

## PROGRAMME: SHEILA SHERLOCK POST GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

**TARGET AUDIENCE:** This competitive Postdoctoral Research Fellowship programme targets the most promising newly qualified postgraduate researchers who wish to expand their research field and develop independent research careers. The programme is open to Europeans and non-Europeans who wish to conduct post-graduate research at a European center. Applicants must hold a PhD and/or a MD degree and have no more than two years of postgraduate research experience.

**AMOUNT AWARDED - LIVING ALLOWANCE:** Base funding of 60,000 EUR per year, paid directly to the Hosting Institution. The living allowance may also cover part of the research expenses, depending on the salary determined by the Hosting Institution, and detailed in the fellowship application.

The Living Allowance may also cover part of the tuition fees, consumables and travel costs providing that there is sufficient funding left. Any unused funds must be returned to EASL by the Hosting Institution at the end of the Post Graduate programme.

The Living Allowance is calculated based on the [country-specific correction coefficient](#), as determined by the European Union on an annual basis. The Hosting Institution may need to pay a top-up to the eligible fellows from another budget source to complement this contribution.

### ADDITIONAL ALLOWANCES TO THE FELLOW:

- (a) Mobility allowance, 500 EUR per month.
- (b) Family allowance, 500 EUR per month.

A family allowance will be paid in case the supported researcher has family obligations, In this context, family is defined as persons linked to the researcher (i) by marriage or (ii) a relationship with equivalent status to a marriage recognized by the legislation of the country or region where this relationship has been formalized or (iii) as dependent children who are actually being maintained by the researcher.

Both the Mobility and Family Allowance are paid directly to the fellow.

**PERIOD:** 2 years (no extension possible, extendable in case of parental leave)

**HOSTING INSTITUTION:** Applicants must conduct the fellowship at an institution different from their Home Institution and located in a different European country. The research supervisor in the Hosting Institution must provide relevant and ongoing scientific guidance for the duration of the fellowship.

**The Hosting Institution must appoint the recipient of the fellowship under an employment contract** to be finalized before the effective start of the fellowship in the Hosting Institution. The employment contract should include social security and health coverage for the duration of the fellowship. A copy of the contract must be provided to the EASL Office. EASL reserves the right to ask for a financial and contractual status of

the fellow to the Hosting Institution throughout the duration of the fellowship programme.

## CONDITIONS

- Candidates must be active EASL members or have applied for membership at the time of the application;
- Applicant must not hold a permanent position;
- Applicants must hold a PhD and /or a MD degree and have no more than two years of postgraduate research experience (after achieving the highest degree title);
- The Hosting Institution must be in Europe;
- The Hosting Institution must be different from the Home Institution and located in a different European country;
- No more than 1 application per home institution will be considered during the period of 2 years following the grant award.
- The research supervisor(s) in the hosting institution must be EASL member(s) but must not be member(s) of the EASL Governing Board;
- No restriction on the applicant's age or nationality.

## APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

- Applications should be submitted online in English at [www.easl.eu](http://www.easl.eu) from 30 September to 15 December.
- The competitive admission process is held in various stages:
  - Applications are reviewed by an *ad hoc* committee (2 members of the EASL Scientific Committee plus 2 external experts nominated by the EASL Scientific Committee).
  - Reviewers are requested to provide detailed written feedback on the application based on:
    - The candidate profile (25%)
    - The Project (50%)
    - The Hosting Institution (25%)
  - Final selection is made by the EASL Scientific Committee.
- Applicants are notified on the selection outcome by 28 February by email.
- In order to process applications, EASL will need to process the applicant's personal data as provided in the application dossier. The applicant gives his/her consent to such control and processing of his/her personal data. EASL will handle the applicant's personal data in accordance with all applicable legislation for the purpose of reviewing the candidate's suitability for the fellowship.

## APPLICATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE

- A detailed research proposal identifying an important research question related to hepatology and the plan to achieve the aims (max. 4 pages);
- A detailed CV (max. 2 pages);
- 2 reference letters (including one from the candidate's senior mentor at the Home Institution)

- An official letter signed by the candidate's supervisor at the Hosting Institution including the following:
  - (1) A statement detailing how much of the design and research work will be done by the candidate;
  - (2) A statement confirming that the object of the research programme is unpublished (as defined by not having appeared on PubMed or accepted for publication) by the closing date for award submissions;
  - (3) A confirmation that the Hosting Institution will appoint the candidate under a temporary employment contract, if the fellowship is granted;
  - (4) A confirmation that the candidate is, or has applied to become a member of the EASL.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

- Successful applicants are requested to attend the EASL International Liver Congress<sup>™</sup> during which the winners are announced.
- Successful applicants are requested to submit a photo and short project summary to be posted on the EASL website, social media and newsletter.
- The fellowship should begin at the latest by the end of the year of the awarded grant.
- Upon completion of the project, the EASL Governing Board will reserve the right to ask the fellowship recipient to present the results of the research produced in the format/session it deems most appropriate during the International Liver Congress<sup>™</sup>.
- Successful applicants shall be active Members for the full duration of the programme and are required to provide testimonial and feedback on the fellowship experience.
- An annual progress report accompanied by a letter from the research supervisor in the Hosting Institution detailing the evolution of the project is required to justify any failure to meet proposed goals and monitor the fellow's progress. The reports shall be signed by the research supervisor at the hosting institution.
- In the event that the fellowship recipient is unable to complete the research or wishes to discontinue the research before its completion, the fellow will be required to return all unexpended funds within 90 days of notification and any remaining fellowship will be cancelled.
- Any presentation or publication of the data should mention that the work was supported by the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL).