

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)



APPLICATION DEADLINE

14:00 South African time 23rd September 2020

BACKGROUND

The AREF RDF Programme aims to enhance the research competitiveness of emerging African researchers who are working on important challenges for human health in Africa. In 2020, **these challenges will include infectious disease and non-communicable diseases**. AREF's goal is to transform the opportunities for up to 15 talented postdoctoral scientists in Africa in 2020 to contribute to reducing the burden of disease through leading research that is responsive to African settings.

The RDF Programme enables talented early-career researchers to:

- acquire advanced research skills
- develop and test their own compelling research questions
- develop highly effective mentoring relationships
- grow their potential collaborations
- raise their profile through international networking

The RDF Programme will support a placement of between **three to nine months** for each Fellow at a leading research organisation in **Europe or Africa**, with time either side of the placement for preparation and follow-up. This aims to promote development of technical skills, collaborations and networks. The RDF Programme does **NOT** provide Fellows with funds for a whole research project; it focuses on developing researcher skills.

The maximum award for the fellowship placement is £38,000 (GB Pounds). Additionally, AREF will fully fund all workshops and mentorship support costs associated with the programme.

Applicants will need to demonstrate a credible, ambitious vision for their research career in an area of human-health challenge for Africa; and a transformational, well-supported development plan that would be significantly enhanced by the RDF Programme. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their plans at an early stage with their employing and potential host organisations.

Equality and diversity are core values of AREF and we encourage applications by scientists irrespective of gender, colour, race, or creed. We strongly welcome eligible applicants from francophone and lusophone countries as well as from anglophone countries.

For more information please visit the funder [website](#).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicants must be a national of a country in sub-Saharan Africa, although they need not be resident in the Sub-Saharan country at the time of applying.
- Applicants must be supported by an African institution that meets the eligibility criteria for an employing institution and either employs the applicant or intends to employ the applicant locally in cases where the applicant **does not** reside in a sub-Saharan African country.

- The following academic qualifications will be accepted:

- Non-clinician.

Essential: PhD qualification within the **last six years** – awarded a PhD or equivalent postgraduate degree from a recognised institution of higher education after May 2014.

If you do not currently have a PhD, you must provide evidence that a recognised examining institution expects you to have been examined for the degree of PhD/DPh by **September 2020**. You will not be able to take up the Fellowship without having been awarded a doctorate by a recognized and reputable academic institution.

- Clinician.

Essential: Clinically-qualified applicants with a PhD/DPh/MD should have been awarded the doctorate from a recognised institution of higher education **after May 2014**.

Clinically-qualified applicants without a doctorate may apply. They must have been awarded a **research-relevant Master's degree**. They should also have at **LEAST** two and **NOT** more than seven years of active research experience. Experience both before and after gaining the Master's qualification counts towards the experience total. They will normally have plans to gain a PhD or equivalent doctorate (although not funded as part of the AREF Fellowship). Medical College memberships and fellowships are not counted as doctorates.

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

Please note that the chosen host institute must sign off on the application before the deadline. Allow for this in your planning.

HOW TO APPLY

Please read the attached application guide booklet **thoroughly** before proceeding with an application.

The following documents should accompany the application:

- A completed Application Form (attached) as a **PDF**, signed by the applicant and named administrative authority at both the Host Organisation and Employing Organisation.
- A letter of support from the Host Sponsor and Employing Sponsor – a named senior scientist with the authority of the HO Research Management or Finance Office to sign on the Application Form on the organisation's behalf.
- **Two** chosen publications to demonstrate the applicants career history.
- An electronic copy of the candidate's most recently attained degree certificate, usually the PhD certificate.
- The Cost & Finance Plan (attached), as an **Excel spreadsheet**.
- The Signature Sheet, as a **Word Document**.

All applications to be sent to: Fellowships.AREF@aref-africa.org.uk

Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted online to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za

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14:00 South African time 23rd September 2020

CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

Faculty Contact person: Natasha Jeftha – R4-15 HW Snyman North, Prinshof Campus, 012 319 2378, Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za

Funder Contact Details

E-mail: Fellowships.AREF@aref-africa.org.uk

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