

Application Guidelines for the Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship for the 2023-2024 Application Cycle

Introduction

The Global Health Equity Scholars (GHES) fellowship is a 12-month mentored research training program for postdoctoral fellows and doctoral or professional school (MD, DVM, DrPH, DDS, PharmD) students. We are part of the Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars/Launching Future Leaders in Global Health Research Training Program (LAUNCH; <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/scholars-fellows-global-health.aspx>) sponsored by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and several collaborating institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The main objective of the program is to generate a new cadre of global health researchers and professionals who will be prepared to address the emerging challenges in global health and inequity. These may include health challenges that arise from the world's burgeoning human settlements known as slums that have developed in urban and rural communities of many low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The GHES fellowship is designed for: U.S. doctoral students (PhD, DrPH, etc.), U.S. professional students (MD, DDS, DVM, PharmD, etc.), U.S. postdoctoral fellows, and LMIC postdoctoral fellows from GHES affiliated LMIC research training sites.

All U.S. trainees accepted into this program must spend at least 9-10 months at their collaborating LMIC training site. LMIC trainees will spend their fellowship at their GHES affiliated LMIC training site. In addition, LMIC fellows are required to participate in a 2–3-month training experience at their primary U.S. mentor's university. This experience should be tailored to each fellow's specific needs, incorporating structured learning, skills development, networking, and mentoring activities to enhance the trainee's fellowship year. All trainees must attend a mandatory 5-day orientation session at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland at the beginning of the fellowship year, anticipated to be held mid-July 2023.

Additional details can be obtained from the GHES website (<https://medicine.yale.edu/yigh/ghes/>).

Eligibility

This fellowship is open to:

1. U.S. postdoctoral fellows (PhD, MD, DVM, DrPH, etc.)
 - U.S. citizens and permanent residents from ANY U.S. institution can apply. You do not have to be part of or affiliated with Stanford University, University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, or Yale University to apply for this fellowship. However, you will need to have a relationship or collaboration with a GHES U.S. faculty mentor at one of these schools in order to apply.
 - Interested individuals from an institution that is not part of GHES are strongly encouraged to contact a GHES Program Manager to discuss their application. Program Managers are available to help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research focus areas and career goals.

- Postdoctoral fellows with an existing appointment at Stanford University, University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, or Yale University, are eligible to apply.

2. U.S. predoctoral fellows

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are currently enrolled in a professional degree program (MD, DDS, DVM, PharmD, etc.) at ANY U.S. institution can apply.
 - Must have completed 3 years of professional school
 - Will have to be connected with a U.S. faculty mentor at one of the four GHES institutions at the time of application. Program Managers are available to help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research focus areas and career goals.
- US citizens and permanent residents who are currently enrolled in a health-related doctoral degree program (PhD, DrPH, etc.) at ANY U.S. institution can apply.
 - Must have passed qualifying examination
 - Can conduct dissertation project at one of the GHES LMIC research training sites
 - Will have to be connected with a U.S. faculty mentor at one of the four GHES institutions at the time of application. Program Managers are available to help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research focus areas and career goals.

3. LMIC postdoctoral fellows

- Individuals who are affiliated with one of the 25 GHES LMIC research training sites can apply.
- Fellowship research project and training plan should be proposed with GHES LMIC and U.S. faculty mentors.
 - Program Managers are available to help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research focus areas and career goals.

Additional eligibility information:

- A U.S. applicant must be a citizen of the United States or its territories or possessions or be a U.S. permanent resident. A permanent resident number must be included in the application of a U.S. permanent resident.
- LMIC applicants must be citizens of any nation exclusive of high-income countries as defined by the World Bank (<http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups>) or a G20 country.
- U.S. and LMIC postdoctoral applicants must have completed their terminal degree within the past 5 years (individuals who received degrees before 2018 are not eligible to apply).
- To apply for a postdoctoral fellowship, you must complete your degree by June 2023.
- All applicants must have demonstrated interest in and commitment to a career in global health research.
- All applicants must secure the commitment and letter of support of an affiliated GHES U.S. mentor and an affiliated GHES LMIC mentor.

For applicants with other sources of funding:

- The program can provide partial fellowship to applicants already supported. For instance, T32 fellows can be awarded research-related and travel funds while their stipends are provided by the T32 fellowship.

- Keep in mind that FIC concurrent support must be allowable from the other sources' perspective.
- We encourage the application of candidates who have additional funding. However, when describing your research proposal, keep in mind that FIC cannot support research activities already funded. You will need to highlight how the GHES proposal differs from your funded activities, and/or how the GHES award would cover expenses not supported by your additional funding.

Application Instructions

1. Complete the online application (available at:
https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2nr95GWfceqs1vw)

The online application system will save your partially completed application using your computer IP address and you can return to it later.

The application includes the following sections:

- Section 1. Type of GHES application
- Section 2. Basic information (name, address, contact information)
- Section 3. Academic and professional background
- Section 4. Citizenship
- Section 5. Foreign language experience
- Section 6. Proposal information:
 - Prior research experience
 - Previous experience in resource-limited settings
 - Publications, conferences/abstracts, awards
 - Statement of career goals and plans
 - Names and emails of mentors
 - Mentoring plan
 - Fellowship timeline
 - U.S. short-term training plan (for LMIC fellow applicants only)
 - IRB and ethical approval plan
 - Additional funding
- Section 7. Required attachments (to be uploaded as PDF files)

2. Additional information about Section 7. Required Attachments:

a. Research proposal summary (project title, abstract,

- Title of project
- Project abstract
- Proposal: background, specific aims, research design/methodology, significance of study
- References

b. Letters of support (minimum 2, maximum 3)

- The first letter should be from a faculty member at the U.S. or LMIC institution who has agreed to serve as the applicant's primary research mentor. The mentor should describe the following items: 1) plan for the fellowship; 2) previous track record in mentoring students and/or

postdoctoral fellows; 3) on-going collaboration with the site; 4) potential matching between a U.S. and an LMIC colleague (matched research collaborators).

- The second letter should be from the LMIC mentor for U.S. applicants or from the U.S. mentor for the LMIC applicants. It should confirm the commitment to support the candidate during the fellowship, i.e. providing technical and career advice, and support the research project.
- The third letter can come from a secondary mentor or someone who knows the applicant well and can address research accomplishments, research potential, and likelihood of a successful research career in global health
- Each letter should be on the mentor's institutional letterhead and include the following information for the mentor: name, institution, email address, phone number, work address, signature.
- Letters should be addressed to the Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship Selection Committee, should be scanned, or saved as a PDF file and emailed to ghesapplication2023@gmail.com.

c. NIH biosketch for applicant

- Upload your NIH biosketch using the FELLOWSHIP format. For instructions on how to format your biosketch, please refer to NIH guidelines of a FELLOWSHIP biosketch (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>). We strongly suggest having a mentor review your biosketch if this is your first time generating one.

d. NIH biosketch for mentors

Upload the NIH biosketches for your U.S. and LMIC mentors, using the NON-FELLOWSHIP format (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>).

e. Transcript

- Applicants who do not yet have their doctoral degree at the time of application must provide a copy of their most recent transcript (non-official transcripts are allowed).
- Postdoctoral applicants already appointed in a research position or in a residency do not need to include a transcript.

Applications must be completed and submitted online by 5:00 PM EST on November 20, 2022. Please do not submit your application until all required components have been completed and uploaded. Letters of support will be emailed separately by the mentors but must also arrive by 5pm EST November 20, 2022.

Selection Process

A panel of external reviewers will read application materials for all eligible candidates and will assign a score to each application. The GHES Principal Investigators may conduct online interviews with applicants as needed. Final selection of fellows will be made by the GHES executive committee based on candidate's application materials, the external reviews and, where applicable, an online interview.

The first round of fellowship awards will likely be offered in April 2023. The second round of fellowship awards will likely be offered in May-June 2022. A formal letter of award will be sent to each fellowship recipient.

Candidates who were not selected will be informed by email.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- Candidate background (education, research, publications, international experience, language)
- Career statement (evidence of commitment to global health research)
- Research proposal (feasibility, context, and contribution to global health research)
- US and LMIC mentors (mentor background, research training experience, publications, commitment to mentoring the applicant)

Contact Information

Please direct inquiries regarding the GHES program, eligibility or the application process to the GHES Program Managers at each of the four universities:

- Maria Teresa Hernandez, UC Berkeley - maria.hernandez@berkeley.edu
- Griselda Ruiz-Braun, University of Arizona - gr1@email.arizona.edu
- Ryan Borg, Yale University - ryan.borg@yale.edu
- Yosefa Gilon, Stanford University – ygilon@stanford.edu

Interested individuals are strongly recommended to contact a GHES Program Manager to discuss the application process. The Program Manager can help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research interests and career goals.