

## NF-R4D Grant Program

### Nestlé Foundation – Research for Development Grant

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## Introduction

The Nestlé Foundation (NF) was established in 1966 to promote and support research in low-income countries (LMIC), aimed at improving nutrition and health of the most vulnerable populations. In a recent strategic discussion the NF Council has recognized that sustained institutional capacity for research continues to be a major weakness in many LMIC.

To build truly sustainable research capacity requires a *three-partner commitment* between the *donor*, the *recipient* and the *hosting institution*. To meet this challenge the NF is establishing a new funding program, the **Nestlé Foundation Research for Development (NF-R4D) grant**.

*We envision two categories of applicants:*

- 1) **Young investigators** who have already completed their training at the doctoral level, and who have 3-10 years of post-graduate experience, with publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. While stays abroad as part of continuing education during this post-graduate period are acceptable, the individual's career must clearly demonstrate his/her commitment to their home country.
- 2) **Pre-doctoral students** who require partial support to complete their PhD in a recognized foreign institution (could be in a developed or developing country).

## Eligibility

### 1) For young investigators:

For young investigators (as defined above) the eligibility criteria are:

- A doctoral degree, 3-10 years of post-graduate experience, including publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. While stays abroad as part of continuing education during this post-graduate period are valued, the individual's career must clearly demonstrate his/her commitment to their home country.
- The candidates must be already employed by the host institution, which must commit to full-time employment for the duration of the funding. At least 50% salary must be provided by the institution, with the understanding that 100% of the time will be allocated to research and research-related teaching.
- The applicant's position and research focus must be parts of the strategic planning of the institution, and must fulfill a well-defined institutional development need.
- Adequate laboratory and office space for the applicant's research program must be clearly defined and committed by the institution.

### 2) For pre-doctoral students:

The eligibility criteria for pre-doctoral students are:

- Enrollment in a doctoral program at a recognized institution locally or abroad.
- Institutional commitment and engagement to assure successful termination of the thesis and/or doctoral studies and ideally also for the initial post-doctoral period.
- The topic of the doctoral thesis work and expected research focus of the applicant must clearly align with the strategic goals of the institution.
- A defined position, laboratory space, and salary for the applicant upon his return must be clearly defined and committed by the institution, for a minimum of 2 years after graduation.
- At least half the total cost of the doctoral training must be obtained from sources other than from the NF. These funds must be confirmed at the time of the application to the NF.

All applicants will commit to work in their home country or another LMIC for as long as they receive any amount of funding from the NF.

## Participation requirements

The basic requirement for participation (application) in the NF-R4D program is the commitment of the institution and of the recipient of the grant. In addition to this joint pledge, a well-defined research plan is required.

The research topic has to be chosen by the applicant and a 5-year strategic plan of research goals endorsed by the host institution be presented. This strategic plan will then be evaluated by the NF Council and when needed by external reviewers regarding quality, feasibility, sustainability as well as importance. Whenever needed a site visit will be proposed.

All projects need to have a high local capacity building component and sustainability, and immediate implementation are key requirements. One central requirement is also that key laboratory tests (defined as tests which are relevant for public health issues locally such as CRP, Ferritin, Hb, iodine in urine), need to be done locally.

The Foundation does not normally fund projects with low public-health relevance and doubtful sustainability. Similarly projects lacking the establishment and transfer of scientific, technical and educational knowledge, i.e. projects with lacking clear research goals and without a high capacity building potential, as well as projects with a large budget that exceeds USD 100'0000 per year, will not be funded. The Foundation does not fund nutrition surveys or surveillance studies except as a requirement for an intervention study. In vitro and animal experiments are also not funded if they are not complementing a study on human subjects.

## Submission of proposals

The submission process involves 2 steps:

- 1) **Extended letter of intent** (see separate form) from applicant and institution addressing the above list of requirements as well as the submission of a summary of the research and career plans. The commitments have to be clearly described (separately from the research plan).
- 2) If the letter of intent is selected for a full project submission, the applicant and the institution will submit a NF-R4D grant application for final reviewing and evaluation

## Deadline for Submission of the extended Letter of Intent

**DEADLINE  
FOR SUBMISSION OF AN EXTENDED LETTER OF INTENT**

**8<sup>th</sup> of August 2017**

*mail to:* [nf@nestlefoundation.org](mailto:nf@nestlefoundation.org)

If you do have specific questions do not hesitate to contact us.