

2026 King Fellowship Award Office Hours
Q&A

Eligibility

Specific eligibility questions were not addressed during the office hours session in the interest of time and the level of detail required for us to respond accurately. If you have questions about your eligibility, please send an email to kingawards@hria.org

Q: If someone has a previous postdoc abroad, can they use a paper from a previous postdoc as the one to be eligible? Do the years of first postdoc count towards eligibility?

A: Yes you may use a publication from your previous post-doc experience, and those years do count towards your total experience for eligibility

Q: You mentioned that papers in press must be available as a pre-prints. Do they have to be published/pre-printed by the November 6th deadline or should they just be close to available such that the reviewers can find them by the time they see them? (such as online mid-November, etc.)

A: They must be published/pre-printed by Nov 6th

Q: Is there a cap to the number of years of Post-doctoral training for the applicant?

A: Yes, applicants can have no more than 6 years of post-doc experience by the funding start date of October 1, 2026.

Q: Would full-time research experience in industry after a PhD count toward the years of postdoctoral experience?

A: Generally, yes. Contact the program staff to discuss your particular details as it pertains to total years of post-doc research.

Q: By the time the grants are awarded next year, I will still have less than 6 years of postdoctoral experience. However, if I am promoted to instructor during that time, will it affect my eligibility status?

A: This depends on the nature of your promotion and will be determined on a case-by-case basis. You should email program staff in the event of a promotion after you have submitted an application.

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Q: Can you clarify whether the 6 year for time as a postdoc applies only before the start of the award or also after?

A: You cannot have more than 6 years of research experience by the funding start date of October 1, 2026.

Q: If one is currently in fellowship training that provides 75% protected time for research but the funding mechanism under which this research is performed is flexible, are they eligible?

A: Further context is required, please reach out to us.

Q: Does continuation in the thesis lab (appointed as a postdoc but brief timeline) “count” toward postdoc time? And, would a publication arising from that work/time “count” as the required publication?

A: If you are continuing in your graduate lab and if it is a continuation of your grad work, that work would not count. We also allow for that time to be excluded from your eligibility time.

Q: If we are awarded with another career development program after the submission is still compatible?

A: You cannot hold the King award concurrent with another career development award. Examples of Career Development Awards that would render an applicant ineligible can be found in the Guidelines and FAQ documents.

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General

Q: How does the King Trust define “disease” for these applications? E.G. Is research on neurodevelopmental conditions such as Autism considered?

A: The trust is agnostic to disease conditions. The basic research also does not have to be directly linked with any clinical outcomes as long as it furthers our understanding of the subject.

Q: Is there a maximum number of times we can apply?

A: No

Q: Is it possible to have more than one proposal from a postdoc (applicant)?

A: No you may not submit multiple proposals in a single cycle

Q: How many applications are you expecting to fund?

A: We unfortunately will not have that specific number until late spring; you can look at previous awardee data available on our website to determine the historical average number of awards funded.

Q: Does the visa category play a role for the application?

A: We do not have any Visa category restrictions.

Q: If I receive this fund, can I use it to extend my visa?

A: This is not something HRiA can assist with, we recommend discussing with your institution or organization.

Q: How is the full proposal different from the initial-stage application?

A: It is much more robust; the research plans and mentorship plans require much more detail, and Letters of Support need to be submitted.

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Q: How much does this fellowship value the necessity of new training? Meaning is it necessary for me to gain new techniques during the proposed work and provide a plan for acquiring those techniques? Or is it ok to apply skills I already have to new questions?

A: It does not have to be an entirely new technique but it has to be a new piece of learning to help make the next jump towards research independence. New techniques can be addressed within mentorship plan. It is completely fine to apply techniques you already have.

Q: If we previously applied and received positive feedback but did not earn a fellowship, what would you advise changing for this round?

A: If you have received feedback, you have the benefit of being able to incorporate the feedback and improve your proposal. If invited for full stage, you would be asked to indicate how you incorporated reviewer feedback.

But you can always submit a new proposal if you prefer. A proposal with all different aims won't be considered a resubmission.

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Application

Q: When I submit the initial research proposal, should it be a breakdown format, or should it be a one- paragraph form?

A: We do not have a preference but consider the readability of your proposal as you are formatting.

Q: Do we need to provide a letter of recommendation for the initial stage?

A: No

Q: In the Applicant Eligibility Information form, under the Applicant's Current and Pending Support section, if the status of other grant/award is only submitted, does this count as all active and pending support? Do I need to list them?

A: Yes, you need to list it under the Pending Support section. If you are awarded one of these other grants, this may render you ineligible for the King. Please reach out to program staff at kingawards@hria.org to verify.

Q: Does the LOI (initial) stage requires any institutional signature/documentation?

A: Yes, your application will have to be certified by an Authorized Institutional Representative before you can submit. Please refer to the reference document "HRiA Award Manager Online Application Instructions" on our [website](#).

Q: What would you advise if the reviewer feedback was all positive? In other words, they didn't mention anything negative that could be changed in a resubmission.

A: Please take previous reviewer comments into account while drafting your new proposal, but if there are no actionable items, please reach out to us.

Q: If I have never volunteered in any organizations supporting DEI, am I still eligible to apply? I have mentored students of various backgrounds, and I am an LGBTIQQ person myself. But I do not have explicit structured experience in DEI organizations/groups.

A: DEI is just one example of an applicant's contributions to the wider research community and promoting a positive research culture. You could communicate in multiple different ways, included lived experience. Further examples are available in the guidelines and FAQs.

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Q: Is it possible to find an example of the documents format? (e.g. research proposal). Or those can be find on the portal?

A: We do not provide templates or examples of the research proposal; in the Full Stage (if invited) we will provide a template for the Career Development Plan

Q: I just wanted to check if any documents are required after the program officer confirms my eligibility, considering the COVID-related delay in my research timeline.

A: Your mentor needs to speak to your eligibility (including any leave of absences) in their Letter of Support that is required during the Full Stage.

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Mentorship

Q: You said one applicant per mentor, does this apply even at the initial stage?

A: Yes, only one applicant per Mentor may apply per application cycle, which includes the initial stage.

Q: Is it possible to have more than one mentor/collaborator?

A: Yes, mentorship teams are typical and encouraged.

Q: If you have multiple co-mentors, can they also be a co-mentor for another applicant?

A: Yes the co-mentors can have more than one applicant but the primary mentor cannot have more than one applicant.

Q: For applicants whose research spans several fields and involves guidance from multiple mentors, what's the best way to convey that multidisciplinary mentorship structure at the initial stage without overcomplicating the application?

A: This information can be specified in the online application's Key Personnel tab

Q: Since the guidelines state only one primary mentor can apply per cycle, how should applicants indicate the roles of additional mentors who are contributing distinct expertise in different disciplines?

A: This information can be specified in the online application's Key Personnel tab

Q: The instructions say the role of mentor should be clearly stated, but in the research proposal template none of the sections requires the role of the mentor. Is it necessary to dedicate some space in the LOI to the role of the mentor?

A: In the online application, this information should be input in the Key Personnel tab; you do not need to allot space in the LOI

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Post-Award

Q: If my current visa terminates during the 2-year term of the award (as it cannot be extended any further), does it disqualify my application?

A: In that case it will be considered a relinquished award and the unspent funds will be returned to HRiA.

Q: [If awarded] if my affiliation changes (e.g. my PI moves to a different institution in MA), is it possible to transfer the award?

A: That is decided on a case-by-case basis. We cannot answer without any significant context.

Q: What happens in cases where applicants are promoted to assistant professor a few months after the fellowship is awarded?

A: Grantees would be requested to contact us so that discussion could be had to determine if they are still eligible to hold the award. If the promotion constitutes their transition to independence, the award will have to be relinquished.