

## The Global Child Health (GCH) Fellowship - FAQs

### ***How long is the GCH fellowship program?***

The GCH Fellowship is designed as a two-year program. In exceptional circumstances, the program may consider fellowships of a shorter duration (no less than one year).

### ***Who is eligible for the GCH fellowship program?***

Any candidate, clinical or non-clinical, needs to have shown significant interest and exemplary scholarship in global child health.

**Clinical applicants** are expected to have a professional degree (e.g., MD, MBBS, nursing, etc.) and to have completed either a postgraduate degree (e.g. MPH, MSc. Epidemiology, or related discipline), **or** have significant scholarly experience within one of the following focus areas: research or capacity building through education.

**Non-clinical applicants** must have a doctoral degree in Epidemiology, Nutritional Sciences, or related discipline and are expected to have demonstrated exemplary scholarship (e.g., peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations, etc.).

### ***What is the curriculum like?***

The GCH Fellowship Program is designed to train an interdisciplinary cohort of fellows. The curriculum involves several key components including mentorship, a scholarly project, and didactic seminar sessions. While international travel is not a mandatory part of our curriculum, pending project needs, travelling abroad to study field-sites may be required.

**Mentorship:** Fellows are paired with a primary supervisor who will provide mentorship and guidance throughout the course of the two-year training program in the area of the fellow's scholarly project (see below for more information regarding the selection of a primary supervisor). Fellows are also matched with a committee of between three to four faculty members, senior staff, or other experts at the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health (C-GCH) and other institutions who have expertise in the topic area of the fellow's scholarly project. Fellows typically meet with their committee on a quarterly basis and receive research and professional development advice at each of these meetings. Moreover, an evaluation form of the fellow's progress is completed at the end of each committee meeting.

**Scholarly Project:** Fellows are required to play a leadership role on one or more academic projects within either the Centre's research or sustainable capacity building pillars. In addition to working closely with their primary supervisor,

fellows will have the opportunity to collaborate with other members of the Centre for Global Child Health during their project(s).

**Didactic Seminars in GCH:** Fellows are expected to attend the Centre's weekly seminar series in global child health. Fellows will also have the opportunity to present their work to colleagues periodically, to identify and invite other speakers to participate in the series, and to coordinate and moderate seminar sessions.

**Field Experiences:** While not mandatory, fellows may participate in research or capacity building activities in the field, related to their scholarly project.

***How will I spend my time during the fellowship?***

Fellows who have a clinical background (i.e., MD, RN, or other allied health professionals) and have a license to practice in Canada will typically spend approximately 80 per cent of their time (equivalent to four days per week) working towards the completion of their scholarly project(s). Activities during this time may include attending supervisor or committee meetings, working on research-based or sustainable capacity building projects, or attending seminars and other learning sessions at the C-GCH. The remaining 20 per cent of their time will generally be spent working clinically to ensure that they maintain their clinical acumen. Securing a clinical placement is the responsibility of the fellow, but the fellowship program may be able to assist in identifying an appropriate clinical placement at SickKids.

Fellows who either a) do not have a clinical background (i.e., PhD) or b) are clinicians but do not have a license to practice medicine in Canada or choose to focus 100 per cent on research/capacity building activities will spend 100 per cent of their time (five days per week) working towards the completion of their scholarly project.

***How much time will I spend on research?***

All fellows must complete a scholarly project during the course of the two-year program. Scholarly projects may include work in either research or capacity building through education. Fellows will also gain exposure to advocacy work and other research and capacity building initiatives at the C-GCH that are unrelated to their scholarly project.

***How do I choose a supervisor?***

We match fellows with supervisors from the C-GCH based on an alignment in the fellow's research and/or capacity building interests and project availability. Specifically, we match fellows with a primary supervisor who has similar research/capacity building interests to the candidate as well as an available and funded project.

***Does my primary supervisor have to be from SickKids?***

Yes, all fellows must be matched with a primary supervisor who is affiliated with the C-GCH. Fellows may receive input related to their

project from other mentors at an external institution; however, primary supervisors must be based at SickKids.

***When will I start my Fellowship?***

Start dates for successful applicants are flexible, and will be determined by the Fellow in discussion with their Fellowship supervisor and Fellowship Program Director.

***Can I complete a Fellowship and graduate degree program simultaneously?***

The Fellowship Program is a full-time commitment, so it is strongly recommended that applicants focus 100 per cent on their Fellowship. If an applicant is pursuing a degree that allows protected time for research and few to no course-based requirements, the Fellowship candidate may discuss this option with the Fellowship Program Director.

***Do you accept international applicants?***

Yes. Please note that it is the fellow's responsibility to ensure all Canadian immigration requirements are fulfilled. Fellows are expected to be based in Toronto, Ontario, Canada for the duration of their fellowship.