with potential for renewal. For this current round of funding, **projects would begin by June 2024**. Funds are paid directly to the post-doctoral fellow's academic institution following Mitacs Elevate Terms and Conditions.

Application Process:

Applications to the Mitacs-MHRC partnership is a 2-stage process: Preliminary application submitted to MHRC, then formal Mitacs Accelerate proposal submitted to Mitacs.

Stage 1:

Fellowship candidates must be identified at this stage and are the lead applicant for Stage 1. They will have identified their academic supervisor, and their service provider partner organization

(please contact Sarah Fairlie sfairlie@mitacs.ca, Senior Advisor, Social Innovation at if you have any questions about the eligibility of project partners).

MHRC will conduct a review of applications received in Stage 1 and contact applicants with the outcome within 4 weeks of the call-for closing date. The applications will be reviewed for eligibility and match for the critical successes factors for projects listed in this document.

The research proposal must include the following:

1. A high-level description of the proposed research using either:
    a. For application submission via email: please send **MHRC's proposal template** (available on our website) to Barani Ganapathi, grants@mhrc.ca and cc: Sarah Fairlie, sfairlie@mitacs.ca; OR
    b. For applications submission via online form: **online application portal (click here)** to submit your application digitally.
2. A letter of support from the **academic supervisor** addressing how they will provide mentorship and training to the fellow; AND
3. A letter for support from the **partner organization/direct service provider**, confirming its commitment to co-supervising the fellow and its interest in the project.
4. A copy of the fellowship candidate's CV

Due Date: Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 at 11:59 PM EDT

Stage 2:

Successful eligible applicants from Stages 1 will be invited to submit a Mitacs Elevate application no later than **March 20, 2024**. Successful projects should start by **June 2024**.

For questions pertaining to this partnership or application process, please contact:

Barani Ganapathi, Manager, Grants and Studentships, Mental Health Research Canada: grants@mhrc.ca

Sarah Fairlie, Senior Advisor, Social Innovation, Mitacs Inc.: sfairlie@mitacs.ca