

AREF Research Development Fellowship Programme for 2024/25

Internal deadline for budget approval	20 September 2024	@Sugandren Moodley @Zusake Sokutu
Requests for required application documents (see page 4 of Guidance document)	20 September 2024	@Eleanor Van Der Westhuizen
Final AREF deadline	4 October 2024	All applications must be online via the new AREF portal system. We will NOT accept any applications or supporting documents by email

The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) is pleased to launch the call for the **AREF Research Development Fellowship Programme for 2024/25** to support researchers in Africa who are emerging leaders working on important challenges for **human health**, to develop their skills as researchers.

The fellowship is not a project grant and does not provide funds for a whole research project.

While there is no clear definition, an emerging researcher will be within eight years of their research (normally PhD) qualification. However, we recognise that career pathways differ, and your research career may have been interrupted; for example, you may have taken time off for caring responsibilities.

What it offers. A three to nine-month placement at a leading research institution in the UK, Europe or Africa, with additional support at your home institution before and after the placement. Up to £47 000 available.

Who is eligible? Early career researchers. These are research-active postdoctoral scientists and clinicians with higher qualifications who are nationals of and employed in Africa (see detailed eligibility criteria).

How to apply. Read the guidance documents carefully before developing your proposal and starting your application. Complete the application via the portal at <https://programmes.aref-africa.org.uk/>

Eligibility criteria

- Applicants must be a national of a country in Africa.
- Applicants need not be resident in Africa at the time of applying, provided that the application is officially supported by an African institution that meets the eligibility criteria for an employing organisation, confirming that the applicant is employed locally.

- Applicants must be working at least **30%** full-time equivalent (FTE) in an active research role; and EITHER
 - a. have guaranteed employment with a legally established research organisation or a university in Africa for the duration of the fellowship; **or**
 - b. have a guarantee of employment at a centre of research excellence outside Africa, and an honorary contract with a legally established research organisation or university in Africa for the duration of the fellowship. They must spend at least 70% of their time based in Africa (this must be confirmed in the support letter from the institution in Africa).
- Clinicians and non-clinicians with a PhD qualification or equivalent postgraduate degree (PhD/DPhil/MD) in a health-related subject from a recognised institution of higher education; **or**
- clinicians with a specialist clinical qualification. Must have an MBBS or equivalent and a specialist clinical qualification. Examples of specialist clinical qualifications are FRCP, FWACP or equivalent; **or**
- clinicians with a master's degree. Must have an MBBS or equivalent, and the master's must have contained a research component. We would expect a plan to gain a PhD or equivalent doctorate (although not funded as part of the AREF Fellowship).

*If you are currently pursuing a PhD, you must have defended your thesis and obtained your award or a letter of attestation from the institution that you have passed your viva examination by the deadline of the call (i.e., before 4 October 2024).