

Global Oncology Fellowship - FAQs

How long is the Global Oncology fellowship program?

The Global Oncology 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).

What is the curriculum like?

The Global Oncology 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 the Garron Family Cancer Centre (GFCC), 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 Projects: Fellows are required to complete one or more scholarly and/or capacity-building projects in paediatric oncology and global health, and will build methodologic skills in an area mutually chosen by them and their supervisors.

Didactic Seminars: Fellows are expected to attend C-GCH'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. Fellows are also expected to participate regularly in other GCH and GFCC activities.

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

How will I spend my time during the fellowship?

Activities during the fellowship 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 and GFCC. As part of the fellowship, clinical fellows are required to commit up to 10 per cent of their time per year to clinical activities in the Division of Haematology/Oncology. 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(s).

How much time will I spend on research?

All fellows must complete one or more scholarly projects during the course of the two-year program. Scholarly projects may include work in either research or capacity building focused on pediatric oncology and global health. Fellows will also gain exposure to advocacy work and other research and capacity building initiatives at the C-GCH and GFCC that are unrelated to their scholarly project.

How do I choose a supervisor?

We match fellows with supervisors from C-GCH and GFCC 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 or supervisors who have 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 or GFCC. Fellows may receive input related to their project from other mentors at external institutions; 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.