PROFESSOR TONY BASTEN FELLOWSHIP
GUIDELINES 2019

The Professor Tony Basten Fellowship has been established through a bequest of the late Dr Peter Valese to the Sydney Medical School Foundation. It is awarded as a grant-in-aid to a postdoctoral fellow for research into medical genetics and molecular biology.

Applications must be submitted to the Office of Research and Research Training for consideration by a sub-committee of Sydney Medical School’s Research Committee. The award is made by the Dean on the recommendation of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Sydney Medical School Foundation.

Purpose of the Grant
These grants of up to $50,000 per year are to promote and encourage postdoctoral research in medical genetics and molecular biology. The grants are directed explicitly at Early Career Researchers (ECRs).

1. FUNDING
1.1 Up to $50,000 for one year

2. TIMETABLE
2.1 Applications close: Monday 8 October 2018
2.2 Applicants advised of results: Mid November 2018

3. ELIGIBILITY
3.1 PhD status
Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent at the application closing date (Monday 8 October 2018)

3.2 Early Career Researcher (ECR) status
Applicants need to demonstrate their status as an Early Career Researcher against the following definition. The grants are not available to established researchers.

Early Career Researcher (ECR)
To be considered an early career researcher under this scheme the applicant must:

- have been awarded their PhD in 2008 or later AND
- hold a Level A or B academic appointment with the Sydney Medical School, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health or a Clinical School within the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the application closing date.

Applicants who do not satisfy the above definition of ECR may present a case to establish their ECR relative to opportunity. Circumstances establishing ECR status beyond the primary definition could include career interruptions due to non-research employment, parental leave, misadventure or carer responsibilities.
3.3 Employment status

Applicants must be either:

- members of the academic staff of the Sydney Medical School, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health or a Clinical School within the Faculty of Medicine and Health with at least a 0.4 FTE appointment and on the payroll of the University of Sydney
  
  Note: Staff from Sydney Nursing School, Sydney Pharmacy School, Sydney Dental School and the Faculty of Health Sciences are not eligible to apply in the 2019 round or;

- have been formally appointed with an academic title at the Sydney Medical School, School of Medical Sciences, School of Public Health or a Clinical School within the Faculty of Medicine and Health (including clinical and conjoint appointments) in accordance with the “Honorary Titles” policy.

Current Faculty of Medicine and Health title holders salaried by independent Medical Research Institutes with a current University agreement in place can apply.

Note: Professional staff, casuals, adjuncts and honorary research affiliates may not apply

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have a salary for the duration of 2019. If they do not have a continuing appointment, a statement from their Head of School/Institute should be included in their application, indicating an expectation of appointment for the duration of 2019.

Applicants would normally expected to have permanent resident status in Australia

3.4 Previous and current grant funding status

Money awarded under this scheme cannot be held in conjunction with ANY other scheme except for training fellowships (e.g. NHMRC Career Development Awards, C J Martin Fellowships).

Applicants can not apply for this scheme if:

- they have previously received funding under this or any other internal grant scheme managed by the Sydney Medical School or the Medical Foundation (excluding equipment grants and ECR travel grants)
- they have received, or are receiving, bridging funds or start-up funds from the University of Sydney DVCR. If a successful applicant receives DVCR funding during the period of the grant they must notify the Sydney Medical School Office of Research and Research Training.
- they have ever been or currently are a Chief Investigator A (CIA) on any Category 1 grant (excluding training fellowships e.g NHMRC Career Development Awards, C J Martin Fellowships)

3.5 Evidence of Affiliation

Applicants must demonstrate evidence of ongoing affiliation with The University of Sydney, Faculty of Medicine and Health for the last five calendar years (or the longest time applicable). Applicants should supply a list of publications and other research productivity (e.g. grants and student supervision) to demonstrate evidence of affiliation.

Applicants must also agree to have their forthcoming research productivity correctly affiliated to The University of Sydney, Faculty of Medicine and Health and administered by the University of Sydney to be eligible to apply for this scheme. Affiliation must be with The University of Sydney, Faculty of Medicine and Health.
3.6 **New Project**

All proposed projects must be new, independent and not part of an existing research program.

The applicant must explain how the project will contribute to building their track record, enhance their likely success in future external funding rounds and which funding agency they will apply to when the pilot project is completed.

3.7 **Area of Research**

Applicants must demonstrate that their proposal is in the fields of medical genetics and molecular biology.

3.8 **Budget and support from organisational unit**

The applicant must provide a budget that covers the entire cost of the project and a statement of support from their Head of School.

- The maximum amount that can be requested from this scheme is $50,000
- The applicant’s organisational unit (School/Discipline/Institute) need to demonstrate their commitment to the project by contributing at least an additional 20% of the amount requested from this scheme.
- The applicant’s Head of School (or equivalent) must provide a statement outlining the organisational unit’s support for the project. This statement should include the dollar value of their contribution. In-kind contributions, such as a contribution to the salary of the applicant or provision of laboratory space or consumables, are not considered sufficient to meet this requirement.
- The applicant’s salary cannot make up any part of the budget request
- This scheme is not available to purchase equipment or cover conference travel expenses

3.9 Applicants must have completed the Responsible Research Practice module in CareerPath.

4. **COMPLETING THE APPLICATION**

Applications must be submitted through the online application at: [http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/research/support/internal-funding.php](http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/research/support/internal-funding.php)

Applicants may make only one application to this scheme in each round. This scheme is a single-applicant scheme.

Applicants must include the following documents in their application:

4.1 **PhD award letter**

4.2 **Project statement**: outlining how the project will enhance the applicant’s track record and ability to apply for future external grants (max. 1 page)

4.3 **Project plan**: outlining the proposed pilot project including the following points (max. 3 pages):

- project title
- aims and significance
- research plan, methods & techniques
- budget outline covering the entire cost of the project. The budget must include the amount requested from this scheme and the amount to be contributed by their organisational unit. These amounts should be indicated as two separate amounts which add up to the total value of the project
- indication of which funding agency will be applied to when the pilot project is completed
4.4 **A statement of support from the Head of School/Discipline/Institute:** disclosing other funding (source and amount) available to support the proposed project.

If applicable (e.g. on a fixed term contract) also include a statement indicating an expectation of appointment for the duration of 2019.

4.5 **Track record:** outlining the significance of the applicant’s work. Include career interruptions if applicable (max. 1 page)

4.6 **Publications list:** limit to last 5 years. Include any citation rates and impact factors (include metric source)

4.7 **Research Data Management Plan (RDMP)**

A completed RDMP must be submitted, using the [University RDMP template](#), as an addendum to your application. This not only enables access to free digital data storage space on the University’s Research Data Store; documents the data management, retention, access, and sharing requirements of your research project; it covers the requirements of the Research Data Management Policy and Faculty Local Provisions in one step. The Research Data team can help with any RDMP enquiries. Applications that do not include a Research Data Management Plan on the relevant University template will not be considered.

5. **COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The following criteria will be taken into account by the assessment committee when they are considering the applications relative to other applications in the same round.

5.1 **Excellence of the Chief Investigator as demonstrated by Track Record relative to opportunity.**

This will take into account:
- Career awards
- Quality of publications
- Presentations at conferences

5.2 **Funding potential:** Do the applicant and the project have a high likelihood of securing competitive external funding in the next 24 months?

5.3 **Quality of the project.** This will take into account:
- Significance
- Feasibility

5.4 **Environment:** Can the project be successfully completed in the area where the applicant plans to do the work?

The assessment of applications and the decisions of the sub-committee will be final and no correspondence will be entered in to.
6. OBLIGATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Successful applicants will be required to submit an application to external funding bodies such as the NHMRC and/or the ARC through the University of Sydney either in the year immediately after the end of this grant or the following year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Office of Research & Research Training
Email: medicine.profiles@sydney.edu.au