

## Hevolution Foundation Postdoctoral Training in Geroscience (HF-PTG) Program Request for Applications (RFA)

### Overview

Hevolution Foundation Postdoctoral Training in Geroscience (HF-PTG) Program will provide funding for PhD and MD/PhD students who want to pursue postdoctoral research training in the biology of aging or geroscience. The Hevolution Foundation will commit up to \$5M USD over a period of 4 years and anticipates funding 12-15 trainees in early 2025.

Applicants must be doctoral students who have finished their PhD or MD/PhD studies prior to the start of the fellowship (earliest graduation date: May 2024, latest graduation date: March 2025). The HF-PTG Program will fund individuals for up to 4 years including salary and funds for consumables and a limited annual child allowance. Applicants must be current residents of the United States, Canada, UK, or Europe and must conduct their research projects in any of these countries.

Calls for other regions, including Asia and Latin America, will be announced at a later time.

The deadline for the full application to the 2024 program is **October 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET**, and the expected award start date will be no later than **April, 2025**.

### The Program

HF-PTG is an international pilot initiative from Hevolution Foundation to increase, retain and diversify the number of postdoctoral trainees in healthy aging research, to foster scientific exchange between the US, Canada, UK, and Europe, and to further our mission of “Extending healthy lifespan for the benefit of all humanity”. This pilot is envisioned as a yearly call for proposals. The major goal of this initiative is to identify and support outstanding PhD and MD/PhD students transitioning into postdoctoral training positions in biology of aging and/or geroscience.

HF-PTG will provide funding for postdoctoral fellows to conduct high-quality research and receive comprehensive mentoring and training in order to successfully launch careers in aging research. The applicant is required to develop a research plan which focuses on strategies to improve healthy aging **by addressing basic principles of aging biology and geroscience**. Research plans with a clinical focus such as the diagnosis or treatment of disease, involvement in a clinical trial, or social context of aging are **not eligible**. HF-PTG is a research-focused fellowship.

Therefore, this initiative will support research approaches that address:

- Basic research on the hallmarks of aging, including topics such as fibrosis, organelle dysfunction, the microbiome, and other areas identified as drivers of the aging process.
- Geroscience research with a clearly defined path towards clinical relevance, including pre-clinical studies on in vivo and in vitro models.
- The maintenance and/or improvement of molecular and cellular mechanisms during aging.

## Funding Range

Hevolution Foundation Postdoctoral Training in Geroscience (HF-PTG) will provide support to fund approximately 12-15 fellows in aging biology or geroscience in 2025.

The annual salary allowance is set to \$75,000 USD. An annual increase of 2% in the salary for subsequent years (years 2-4) will be applied but is subject to the approval of scientific progress and financial reports by the foundation.

In addition, overhead/indirect costs of up to 8% of the total fellowship amount are allowed (see FAQ for more details).

Any unspent funds will be returned to Hevolution at the end of the award period or after completion of the postdoctoral training, whichever occurs first.

## Training-Related Expenses

Hevolution will support the awardee with up to \$7,000 per year to be used flexibly to cover the costs directly associated with the research project, such as core facility use, omic data acquisition, and research supplies. Within the allowable budget of up to \$7,000, funds for computers and software are limited to \$2,000 for the duration of the award, while up to \$2,000 per year is allowed for travel to conferences and meetings directly relevant to the conducted research. All training-related expenses must be justified in writing within the budget section of the application. Any other costs, such as staff salaries, are not allowed. Unspent funds must be returned to Hevolution at the end of the award period or after completion of the postdoctoral training, whichever occurs first.

## Childcare support

Hevolution Foundation recognizes the need to alleviate the impact of high childcare costs on its fellows and if eligible, supports each awardee with additional funds up to \$6,000. The support is intended for fellows with dependent child/ren under the age of 6, attending a childcare facility. Fellows requesting childcare support must provide proof of child attendance from the childcare provider (such as a copy of the current contract) and their official childcare license (no nannies or babysitter costs can be covered). This documentation must be submitted to Hevolution prior to setup of the award of each fellowship year. These funds are meant to provide partial support towards childcare expenses, not cover the entire amount, and cannot be used for other purposes. Unspent childcare funds will be returned to Hevolution at the end of the award period or after completion of the postdoctoral training, whichever occurs first.

## Eligibility

### Eligibility criteria:

- The proposed research plan must be in the basic biology of aging or geroscience.
- Applicants must be current residents of the United States, Canada, UK, or Europe.
- Applicants must conduct their postdoctoral research at host institutions in any of the allowed countries (US, Canada, UK, or Europe)

- Host institutions must be government-funded or be a non-profit institution with appropriate oversight.
- Applicants must be doctoral students who will complete their doctorate degree (PhD or MD/PhD) prior to the award start date (March 2025) or be a recent PhD or MD/PhD graduates (earliest graduation date: May 2024).
- Each applicant is allowed to submit only one application to the HF-PTG program.
- Applicants must start their postdoctoral training appointment by March 2025.
- Applicants may not hold any other concurrent fellowships.
- Mentors and co-mentors need to be current residents of and be located in the US, Canada, UK or Europe.
- Mentors are allowed to supervise multiple fellows funded by this program or be funded by other programs of the Hevolution Foundation.

### The HF-PTG initiative does not provide support for:

- Research on age-related diseases or clinical topics without a clear focus on the underlying biology of aging.
- Research that deals strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes.
- Research that focuses on the behavioral and social determinants of aging, without addressing the underlying biology.
- Research that includes clinical trials.
- Clinical Fellowships
- Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution.

For eligibility and administrative questions please contact us at [hevolutiongrants@afar.org](mailto:hevolutiongrants@afar.org)

## Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be used to determine the merit of an application:

- Qualifications of the applicant based on academic excellence (peer-reviewed publications, conference posters and abstracts, awards, courses taken, etc.).
- Quality of the proposed research plan outlining the research to be conducted, its rationale as well as innovation and creativity of the approach.
- A strong personal statement from the applicant, highlighting his/her motivation to work in the field of aging biology or geroscience and stating the short-term and long-term objectives of career development.
- Strong letter of support from the prospective mentor/s who need to outline an overview of the mentorship plan offering the applicant both educational and scientific guidance.
- Strong endorsement/recommendation letter from the current advisor summarizing the applicant's accomplishments.
- Alignment of the research topic with [Hevolution's mission and goals](#)
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the work proposed.

## Application Process

A full application including a 1-page personal statement, 1-page of specific aims and a 3-page research plan accompanied by biosketches from the mentor/s and applicant as well as letters of support and

endorsement provided by the prospective and current mentor/s must be uploaded to our application website (please see [Instructions](#) for more detail). **Hyperlinks are not allowed.** Incomplete applications cannot be considered.

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee composed of international experts in aging biology and geroscience. Programmatic support will be provided by AFAR, but Hevolution Foundation will be solely responsible for funding and other decisions.

Neither Hevolution Foundation nor AFAR will provide reviewer critiques to any applicants. Final funding decisions will be made by Hevolution Foundation and will be non-appealable.

Click [here](#) for our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). If you are using rodents or human subjects in your research, please review this link for [Instructions](#).

## Timeline

Application deadline for the 2024 program is **October 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET**, and expected award start date is no later than April, 2025.

Phase	Date
Open Submission	May 28, 2024
Deadline to Submit Full Application	October 30, 2024, at 5:00 PM ET
Candidate Selection	January 2025
Award Start	April 2025

## Award and Reporting Requirements

Annual scientific and financial progress report are required, as well as final scientific and financial reports.

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