
NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

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1. Introduction to the National Breast Cancer Foundation

The National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) has made its mark since 1994 as a leader in breast cancer research in Australia. NBCF is the largest non-government national funder of breast cancer research, and has adopted the ambitious goal of working “towards zero deaths from breast cancer by 2030”. NBCF believes that the only way to achieve this goal is through funding world class research that has a high potential to impact breast cancer.

2. International Fellowship Program

2.1 Overview

NBCF recognises the importance of international training and knowledge exchange in increasing the capabilities of our future research leaders, and ultimately improving the quality and competitiveness of Australian research. To achieve this goal, NBCF has, together with leading international research institutions, established a training program to support outstanding Australian clinicians to strengthen their clinical and research experience and/or give those without a demonstrated track record in research the exposure to training and career development opportunities by working in internationally renowned breast cancer research centres outside of Australia.

Successful Fellows will be expected to run a strong research project targeting the improvement of outcomes for women and families with breast cancer.

2.2 Fellowship Funding

The awards are in the form of an NBCF bursary to be applied over a 1-2 years period and in some cases will be complemented with a funding component from the host institution. Each fellowship will be awarded \$100,000 spread over either 1 or 2 years from NBCF.

2.3 Participating Institutions

The NBCF has created a network of international institutions that are renowned for research excellence and mentorship in breast cancer. NBCF has worked with the international institutions to provide matched funding under this program. Applicants should note that the amount and mechanism of providing any matched funding will be at the discretion of the host institution. Applicants will be asked to nominate their preferred host institution(s) in order in their application. Program profile for each participating institution is shown below.

The International Fellowship program is offered at the following host institutions:

Institute	Institut Gustave Roussy
Location	Villejuif, France
Matched funding	Up to AUD \$100,000
Program description	<p>Gustave Roussy Cancer Center has developed a breast cancer research program focused on six axes; individualized prevention and screening (Dr Delalogue), window of opportunity studies (Dr Arnedos), survivorship (Dr Vaz Duarte), molecular classifications of metastatic cancers (Dr Andre), new drugs (Dr Varga) and cancer immunology (Dr Zitvogel). GRCC is treating 1400 new breast cancer patients per year. An average of 400 patients is included each year in prospective clinical trials. Fellows are mentored by one or more of five full-time staff breast medical oncologists. Fellows will participate to half a day consultations. Clinical responsibilities will include: new patient consultations, supervision of systemic therapy, toxicity management, and assessment of patients on therapeutic clinical trials. A minimum of fifty-percent of the fellows' time is protected for research. In the context of NCBF training program, we plan to supervise a fellow on a research project focused on molecular characterisation of metastatic breast cancers. The project will be dedicated to the detection of lethal subclones in primary tumors from patients who have presented a resistance to endocrine therapy and metastatic relapse. The project will include pathologists, bioinformaticians, biologists and oncologists. The aim will be to detect lethal genomic alteration at the subclonal level, and to define the characteristics of these lethal subclones. Grants have already been obtained for this project. Fellow will be able to present their data in international conference, and to be author in an eventual paper.</p>

Institute	Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust
Location	Liverpool, United Kingdom
Matched funding	To be confirmed
Program description	<p>The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust (CCC) treats over 1,000 breast cancer patients per year across the Liverpool and Merseyside region. CCC offers comprehensive breast cancer care and treatment including early and late phase clinical trials. The fellow will be based at the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre-Linda McCarthy Centre in central Liverpool. The fellow will be mentored by Prof Carlo Palmieri. Fellows will participate in 1.5 days of clinics per week with clinical responsibilities including new patient consultations, supervision of systemic therapy, toxicity management, and assessment of patients on therapeutic clinical trials. They will also participate in a weekly breast MDT as well as a genomic medicine MDT.</p> <p>Fifty-percent of the fellows' time will be protected for research. The intention is to focus the fellow on defining and characterising the genomic lesions within brain metastasis secondary to breast cancer (associated primary BC are available). The fellow will work and collaborate with pathologists, bioinformaticians, biologists and oncologists both at CCC as well as at the University of Liverpool. The aim will be to identify possible new targets, as well as define targets for which agents already exists. The aim being to underpin the development of new studies. A biobank of paired primary and brain metastasis is available. The aim will be for the fellow to develop data for presentation at national and international conference, as well as peer reviewed publications. There will also be opportunities to spend time in the Liverpool clinical trials unit and to be involved in developing trial ideas and protocols.</p>

Institute	Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center
Location	Boston, USA
Matched funding	Up to AUD\$100,000
Program description	<p>The objective of the Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center (DF/BWCC) Medical Oncology Breast Cancer International Fellowship Program is to train early career investigators in breast cancer research and treatment. This two-year fellowship is available to students who have completed their medical oncology training and wish to pursue specialized training in breast cancer. Fellows will spend 25% of their time in our breast oncology clinic under direct staff supervision. The fellows will dedicate the rest of their time to research projects—clinical, translational, or basic. Based on each fellow's interest, he or she will be assigned a clinical and research mentor during the two-year program. Over the course of 7 years, DF/BWCC has welcomed 6 international fellows from Australia, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, and Israel. Each fellow spent 2 or more years with our breast oncology program.</p> <p>In addition to clinical and research responsibilities, the fellows participate in all department conferences. We hold a didactic conference and a clinical conference every week as well as a Research-in-Progress meeting twice a month. Fellows are also eligible to participate in the Dana-Farber clinical research course, which teaches young investigators best practices in research and how to conduct projects as a Principle Investigator.</p> <p>The Breast Oncology Program at Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center sees more than 3,000 new patients each year and has over 50 active clinical protocols. Additionally, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of five centers in the United States recognized as a Breast Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence (SPORE). The Program has a multidisciplinary team including 28 medical oncologists, 10 surgical oncologists, 4 radiation oncologists, 4 biostatisticians, and more than 30 laboratory investigators.</p>

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Institute	Royal Marsden Hospital, UK
Location	London and Surrey, UK
Program description	<p>The Breast Unit at The Royal Marsden Hospital is the largest in the UK with over 9,000 new referrals each year. Together with our academic partner, the Institute of Cancer Research, we provide diagnostic and treatment services for patients with breast cancer and access to a broad portfolio of academic and commercial trials. We have a particular interest in research and training and have a well-established programme for existing visiting fellows.</p> <p>The objectives of this fellowship would be for the successful candidate to gain training in clinical and translational research over a 2 year position. The primary supervisor of the fellow would be Professor Nicholas Turner supported by other senior members of the Breast Unit including Professor Mitch Dowsett, Professor Stephen Johnston and Dr Alistair Ring. The Fellow will participate in 3 (half day) clinics per week under direct supervision. They will be responsible for patient assessment, new patient consultations and supervision of ongoing therapy, with a specific remit in monitoring patients on clinical trials.</p> <p>A minimum of 50% of the fellow's time will be protected for research. In collaboration with their primary supervisor they will develop and implement an academic research project. This will include training in protocol writing, liaison with clinical trial support staff and research governance. The specific project undertaken will depend on the interests of the candidate in discussion with their supervisor.</p>

NBCF is also currently in discussions with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York, USA) regarding this scheme and potential matched funding. Applicants may extend their application to include MSKCC on a provisional basis. NBCF will notify all applicants once a final decision on participation has been made by the institution.

Institute	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center
Location	New York, USA
Matched funding	Up to AUD\$100,000
Program description	The objective of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center Breast Cancer Fellowship Program is to expose the best and brightest minds to cutting edge clinical and basic science research in breast cancer. Fellows in this program will identify a mentor in the clinical or basic science departments and will together develop an initial translational research plan prior to their arrival. This will be complemented with mentored clinical training in the MSKCC Breast Medical Oncology group constituting up to, but no more than 3 half-day ambulatory clinics weekly. Over 50% of the fellow's time will be protected for conducting research. Fellows will participate in structured training including didactic lectures, symposia on breast cancer care and research, grant writing, and clinical research methods. They will be expected to present their research finds at international meetings and ultimately in peer-reviewed publications.

Institute	Princess Margaret Cancer Center
The Princess Margaret Cancer Center fellowship has been filled. NBCF is no longer accepting applications for this host institution.	
Location	Toronto, Canada
Matched funding	Up to AUD \$100,000
Program description	The objective of the Princess Margaret Medical Oncology Breast Cancer Fellowship Program is to train early career investigators in breast cancer research and treatment. The Breast Medical Oncology Group at Princess Margaret sees more than 600 new patient referrals annually and

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	<p>interacts with a multi-disciplinary team that includes surgical oncology, radiation oncology, palliative care, pathology, medical imaging, medical genetics, plastic surgery, nursing and social work. Fellows will be mentored by one or more of five full-time staff breast medical oncologists at Princess Margaret with unique areas of expertise and research focus: Dr. Eitan Amir (Health Services & Trial Methodology), Dr. Philippe Bedard (Experimental Therapeutics), Dr. David Cescon (Translational Research), Dr. Christine Elser (Medical Education), and Dr. David Warr (Supportive Care). Fellows will participate in 3-4 half-day ambulatory breast medical oncology clinics weekly under direct staff supervision. Clinical responsibilities will include: new patient consultations, supervision of systemic therapy, toxicity management, and assessment of patients on therapeutic clinical trials.</p> <p>A minimum of fifty-percent of the fellows' time is protected for research. Fellows are expected to develop and implement research projects in their areas of interest in collaboration with their supervisor(s). Fellows will develop skills in research methods, writing research protocols; analyzing original research data; presenting results at local, national and international meetings; and preparing final peer-reviewed manuscripts for publication. There are opportunities for research collaborations with scientists at the Princess Margaret Cancer Research Institute and other research institutes through the University of Toronto.</p>
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2.4 Research Projects

Applicants need not contact their preferred host institution at this time. Selected candidates will be invited by the host institution and NBCF to develop and agree on a specific research project for the award.

Applicants will need to describe in their application their overall research career plan and goals, and how this fellowship would assist in reaching these goals.

Candidate(s) are expected to return to Australia at the end of the program, and to apply the knowledge they have gained through their research in activities.

2.5 Funding Period

Funding is available for one or two years, and may commence at any time.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Candidates must have a doctoral degree (Ph.D. and/or M.D.) and a proven track record of engagement in breast cancer through clinical practice and/or research.
- You must complete an application form and provide two Letters of Support.
- Should your application progress to the final stage, you will be required to attend an interview at the NBCF head office in Sydney.

Candidates will be expected to work with the host institution to obtain any necessary work visa. No bursary will be paid to successful applicants until such time as the individual's ability to carry out the program in the host institution's country is verified.

Candidates must be based in Australia at the time of their application. Applications from candidates who are based overseas will not be considered.

3.2 Letters of Support

Each applicant must obtain and include in their online application two Letters of Support from nominated referees who are able to comment on the applicant's professional clinical and/or research skills and future research potential. The referee is requested to justify his/her comments with regard to the applicant's current research output, if applicable. The referee is requested to also comment on the potential benefit of the fellowship to the future career development of the applicant. Contact details of each referee must also be included in the application.

4. Application Form and Submission

4.1 Applications

All applications must be submitted through our online grants administration system (SmartyGrants).

To apply follow this link: <https://nbcf.smartygrants.com.au/>. Applicants must first create an account with SmartyGrants. Your account details are used solely for the purpose of enabling you to complete the application form.

Applications are not submitted until you hit the submit button. Once submitted, you will not be able to make any further changes to your application. You can return to <https://nbcf.smartygrants.com.au/> at any time to view your application, but once it is submitted, it cannot be changed.

When you submit your application, you will receive an automated email acknowledging that your application has been received with a copy of your application attached. This will be sent to the email address used to register on SmartyGrants. Please retain the information in this email throughout the submission process. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please assume your application has not been submitted and contact the NBCF Research Team.

4.2 Application Form

Please complete all sections of the application form. Incomplete applications will not be processed. You can preview an application form in SmartyGrants.

4.3 Uploading Documents

All documents uploaded throughout the application must be in PDF or Word format. When attaching a file, you need to allow sufficient time for the file to be uploaded to the page. You should not navigate to another page until the file has been successfully attached, otherwise the file upload will be cancelled.

There is a maximum file limit of 25 megabytes. However, it is strongly recommended that you try to keep files under 5 megabytes.

To attach a file, follow these steps:

- Select “Browse” and choose the file you wish to upload and click “Select”.
- The file will begin to upload and the progress bar will be filled in as the file is uploaded.

- When the file upload is completed, the progress bar will disappear and a link to the uploaded file will be available, along with the option to remove the file.

Save files in the following format:

[Application ID] – [first initial] [last name] – [name of document]

e.g. IFP-19-001- J Smith - CV

5. Selection Process

5.1 Review Process

Applications will be considered at the time of submission. There is no scheduled closing date for this scheme. The scheme will remain open until all Fellowships have been awarded.

Assessment of applications and the interviewing panel will be conducted by members of the NBCF Board of Directors, Research Advisory Committee, CEO, Director of Research Investment and external scientific peer reviewers. A shortlist of candidates for each host institution will then be presented along with recommendations to each host institution to make a final selection.

NBCF and each host institution reserve the right not to award a fellowship.

Once the candidates have been selected the specific research project will be developed between the candidate, host institution, and NBCF.

6. Administration of the Funding and Conditions

6.1 Funding Agreement

Upon acceptance of an offer of funding from NBCF, a Funding Agreement will be prepared and issued to the Fellow for review and signing. All parties must accept the terms of the Funding Agreement and sign the Agreement before payments are made.

Fellowships must commence as set out in the Funding Agreement.

6.2 Reporting Requirement

Successful Fellows will be required to submit a written report at the completion of the program. The report should outline progress made on the proposed project i.e. new learnings, techniques and/or methodologies.

6.3 Community Engagements

Successful Fellows may be requested, at the commencement or the end of the program, to participate in activities such as talks to NBCF supporters, media releases, etc.

6.4 Media

NBCF requests that all media releases (materials, announcements) related to data derived from the awarded grant be provided prior to their release for review and approval by NBCF communication/marketing team, and with appropriate NBCF acknowledgement. This is an important aspect of the terms of engagement as it assists in raising NBCF's profile to support future fundraising activities.

6.5 Acknowledgement of Support

All publications including journal articles/books, media releases and presentation of data derived from the awarded program must acknowledge the support of NBCF. NBCF strongly recommends that the correct branding (NBCF logo) is used.

7. Privacy and Confidentiality

The National Breast Cancer Foundation recognises the importance of your privacy and personal information, and all documents containing personal information will be handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act 1998. Personal information is collected by us in order to process grant applications. For these purposes, your information may be shared with trusted third parties and our service providers (such as external reviewers/grant assessors, NBCF's Research Advisory Council/Board, grant management system provider(s), Administering Institution, co-funding organisations) either in Australia or overseas. Failure to provide personal information may result in NBCF being unable to process your grant application.

Our Privacy Policy is available on our website <http://www.nbcf.org.au/Privacy.aspx> and contains further details about: (i) how we obtain, store and use the personal information we collect; (ii) where we send it; (iii) how you can access and correct it; (iv) how you can lodge a privacy complaint; (v) how we handle those complaints. You may contact our privacy officer with any queries via email: info@nbcf.org.au or mail: PO Box 4126 Sydney NSW 2000, or telephone: 1300 708 763.

8. Enquiries

Enquiries can be directed to the Grants Administrator, NBCF Research Investment at research@nbcf.org.au or telephone 02 8098 4825.

9. Acknowledgements

We are indebted to all our committed individual, community and corporate donors, and would like to acknowledge their kind support for the work of the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) and their commitment to research into the prevention and cure of breast cancer.