

Mobility Program Guidelines

Description

The Alberta Prion Research Institute offers the Prion Institute Mobility Program. The Program is intended to encourage investigators who are within five years of their first appointment after completing their research training or graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to visit another laboratory for a short period of time, between one to six months. The visit will be to learn or provide instruction on new methods and techniques required to research prion and prion-like protein misfolding diseases or to learn new methods of socio-economic approaches that impact prion diseases.

The Program offers recipients the opportunity to network with professors and graduate students at other universities and research institutions.

The Mobility Program allows an opportunity for Alberta researchers in Prion Institute funded research programs to visit research groups outside Alberta. It is required that the recipient be learning new techniques and approaches that will benefit the recipient and the recipient's Alberta research program on his or her return.

The Mobility Program also allows for the principal investigator of a Prion Institute-funded research program to invite a visitor who qualifies under the requirements above to visit a Prion Institute funded program. In the case of a recipient visiting a Prion Institute funded program, it is expected that the recipient will bring a new skill or research approach to the Prion Institute funded program.

The grantee will be a Prion Institute funded researcher who will use the funds to meet the objectives of the Mobility Program opportunity. The learning opportunity may take place inside or outside of a Prion Institute-funded laboratory.

Objectives

The Mobility Program offers recipients the opportunity to travel for a short period of time for the purpose of learning and exchanging information on new techniques and to discover how other laboratories and investigators operate. The Mobility Program is open for Alberta recipients to travel within or outside of Alberta or for recipients to travel to Alberta.

Funding is accessible for the study in relevant fields of inquiry in the themes as listed and described below.

Themes:**Protein folding and misfolding**

- Applying tools of structural biology, biophysics, biochemistry, molecular biology and bio-computing to understand the mechanisms of transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) and other diseases of prion-like protein misfolding. This may include prion-like human neurodegenerative diseases and dementias.

Pathobiology of TSEs

- Understanding TSE biology susceptibility, transmissibility and disease progression using genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and other innovative approaches that will contribute to the diagnosis, prevention, cure, and possible elimination of the diseases. This may include prion-like human neurodegenerative mechanisms in pathobiology.

Surveillance and Control

- Minimizing risks associated with prion exposure, including disposal of specified risk material, technologies for inactivation and decontamination of prions in water, wastewater, soil and the environment; and
- Diagnosing TSEs based on prion genomics, focusing on immunologic and biomedical engineering technologies to apply, validate and improve ante-mortem tests developed elsewhere and to explore opportunities for new tests to be developed in Alberta.

TSEs and Society

- Studying policy and response modelling, assessing economic and sociological components of community impact, risk perceptions, consumer acceptance and impact on markets, and ensuring fair and accurate communication of scientific advances. This component will also provide information useful to all levels of government for the development of public policies regarding TSEs.

Application

Applications may be submitted at any time. Applications must indicate how the knowledge and experience to be gained by training are relevant to the recipient's specific research project, to develop practical applications of knowledge, and to strengthening the capacity of Alberta based research and development.

Eligibility will be based on letters of support from the researcher at the host institution and from the researcher at the Prion Institute-supported recipient's home institution.

Applications must be submitted to the Prion Institute no less than three months prior to the scheduled start date of an exchange. Application forms are available on the [Alberta Innovates application web site](https://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/Account) (<https://www.fundingconsortium.gov.ab.ca/Account>).

Funding

Grants of up to **\$15,000 Canadian** for a maximum period of six months to cover costs of travel (at lowest economy fare) and subsistence. Grant funding will be provided to the Alberta institution. Travel costs are available up to \$3,000 and subsistence costs may be up to \$2,000 per month and cannot exceed \$12,000 over the period of the award.

Expenses for the Mobility Program must be consistent with the Tri-Council (Canada) policy on the use of grant funding (www.nserc.ca). Salaries for investigators and overhead costs are not eligible.

Approvals

The applicant must obtain a letter of recommendation from the supervisor from the recipient's home institution and a letter of support from the senior researcher at the host institution.

A PDF of the signed approval letters must be attached to Section 6. Document Attachments.

Applicants funded in this competition might be required to provide the Prion Institute with the original signed signature form(s) if the proposal is funded.

Review Process

The Alberta Prion Research Institute will review applications in consultation with appropriate advisors.

Reporting

All Mobility Program recipients are required to submit a written report of their experience on their exchange upon returning from the host institution.

The report will include information on items such as the networks developed, laboratory techniques and processes learned, courses completed and how the exchange will impact future activities of the recipient. The report should include information on accommodation, budget, transportation, travel and culture, which could offer insight to support future placements.

Contact Information

For questions on the Alberta Prion Research Institute Mobility Program contact:

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