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Date: Thursday October 27, 2022

To: Department Chairs, Associate/Vice Deans (Research), Postdoctoral Fellow Applicants

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Re: **2023 Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowships Program: Recruitment Stream**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce details of the Recruitment Fellowships stream, in health-related priorities, of the 2023 Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowships (AI PDF) Program. Alberta Innovates (AI) is the innovation engine of the province, working with researchers, industry, and entrepreneurs to forge a healthy, sustainable, and prosperous future for Albertans. With the province-wide launch of the AI PDF program, Alberta is taking the lead in transforming postdoctoral supports and opportunities to reflect a changing research and innovation landscape. This includes offering more prestigious awards to attract top talent to the province, as well as supporting a broader range of applied work related to developing, testing, and scaling up use of digital and data-driven technologies in the health sector.

This is a direct application whereby potential postdoctoral fellow applicants are to submit their completed application directly to FGSR. Faculties/Departments are not required to review applications and submit eligible nominees to FGSR; however to assist in the promotion of this fellowship, we request Faculties and Departments disseminate this year's competition details to faculty members and their potential postdoctoral trainees.

The AI PDF Recruitment Fellowships will assist with the strategic recruitment of top incoming postdoctoral fellows with health related work to the university. Additional fellowship streams supported by the AI PDF program will be launched at a later date.

AI's investment in the AI PDF Program enhances Alberta's knowledge workforce in areas with high potential to diversify the economy and improve the health and well-being of citizens. To ensure the Program builds capacity in areas of strategic importance to the province, the following areas are prioritized:

Priority 1 - Digital & Data-Enabled (D&DE) Health Research: leveraging advances in connected devices, computational intensity, and data generation to enhance health research.

Priority 2 - Advancing D&DE Tools and Methods: developing advanced approaches to unlock greater value from health information.

Priority 3 - Health Technology Acceleration: activities to increase the rate at which discoveries and promising academic outputs (e.g., IP, data assets, processes) are transformed into commercially viable health products or services.

Priority 4 - Technology & Data-Enabled Health System Transformation: Advancing the use of health technologies to enhance health and wellness outcomes, health system sustainability, or health care.

Recruitment Fellowship Value

\$70,000 CAD per year for up to two years

Top-Up: \$15,000 - For Trainees in receipt of any other major comparable award (i.e. Killam, Notley, Tri-Council fellowships, etc.). The Stipend Incentive may be increased as necessary to ensure the combined value of the awards does not fall below \$70,000 CAD per year.

Start Dates

Incoming postdoctoral fellow's appointment must start between April 1, 2023 – December 1, 2023.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this award one must be an incoming postdoctoral fellow. In the context of this competition, "incoming" means having an appointment start date no sooner than April 1, 2023. Fellows need only apply once for this fellowship. Applications received may be considered in multiple review cycles over the period for which the fellow remains eligible. There are no citizenship restrictions on this fellowship.

Refer to [FGSR's website](#) for complete information regarding eligibility criteria and descriptions of the priority areas. Program details will also be available in the Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowships Program Guide, available on [Alberta Innovates website](#) (TBA).

Application Process

Applicants and their potential supervisors are to review FGSR's website for the complete application process, information, and timelines. Should Faculties/Departments want a copy of the potential fellow's application for advisement purposes, they may request this directly from them prior to December 15.

A complete application includes:

1. [Alberta Innovates Postdoctoral Fellowship Application form](#)
2. Project proposal with statement on relevancy to AI priority areas (1 page maximum)
3. Summary of career goals (1 page maximum)
4. Applicant CV
5. Supervisor statement of support (on institution letterhead and signed by the supervisor)
6. Copy of results letter(s) from any competitions that the applicant has applied to previously for the same project (e.g., CIHR competition results)
7. **Three Letters of Reference.** As these letters are confidential, they must be submitted directly by the referees via email to grad.awards@ualberta.ca. Letters submitted by the applicant will not be accepted:
 - Applicants are responsible for supplying their referees with the documents necessary for them to write their respective letters.
 - Applicants should contact their referees well in advance of the application deadline date.
 - Applicants are to instruct referees to request Award Services to confirm receipt of their letters upon email submission. FGSR will not follow up regarding missing reference letters.

- It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with referees to ensure the assessments are submitted in sufficient time prior to FGSR's deadline.

The FGSR may leverage internal review processes for other competitions (e.g., Banting, Killam, tri-council) to triage applications for further consideration by AI for an AI Fellowship. Fellowship applicants identified in this way may be required to submit additional documents to assist in assessing relevancy to AI priorities.

December 15, 2022: Deadline for applicants to submit their complete application (points 1-6 noted above) as one PDF via email to grad.awards@ualberta.ca. The three letters of reference (point 7 noted below) are also to be sent directly to FGSR by applicants referees by December 15. To avoid lost/spammed emails, applicants are to request Award Services to confirm receipt of their application upon email submission. Applicants who do not receive an email reply from grad.awards@ualberta.ca confirming receipt of their application within 2-3 business days are responsible for following up with FGSR.

December 16 – 23, 2022: applications will be reviewed for eligibility and completeness. Once the application is submitted to FGSR, no revisions will be permitted. Incomplete applications including those submitted with missing documents and missing signatures will be rejected. FGSR will not follow up regarding applications that are incomplete and the application will automatically be rejected.

January 3 – Mid February, 2023: Review and adjudication by Postdoctoral Fellowship Selection Committee members

Mid – End of February, 2023: Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee Final Selection Meeting

End of February – Beginning of March, 2023: Alberta Innovates to approve selected awardees

March 2023 – Results letters are sent to all applicants

April 1, 2023 – Incoming postdoctoral fellows appointment start date to be between April 1 – December 1, 2023

We wish all applicants success in the upcoming competition!

Sincerely,

FGSR Award Services