

Information about the application categories

Common to all research fellowship categories:

Candidates may be appointed at a health trust, university or university college in the region. The employment location/host institution should be clarified before you start the application. When creating the application, the appropriate clinic at the participating health trust should be selected under "institution". If the employment location (i.e., *host institution*) for the project is different from this institution (e.g., if the host institution will be NTNU), this is to be stated under "classification" in *eSøknad*. We remind all applicants of the requirements for management commitment.

Rates for fellowship grants / lump-sum allocations: the allocation per position is specified as a lump sum and follows the Research Council of Norway's rates for PhD and postdoctoral fellowships. The rates are adjusted annually; see [the Research Council of Norway's website](#) (in Norwegian). Lump-sum allocations include coverage of salary, social security expenses, indirect costs and operating costs. It is also possible to apply for up to NOK 200,000 / year for operating costs for all research fellowship positions (a total of NOK 600,000 for the entire period in 100% position for 3 years or equivalent). If extra operating costs are included in the application, the need must be justified in a mandatory form that must be enclosed with the application. The application must clearly state what the funds are intended for, and the need for extra funds must be justified. The evaluation committee may choose to grant an application for a position only, and reject the application for operating costs if this is not considered necessary for the project's feasibility. Applications for additional operating costs that exceed the maximum amount will not be considered.

Full-time equivalents: As a general rule, the candidate should be appointed in a 100% position. It is possible to apply for a 50% position for candidates that plan to combine research with clinical work or academic teaching post. This must be justified in the application. The full-time equivalence (FTE) may not be less than 50%. It is possible to apply for funding for up to three years, full-time. The full-time equivalents and number of years must be specified in *eSøknad*.

Doctoral research fellowships (PhD grants):

Select the application form for *doctoral research fellowship* in *eSøknad*. It is possible to apply for a fellowship with or without a known candidate. For applications with a known candidate, the *candidate* must be registered as the applicant under "participants". For applications without a known candidate, the *main supervisor* must be registered as the applicant.

PhD positions are trainee posts primarily intended to give promising researcher recruits an opportunity for academic development with the aim of completing a doctoral degree (PhD). A grant is awarded for up to 3 years full-time, without teaching duties. It is a prerequisite that PhD candidates are admitted to a PhD programme within the Central Norway health region, that is, either at [NTNU](#) or at [Molde University College/Volda University College](#). Please see the *Regulations for the Philosophiae Doctor degree (PhD)* for the relevant educational institution.

For applications with a known candidate: applicants must provide evidence of a relevant academic background that meets the requirements for admission to a PhD programme (equivalent to second-degree "*hovedfag*" or master's level). The degree should be completed by the application deadline, or it must be documented that the degree is to be completed by 31 December 2019. Applicants with a foreign degree must attach an equivalence assessment.

For applications without a known candidate: if the project in question is awarded a PhD grant, the position must be advertised openly. Applicants may not nominate their own candidates retrospectively.

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Postdoctoral research fellowships:

Select the application form for *postdoctoral research fellowship* in *eSøknad*. The postdoctoral candidate herself/himself must be registered as the applicant under “participants”. It is not possible to apply for postdoctoral fellowships without a known candidate.

The main objective of appointment as a post-doctoral research fellow is to qualify for work in senior academic posts. A fellowship grant is awarded for up to 3 years, full-time. Any required duties (*pliktarbeid*) are to be clarified with the employer. Persons who previously have completed a period of appointment as a postdoctoral fellow at the selected host institution are not eligible to apply.

A prerequisite for a postdoctoral positions is completion of a doctoral degree in the relevant subject area, which means that the appointment cannot be made before the public defence of the the PhD degree has been approved. The doctoral thesis does not have to be submitted before the application date, but it must have been submitted for assessment by 31 December 2019. If the doctoral thesis has not been submitted before the application date, a statement from the main supervisor about the status of the thesis must be attached.

Researcher fellowships:

Select the application form for *researcher fellowships* in *eSøknad*. The researcher candidate herself/himself must be registered as the applicant under “participants”. It is not possible to apply for a researcher fellowship without a known candidate.

The main aim of appointment to a researcher position is to encourage career development and enable qualification for further work in top academic positions. A fellowship grant is awarded for up to 3 years, full-time. For these positions, a prerequisite is a doctoral degree and postdoctoral competence achieved in the relevant subject area. A postdoctoral period of at least 2 years must be completed before the commencement date for the researcher position.

Positions focused on innovation:

A sharper focus on innovation is necessary to deal with societal challenges within health, and Samarbeidsorganet has therefore decided to earmark research fellowships for positions with a specific focus on innovation. It is possible to apply for a doctoral research fellowship, postdoctoral fellowship or a researcher fellowship, on the same terms and conditions that are described above. Select the application form for *position focused on innovation* in *eSøknad* (example: *position focused on innovation: doctoral fellowship*).

Innovation involves creating new solutions that are useful and meet one or several needs in the health services. The Central Norway RHA defines innovation as “development of new products, services or forms of organization, which contribute to strengthened health services, in the form of improved quality, better work processes, increased safety for patients and employees and in this way contribute to better value (*verdiskaping*)”.

The planned project must be research-based. Examples of innovation include the development of products and processes, for example methods, materials and equipment for use in medical prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation. Innovation may also involve the development of solutions that link technology and services. In addition, it may involve methods for improving productivity, models for leadership and organization.

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Applicants for these positions must attach a separate form that clearly describes the innovative aspect of the project. Applications within this category will be evaluated by a separate scientific committee, and the project must have a clear and specific innovation aspect, in order to be eligible. In other words, it is not possible to apply both for an “ordinary” research position and a research position focused on innovation with the same project description.

Applicants for the positions focused on innovation may be invited for an interview as part of the evaluation.

Mobility grants:

Mobility grants are funded according to the Research Council of Norway’s rates, and prerequisites are that a) the visit is research-related and b) that publications are planned in collaboration with an institution outside Norway - with specification of affiliation to the health trust. See [the Research Council of Norway’s website](#) for more information about the rates.

Registering applicant role in *eSøknad*: in individual applications for mobility grants, the grant recipient must be registered as “project manager (applicant)”. Mobility grants are personal awards and may not be transferred to others.

Starting in 2017, foreign-based candidates participating in global health projects may apply for a research visit to Norway. Note that this only applies to projects relating to the focus area [Global health](#), a joint initiative between the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, NTNU and St. Olav’s University Hospital. The projects must involve collaboration with the following countries: Nepal, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and South Africa.

- It is possible to apply for research visits lasting 3-12 months. Shorter visits can usually be financed from the project’s funds for general operating costs. *Invitation from the collaborating partner abroad must be attached with the application.*
- It is possible to apply for funding as part of an application for a PhD, postdoctoral fellow or research position. The stay abroad must then be included as part of the project that the application concerns, and a plan for the stay must be provided.
- It is possible to apply for funding for a stay abroad as an individual application. A project plan with a plan for the stay must then be attached. For an individual application for a stay abroad, the form for *mobility grant* must be used in the *eSøknad* system. The project plan must be in line with current strategies, and other funding of the project must be described.

Project funds:

Select the application form *project funds* in *eSøknad*. The project manager must be registered as the applicant under “participants”.

The funds are intended for research projects of high quality and should encourage the development of strong new research groups that can compete for larger external grants in the longer term. The application should include a plan for development and continuation of the activity during and after the project period.

It is possible to apply for NOK 500 000 to NOK 1 000 000 per year for a period of 1 - 3 years. The following expenses may be covered: use of equipment and services from regional and national research infrastructures, equipment costs, database solutions, biobanks etc. Technical personnel may also be included in the budget. PhD, postdoctoral or researcher fellowships are not covered in this category. Note that it is not possible to apply for operating costs related to a separate application for

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a PhD, postdoctoral or researcher fellowship, in this category. Application for additional operating costs for positions should be included in application for research fellowship positions (see more information under the first section about the research fellowship categories).

Project managers who have previously received funding for multi-year research projects or project funds from the Central Norway Regional Health Authority, where more than one year of the funding remains at the end of 2019, may not apply.