



- Deadline:** Thursday, January 12, 2012 (12:00 Noon Eastern Time)
- Award Period:** July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2015
- Award:** Up to 5 three-year awards ranging from \$141,000 - \$177,000 to support postdoctoral fellows working in non-profit academic, medical and research institutions in the United States.

Application Guidelines

Program Overview and Statement of Purpose: The Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation was established “...to advance the development of all areas of the lives of children and young adults...with special emphasis...on those suffering from eating disorders.” After consultation with academic and governmental experts in eating disorders research, the Davis Foundation believes that it is critical to increase the number of outstanding neuroscientists who are exploring the biological causes of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.

By attracting postdoctoral fellows to the field, dollars allocated to support fellows are leveraged into a lifetime career commitment to eating disorders research. The long term goal of the program is to accelerate medical research discoveries that will lead to effective new therapies. A three-year fellowship is being offered so as to allow fellows sufficient time to develop their expertise in eating disorders research.

Program Administration: The Davis Foundation has engaged The Medical Foundation, a *division of Health Resources in Action* (Boston, MA) to manage all administrative aspects of the Davis Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Eating Disorders Research. Established in 1957 as a nonprofit organization, The Medical Foundation division creates and administers research grant programs for private individuals, bank trusts and foundations. To date, its clients have supported nearly 1,900 scientists.

Research Focus: Proposals must be focused on relevant aspects of the biological causes of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa as defined by clinical criteria. Examples of areas of interest include but are not limited to neural pathways of feeding behavior in animal models; molecular genetic analysis of relevant neural circuit assembly and function; testing of new chemical compounds that might be used in animal models as experimental treatments; and brain imaging technologies that identify neurochemical pathways in patients with these disorders. Clinical psychotherapeutic studies, medication trials, and obesity research are currently outside the scope of this program.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility:

1. **Ph.D. or equivalent** awarded from an accredited domestic or foreign institution prior to July 1, 2012 and commit 90% time to research; applicants with clinical responsibilities must commit at least 70% time to the research;

Or

1. **M.D. or equivalent** awarded from an accredited domestic or foreign institution prior to July 1, 2012 and commit at least 70% time to research;
2. Have completed no more than three years of full-time postdoctoral research experience by the time funding begins on July 1, 2012;
3. Conduct the proposed research project at a hospital, university or other non-profit research institution where the applicant holds a postdoctoral fellowship appointment;
4. Submit a research project focused on relevant aspects of the biological causes of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa as defined by clinical criteria.;
5. Upload a signed letter of support from your research project mentor; and,
6. Supply two Confidential Letters of Recommendation, one of which must be from the thesis advisor for applicants holding a Ph.D. If the thesis advisor is unavailable to write a letter of recommendation, a brief explanation of his/her unavailability must be included in the uploaded document.

There are no institutional limitations on the number of applicants who may submit applications. United States citizenship is not required.

Definition of Terms: Full-time postdoctoral research experience is defined as employment as a postdoctoral fellow in a research laboratory five full days each week. If research was interrupted for medical leave of absence (including maternity leave), to complete training or for other reasons, these months are not considered part of the full-time postdoctoral research experience. Part-time employment, as documented by the Mentor, may be cumulative

towards these eligibility requirements. Clinical fellowship training years are not counted as postdoctoral research experience.

All applicants must apply for the fellowships under the guidance of a Mentor who is an established investigator with an active, productive research program. The Mentor must be engaged in the planning, execution and supervision of the proposed research. Each Mentor may submit only one fellowship applicant per application cycle.

Award Selection Criteria: The Scientific Review Committee uses the following criteria to evaluate applications:

- Applicant's demonstrated competency and potential for a career in research;
- Qualifications of the Mentor and the degree of commitment to supervise and train the applicant during the proposed research period;
- Letters of Recommendation;
- Research hypothesis is novel and/or builds on current knowledge;
- Proposal reviews the relevant literature;
- Objectives are well conceived, realistic and important;
- Research methodology, data collection and data analysis are feasible and appropriate to the proposal's aims;
- Project will contribute to the professional training and growth of the applicant; and,
- Project will advance knowledge in the biological causes of eating disorders.

Historical Statistics	2009	2010	2011
# of Applications	29	29	23
# of Awards	10	4	6

Award Duration, Stipend, Expense

Allowance and Use of Funds: The three-year Davis Foundation stipends are roughly equivalent to fellowships offered by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Although awards are made for three consecutive years, continuation of funding for subsequent years is not automatic

and is dependent upon a satisfactory review of yearly progress by the Scientific Review Committee.

The stipend is for salary only (not subject to deductions for fringe benefits by the Sponsoring Institution) and is based on the number of years of **completed** full-time postdoctoral experience, as of the funding start date of July 1, 2012.

At the discretion of the Fellow, up to \$3,000 of the annual award amount may be designated for research supplies, equipment, health insurance and travel to scientific meetings that is the sole financial obligation of the Fellow. The Fellow with the Mentor's approval may elect to use the \$3,000 or a portion of it to supplement the Fellow's salary. This allowance or any portion of it may **not** be used for institutional overhead.

Postdoctoral Stipend Chart Completed Years of Postdoctoral Research Experience as of 7/1/2012					
	Stipend Year 1	Stipend Year 2	Stipend Year 3	Expenses (\$3,000 per year)	Three- Year Total
0	\$40,000	\$44,000	48,000	\$9,000	\$141,000
1	44,000	48,000	52,000	9,000	153,000
2	48,000	52,000	56,000	9,000	165,000
3	52,000	56,000	60,000	9,000	177,000

Notification to Applicants: Applicants will be notified by email upon receipt of their applications. Final notification of status will be emailed by April 29, 2012.

Terms of the Awards: The Terms of the Award document is available at www.tmfgrants/davis

Questions to:

Jeanne Brown, Program Officer
jbrown@hria.org 617-279-2240 x709

The Medical Foundation, a division of HRiA
 Davis Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship
 Program in Eating Disorders Research
 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 208
 Boston, MA 02116

Application Instructions

The application process requires an online submission which includes a request for confidential letters of recommendation.

Application Deadline

Online Submission Deadline **January 12, 2012 (12:00 Noon Eastern Time)**

Online Submission:

Begin Online Application:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=SNA&FID=35030

Continue Online Application:

https://www.GrantRequest.com/SID_738?SA=AM

Requirements for the online submission:

- Tax Identification Number of the sponsoring institution
- Eligibility Quiz
- Applicant Information: applicant contact, educational background
- Project Information: Mentor, Project Title, Keywords, Project Summary including Specific Aims, Non-Technical Summary, Institution
- Collaborator letter (if applicable)
- Recommender names and email addresses are required for online link
- Forms** required for the uploaded attachment can be found in a separate MS Word document located on <http://www.tmfgrants.org/davis.html>. The documents listed in items #1 – 9 (below) must be combined and converted into **ONE PDF** document for upload:

1. **Application Face Sheet:** The Face Sheet must be completed and signed by the Applicant, Mentor, and the Office of Sponsored Programs or the Institutional Officer administratively responsible for the oversight of the project. Information on the Face Sheet must be typed.

The signatures of the Applicant and Mentor on the Face Sheet will confirm their responsibility for obtaining any required

human subjects (IRB), animal use (IACUC), institutional approvals. In addition, the Mentor's and Institutional Officer's signatures will confirm that all eligibility requirements have been met. Endorsement by the Institutional Officer confirms that the Institution will commit to appropriate oversight if the project is funded. The address for the Institutional Officer to receive grant funds should indicate the Lockbox or mailing address for award payments.

Once all signatures have been obtained, the Face Sheet should be scanned and used as page 1 of the uploaded document.

2. **Table of Contents:** Follow the Table of Contents and number pages sequentially beginning with the Application Face Sheet as page number one.
3. **Research Project Form:** The Research Project Summary is a 300-350 word scientific abstract stating the project's broad, long-term objectives and specific aims. The project summary is requested in both the online submission and PDF document.
4. **Applicant's Biosketch :** The NIH R01 PHS 398/2590 (Rev. 06/09) Biographical Sketch form must be used. The categories include Personal Statement, Positions and Honors, Selected Peer-reviewed Publications and Research Support. In the Publications section, the **Applicant's name** should be in caps or bolded in the list of authors. Manuscripts in submission may also be listed. In the Research Support section, begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of these projects and the Applicant's responsibilities. Include

the Funding Start and End Dates as well as the Direct Costs.

5. **Research Proposal (maximum of six pages not including bibliography of references cited):** The six pages must address how the project will contribute to the field and include background, specific aims, limitations, preliminary data (if available) and experimental methods. Any figures, graphs, tables or pictures must also be included within these six pages. References cited do not count toward the six-page limit. A 12-point font must be used in the six-page research proposal section and at least a 9-point font for figures and tables. This section must also be formatted with single spacing within paragraphs, double spacing between paragraphs, and one-inch or larger margins all around. Supplementary material (i.e. reprints of publications, appendices, videotapes) will not be accepted. Additional data or addenda to the proposal will not be considered.
6. **Mentor's Biosketch:** The NIH R01 PHS 398/2590 (Rev. 06/09) Biographical Sketch form must be used. The categories include Personal Statement, Positions and Honors, Selected Peer-reviewed Publications and Research Support. In the Publications section, the **Mentor's name** should be in caps or bolded in the list of authors. Manuscripts in submission may also be listed. In the Research Support section, begin with the projects that are most relevant to the research proposed in this application. Briefly indicate the overall goals of these projects and the Applicant's responsibilities. Include the Funding Start and End Dates as well as the Direct Costs. Include a list of previous trainees with their current positions.
7. **Mentor's Letter of Support:** The Mentor's Letter of Support must be completed on institutional letterhead and signed. The letter must describe the applicant's qualifications; how the fellowship will assist the applicant in preparing for a future independent position; and a brief description of the research facilities and equipment available to the

applicant for the completion of the proposed project. **The Mentor's letter must state the number of years of full-time postdoctoral experience that the applicant will have completed by July 1, 2012**

8. **Thesis Advisor Explanation (if applicable):** If the Ph.D. thesis advisor is unavailable to write a letter of recommendation, please include a brief explanation of his/her unavailability. M.D. applicants should request a recommendation letter from the Residency Director or equivalent to fulfill the Advisor requirement.
9. **Collaboration Letter (optional):** For any projects involving collaboration, it is optional to include a brief description of your collaboration.
10. **Two Confidential Letters of Recommendation:** In addition to the Mentor's Letter of Support that is uploaded as part of your application, two confidential Letters of Recommendation, one of which must be from the thesis advisor or equivalent, are also required using an online link. **Recommender names and email addresses** are required to complete the online Recommender Request email. Additional details are provided in "Letters of Recommendation Instructions" link in the Application.

Members of the Scientific Review Committee give considerable weight to these letters. Recommenders should describe their association with the applicant and comment on the following: the applicant's scientific background; research ability and potential; self-reliance and independence; and critical thinking skills.

Important! Out of fairness to applicants who adhere to the guidelines, applications that do not conform to the stated application procedures or that contain more than the specified number of pages or letters will be rejected. Applications that are not properly organized will be rejected.