

Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship award was endowed by the estate of Keith and Marion Reynolds in memory of their parents. Professor Keith Reynolds served the Department of Pharmacology from 1949-1989 and made major contributions to our understanding of narcotic analgesics and anesthetics. The Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship is intended to provide support for highly qualified candidates engaging in postdoctoral training under the supervision of Faculty members within the Department of Pharmacology, Dalhousie University.

1. Eligibility

- The competition is open to citizens of any country.
- Applicants must hold, or be completing a PhD or equivalent (in accordance with CIHR guidelines e.g. MD, DVM) degree at the time of application.
- The proposed supervisor must be a member (Full, Cross or Joint-Appointee) of the Department of Pharmacology that has full access to supervise graduate students within the Department of Pharmacology at the time of application.
- The elapsed time from the applicant obtaining their last academic or professional degree (e.g. PhD, MD, DVM) to the competition deadline must not exceed five years. However, interruptions in a candidate's post PhD training (e.g pregnancy, extended illness) will be taken into account when determining eligibility. In general, interruptions in training due to employment cannot be used to extend eligibility.
- Applicants that have, or will obtain, a PhD from the Department of Pharmacology, or have been supervised or co-supervised by a Department of Pharmacology member at Dalhousie University or UNB – Dalhousie are not eligible for this award.

2. Terms of Award

- Successful applicants will be provided with salary support equivalent to the current CIHR level for postdoctoral fellows. Rates as of 2015, as suggested by CIHR, range from \$40,000-\$50,000/annum.
- The award will be distributed over a 3-year period with a minimum of \$35,000 being spent in the first and/or second year of the award. The total award value is \$70,000.
- Successful applicants will normally present a research seminar to the Department of Pharmacology within 90 days of receiving the award.
- The award must normally commence within 6 months of the application deadline. If a successful applicant is not present and conducting research within an eligible host laboratory by this time (normally March 1st of the year following the competition), the

award will be rescinded and all funds will revert to the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship fund. If an applicant has not completed a successful PhD thesis defense or completed an equivalent professional (e.g. MD, DVM) degree at the time of application to Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship and that applicant is recommended for an award, the offer of award will be rescinded if documentary proof of a successful PhD defense or degree conferral is not provided to the Department of Pharmacology Awards Committee by the 6 month deadline. If an award is rescinded, The Department of Pharmacology Awards Committee may, at their discretion, recommend transfer of the award to the next highest scoring applicant in the same competition.

- Continued funding from the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship is contingent upon subsequent application to an external agency (e.g. CIHR, NSHRF, HSFC) for postdoctoral fellowship salary support. If proof of this external funding application is not provided within six months of commencement of the award, the funding for the remaining term of the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship Award will be forfeited.
- Successful applicants must devote a minimum of 75% of their time to research training.
- After commencement, deferral of the Reynolds Postdoctoral Award may be granted to awardees that experience an interruption in their training or under other circumstances. Deferrals must be requested in writing, must be approved by the Departmental Awards Committee and cannot exceed 12 months total in duration. The Reynolds Postdoctoral Award will not provide financial support during leaves of absence.
- Any funds not used by the recipient (e.g. as in the case of supplementing an external award) will revert to the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship fund.
- Up to a maximum of 10% of the total award can be spent on meetings and/or relocation expenses.
- Departmental members can hold only 1 (one) Reynolds PDF award as either a supervisor or co-supervisor at one time.

3. Competition Dates

An annual competition for the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship program will be held in the Fall. Announcement of the successful candidate and release of the salary award will take place approximately 1 month after the application deadline. If sufficient funds are available to support a full Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship Award at the current CIHR rate, a special competition may be held within the same calendar year.

Application Deadline

2nd Monday in September

Award Commencement

October 15

Applications must be submitted to the Department of Pharmacology Administrator – Lori Lawson (Lori.Lawson@dal.ca).

IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS TO ALL APPLICANTS, LATE AND/OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE REVIEWED BY THE REYNOLDS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.

4. Applications

A complete application consists of:

- a) A Common CV Module (validated for CIHR) for the applicant. All attachments include required for CIHR trainees must be included. Please see <https://ccvcvc.ca/indexresearcher-eng.frm> for additional details.
- b) A brief research proposal (maximum 2 single-spaced pages). This proposal must be written by the applicant and should include a brief summary of current and relevant literature, a clearly stated hypothesis, defined experimental objectives and a description of significance. Additional pages may be used for a reference list and a maximum of one page for key figures may also be appended.
- c) Letters of support from two individuals (excluding the proposed supervisor and any collaborators on the proposed research) familiar with the applicant's capabilities. The sponsors should include specific comments and examples of the applicant's originality, creativity, research abilities and potential as an independent investigator. These letters can be forwarded to the Department Administrator via email as a PDF document or they can be mailed in a sealed and signed envelope to:

Lori Lawson
Dalhousie University
Pharmacology Dept.
5850 College Street, PO Box 15000
Halifax, NS B3R 4H2

- d) A letter of support from the proposed supervisor. As part of this letter, evidence must be provided that all funding and facilities are in place to support the applicant's research project. The sponsor must indicate and describe any plans to provide support for the applicant's salary beyond the term of the Reynolds award. The supervisor is also encouraged to comment on (i) how the applicant's previous training will contribute to his/her successful pursuit of the proposed research and (ii) how this training opportunity will benefit both the trainee and host lab.

5. Committee Membership

The Reynolds Fellowship Committee will be comprised of three members of the Department of Pharmacology (Full or Cross-Appointee with full access to graduate students), one of whom will be elected to serve as the Chairperson. The standard term of membership is three years. Normally, the committee Chair and members are also members of the Department of Pharmacology Awards Committee.

6. Evaluation

Applicants will be assessed based upon the following criteria:

Criterion	Weight
Research achievements and activities of the applicant <ul style="list-style-type: none">• based primarily upon research productivity, awards, other distinctions	40%
Characteristics and abilities of the candidate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• based primarily upon sponsor letters	20%
Research Proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• based primarily upon clarity of scientific presentation; the science itself (i.e. as in a grant proposal) will not be evaluated	20%
Quality of Training Opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• based primarily upon funding and resources available to support applicant's research; plans to obtain fellowship support beyond term of Reynolds Award; benefit to applicant and host laboratory	20%

Committee members will individually provide a score between 0 – 4.9 for each criterion based upon the following guidelines:

Range	Qualitative Descriptor
4.5 – 4.9	Outstanding
4.0 – 4.4	Excellent
3.5 – 3.9	Very Good
3.0 – 3.4	Good
2.0 – 2.9	Average
1.0 – 1.9	Below Average
0	Not Acceptable

- The sum of the weighted scores will be used to determine the final score for the application. The average of the final scores determined by each committee member will be used to rank the applicants.
- Applicants with an average score less than 3.0 are generally not eligible for funding by the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship fund.
- Normally the Reynolds Postdoctoral Fellowship Award will be conferred upon the applicant obtaining the highest numerical score within the competition. However, the committee may choose not to fund a fellowship if a candidate of sufficient quality (as determined by the committee) is not identified.
- A committee member will be considered to be in conflict and therefore, excluded from participating in the peer review process for a competition if that individual is the proposed supervisor of an applicant, a sponsor and/or a collaborator on the applicant's proposed research project.
- If a conflict excludes a committee member from participating in the peer review process, a temporary committee member will be solicited from the Department of Pharmacology. This individual must meet the same criteria required for normal committee membership and is normally solicited by the committee Chair and/or the Head of the Department of Pharmacology.