

RGHI SENIOR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2023

1. Overview

The Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute (RGHI) is pleased to announce the launch of the RGHI Senior Fellowship Programme. The goal of the programme is to stimulate new research and translation of findings into tangible advances in hygiene practices around the world. It encompasses basic research, clinical investigation, epidemiology, behavioural science, sociology, health economics and engineering.

The RGHI Senior Fellowship Programme is open to mid-career researchers (PhD qualification essential). While there is no lower or upper limit on the number of years post completion of PhD, applicants to the RGHI Senior Fellowship Scheme must have demonstrated experience of winning and leading relevant research projects with associated publications, managing and mentoring early-career researchers, and contributing to strengthening the field of global hygiene relevant research. RGHI Fellowships will be funded for a 3-year duration.

The RGHI Senior Fellowships are created to protect time for mid-career researchers to focus on their research and provide:

- Funding for a challenging research or translational project and an ambitious programme of training which offers accelerated professional and career development.
- “Trajectory alerting” academic achievement supporting progression towards long term career goals.
- An enabling environment for international collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers from a diverse range of backgrounds and disciplines

The Senior Fellowship Scheme is open to researchers and will support 50% of their time to an ambitious research and professional development programme. Applicants to the Senior Fellowship must be employed by a university or academic research institution for the duration of the fellowship (3-years from Fellowship start date) and must be employed or secure an offer of employment prior to the submission of the application.

The Fellowships will be issued via a competitive, independent peer review process. The funding will be awarded to the sponsoring academic institution in a manner consistent with global academic practice.

Please see Section 4 for more details on eligibility and Section 5 for more details on allowable costs.

2. Background

Founded in 2020, RGHI aims to support high-quality scientific research addressing the links between hygiene and health. RGHI funds research which generates practical, high-quality scientific evidence and behavioural insights that will lead to the adoption of global sustainable hygienic practices and achieve enduring behaviour change:

- Expand the body of research around and advance the understanding of the links between hygiene and health
- Enhance the understanding of best-in-class hygiene science to encourage new hygiene standards
- Promote behaviour change to improve global hygiene and health
- Inform the global public health agenda

RGHI is funded by a grant from Reckitt Benckiser plc to provide funding for a multi-year portfolio of research grants which contribute to advancement, innovation, and knowledge sharing of hygiene research and practices. Please see the RGHI website (www.rghi.org) for more details on the research projects and fellowships currently supported by RGHI.

3. RGHI research scope and areas of interest

RGHI has adopted the WHO definition of hygiene: "Hygiene refers to conditions and practices that help to maintain health and prevent the spread of diseases." And the WHO definition of health: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". Applicants to the RGHI Senior Fellowship should consider these in relation to the relevance of their proposed study to the RGHI mission.

RGHI has an inclusive definition of hygiene, including hand hygiene, food hygiene, personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene, domestic and surface hygiene, and hygiene in institutions. The specific focus areas are intentionally broad, and applicants should propose a specific focus in line with partnership expertise and interests.

- Exploratory research related to the links between hygiene and health
- Hygiene interventions and their impact on hygiene behaviours, norms and habits
- Implementation research to inform sustainable and scalable approach to hygiene behaviour change
- Research focused on hygiene policy and system strengthening, including economic analysis and evaluation
- Methodological research

Thematic areas of interest include:

- Planetary health and climate change
- One Health e.g. Zoonosis, AMR
- Gender equity and social inclusion
- Hygiene behaviours beyond hand hygiene, e.g. Food hygiene
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4. Eligibility criteria

Who can apply?

The RGHI Senior Fellowship Programme is open to mid-career researchers who are currently or will be based at a university or research institute, and who would like to conduct research on hygiene and health.

Eligibility

- Applicants can be based at a university or research institute anywhere in the world, applications from candidates based in LMICs are encouraged.
- Applicants must hold a current contract of employment or offer of employment from their proposed host institution at the time of application.
- While there is no lower or upper limit on the number of years post completion of PhD, it is essential that applicants to the RGHI Senior Fellowship Scheme have:
 - Successfully completed doctoral studies
 - Demonstrated experience of winning and leading relevant research projects
 - A strong publication record
 - Experience of managing and mentoring early-career researchers
 - An active international collaborator network (across academia and policy) with whom they are working to strengthen the field of global hygiene and health research

Please note: Applicants can be the principal investigator on a Collaborative Research Award or a Senior Research Fellowship, there is no limit to the number of research applications an institution can submit to the RGHI funding calls

5. Cost & Budget Guidance

The RGHI Senior Fellowship will provide support for projects of a 3 year duration. Eligible costs are:

- 50% salary for the Senior Fellow (and associated costs and benefits as determined by the host institution within RGHI Guidelines for the local market) for the three-year duration of the Fellowship. Applicants are asked to spend 50% of time on the Fellowship – applicants requesting to spend a lower percentage of time will be considered with sufficient justification.
- Research expenses up to \$250,000. Note that costs for research assistants and/or laboratory technicians should be included as research expenses where necessary.
- A training budget of \$15,000.
- A travel budget of \$15,000.
- For individuals based at institutions without core funded administrative support, administrative support is allowed but total costs of administrative support should not exceed 0.1 FTE of research admin post.

- A flat overhead rate of 25% of the total direct costs listed above.

The following costs are not eligible for RGHI Senior Fellowship funding:

- Mentor salary
- Equipment over \$5,000
- Non-research related activity costs
- Office furniture, such as desk
- Utilities such as water, electricity, or gas costs

6. Review process, criteria and timeline

Fellowships are awarded on the basis of a rigorous peer-review process with reviews conducted by independent scholars skilled in the Fellowship topics. A Shortlisting Panel will review all applications, and provide a recommendation to invite applicants to interview. Interviews will take place in September 2023. The shortlisting and interview panels will score applications based on the following criteria:

- Applicant's track record to date
- Plans for career development and progression
- High-quality research project aligned with RGHI priority areas
- Potential for impact of the research project
- Value for money

Following the notification of an award, successful applicants will be required to liaise with the RGHI scientific advice and support team at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to ensure the project work plan and timelines are acceptable prior to the contract being issued.

Up to a half of Fellowships issued will be reserved for LMIC applicants at local institutions.

Timeline

- 1st March 2023: Launch call for applications to RGHI Senior Fellowship
- 22nd March 2023: RGHI's grant management system (Foundant) will open for applications
- 31st May 2023: Deadline for submissions
- Early June: RGHI office will check applications for eligibility and completeness
- June/July: peer review and shortlisting
- July/August: shortlisting meeting and invitations to interview issued
- September: Senior fellow interviews and selection committee
- October/November: Notification of candidates and award process commences
- December: Awards announced at RGHI Summit

7. Contracting

The award will be issued to the host institution which will be responsible for reporting and managing the funds. Contracting will comply with US requirements for scientific grants to institutions.

The host institution must agree to a due diligence process and meet US non-profit grant eligibility requirements.

Terms and Conditions

Full Terms and Conditions are available on request

Terms and conditions are available at <https://app.box.com/folder/144790064763?v=RGHI-Public-Policies>. All applicants must be familiar with these Terms and Conditions at the point of application. You must ensure that the Grant Activities are carried out by you, the Grant holder and any Participants or Organizations in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

Contact

Please direct questions to fellowship_admin@mail.rghi.org

Please ensure you have read our FAQs page for more information.

Further guidance can be found in Appendix 1 - 'Guidance for Applicants'.

Appendix 1 - Guidance for Applicants

The application deadline is 31st May 2023.

All applicants are required to submit their application within Foundant, the RGHI grant management system. Applicants are encouraged to register and create an account as soon as possible to avoid delays in the application process. Details of all elements required for an application to the RGHI Senior Fellowship scheme are provided below. Incomplete applications will be returned to applicants.

Lay Summary (Foundant)

Applicants should provide a summary of the research proposed, including key goals and outcomes, for a general audience. Summaries of funded projects may be made public on the RGHI website; applicants are asked not to include any confidential information.

Case for support (upload attachment)

This can be up to 6 pages and should include with the relevant sub-headings;

- Background to the proposed study
- How the project addresses the RGHI priority area
- Study aims and objectives
- Study design and proposed methodology
- Analysis plan
- Timeline of activities for the 3 year award
- Anticipated outputs and pathways to impact (including plans for peer reviewed research papers resulting from the project)

CV (upload attachment)

Applicants must use the CV template available [here](#) and upload it to the relevant section within the grant management system.

CVs must not exceed 3 pages and must be completed in Calibri font size 11 with 2 cm margins.

Items should be listed in reverse chronological order with the most recent first. Further guidance is available within the CV template document.

Personal statement (Foundant)

Personal statements are limited to 3500 characters (including spaces). It should outline their motivation for applying for the Fellowship and how holding the Fellowship will advance their career. The personal statement should also include justification about the choice of host institution.

Training plan (Foundant)

Training plans are limited to 3500 characters (including spaces). The training plan should detail the training and development applicants will undertake as part of the RGHI Fellowship and should be tailored to the applicant's needs and research proposal. Applicants should clearly state how the proposed training program contributes to the overall research and fellowship's aims. Examples include, formal courses, training in specialist skills and methodologies, placements, leadership skills, conference attendance and overseas research visits. Indicative meline for training should also be included.

Letters of support (upload attachment)

- From Head of Department or equivalent at the anticipated host institution. The letter should confirm support to host the Fellowship and administer the award if successful. This letter should also confirm that the applicant currently holds a contract of employment or offer of employment from the host institution (maximum 2 pages)
- From proposed mentor to confirm their support for the application and outline how the proposed work aligns to their expertise (maximum 2 pages)
- From each institution/organization where research will occur (maximum 1 page each)

Justification of resources (Foundant)

A detailed justification of resources must be provided with all applications. The justification of resources must not exceed 7000 characters (including spaces). Each item listed in the budget should be explained and justified within this section. Value for money is an assessment criteria and budgets must be fully justified and commensurate with the fellowship objectives.

Dissemination/public engagement (Foundant)

Dissemination and public engagement information should not exceed 3500 characters (including spaces). This section should include an outline of plans to engage with non-academic stakeholders as well as plans for the dissemination of findings to all stakeholders.

Budget template (Upload attachment)

Applicants must use the budget template available here and upload it to the relevant section within the grant management system. Please see Section 7 on what the senior fellowship will cover.

All documents should be in Calibri font size 11 with normal margins.

Additional notes on Applications

- The application process will conform to local privacy and security requirements
- Foundant will be open for applications from 22nd March 2023
- All Fellowships must be complete on or before 1st January, 2027



Reckitt Global Hygiene Institute

Applications should be submitted through Foundant, RGHI's grant management system, by 5pm EST on Friday 31st May 2023.