



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

[AACR Clinical Oncology Research \(CORE\) Training Fellowships](#)

1. What experience will I get from this fellowship?

During the research year at the industry site, fellows will be paired with at least one industry scientist or clinical team member who will serve as their mentor. Research conducted during this fellowship will provide fellows with the opportunity to gain experience in drug development and to understand challenges in early-stage and/or late-stage clinical oncology research. Opportunities for publication and presentation of the research will be also provided.

2. Why is there an application deadline when applications are accepted on a rolling basis?

These fellowships are indeed open for application on a rolling basis year-round; however, submitted applications are reviewed **quarterly**. As such, application submission deadlines are set quarterly: August 31, November 30; February 28, and May 31. Applications received during a specific quarter will be reviewed as a batch, with funding decisions expected three to four months after that application deadline. For example, applications received between June 1, 2023 and August 31, 2023 will be reviewed together, with funding decisions expected in September 2023/October 2023.

3. I have six months of protected research time. Can I apply?

Applicants must plan to spend one year on site to achieve the desired training experience.

The start of the grant term is flexible and will be discussed after notification. Time to be spent at the industry site over this one-year period can also be flexible and is determined upon mutual agreement between the selected fellow, the fellow's institution, and the industry partner. Any additional questions regarding the time spent at the industry facility should be directed to AACR's Scientific Review and Grants Administration Department (AACR's SRGA) **before submitting an application**.

4. Does my research project qualify for application to this grant?

Please note that these grants are not intended to support the fellow's current research. Rather, they are designed to support the fellow while they conduct research on site at the industry facility.

5. I have a PhD degree. Can I apply?

No; please note that eligibility for these grants is limited to applicants with a **medical degree** (including MD, DO, or MD/PhD). Qualified fellows with a PhD are invited to apply for other AACR Fellowships.



6. I am currently conducting a fellowship outside the United States. Can I apply?

Individuals enrolled in a fellowship program or practicing medicine outside the United States at the start of the grant term are currently not eligible to apply. At the start of the grant term, applicants must have enrolled in an accredited hematology/oncology fellowship program at an academic, medical, or research institution within the United States.

7. I received my medical degree outside the United States but am currently doing research in the United States. I am not licensed to practice in the United States. Can I apply?

Applicants who received their medical degrees from foreign institutions but reside in the United States and have an extensive background in cancer research may be eligible to apply. Please contact AACR's SRGA **before submitting an application.**

8. I must attend a continuity outpatient clinic to fulfill my medical education requirements. Can I apply? Can arrangements be made to complete my clinical work while I am on site at the pharmaceutical company?

Applicants who will require special arrangements to complete their clinical duties during the course of the grant term should contact AACR's SRGA **before submitting an application.** AACR will work with applicants and the industry partner to determine whether accommodations can be made to facilitate this training while on site. Failure to disclose clinical and other responsibilities before the selection process may result in the disqualification of the applicant.

9. If selected as a grant recipient, will I be considered an employee of the pharmaceutical company while on site at my assigned industry facility?

No, the fellow will remain affiliated with and remain an employee of their academic institution during the grant term. At no time during the grant term will the grantee be considered an employee of the industry partner.

10. When will I be assigned an industry mentor?

The industry mentor will be appointed at the time of the award.

11. According to the program guidelines, a stipend may be provided to allow the fellow to travel to the industry site prior to start to secure accommodations. This stipend will also cover necessary costs for the fellow to travel to and from the industry site for the one-year term. What does the stipend cover? Is this considered a discretionary stipend or does it need to be itemized?

This stipend is intended to allow the fellow to travel to the industry site prior to the start of the term to secure housing accommodations needed for the one-year grant term. In addition, this stipend also will cover necessary costs for the fellow to travel to the industry site at the beginning of the grant term and to return



home at the conclusion of the grant term. The total amount of the stipend will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will depend on the distance travelled by the fellow, but will be no more than \$5,000 for AstraZeneca-sponsored fellows and \$7,500 for Johnson & Johnson-sponsored fellows.

12. Will I be assisted with finding housing at the industry site?

The industry partner will provide information and guidance to assist with relocation.

13. What will a typical week be like while at the industry site?

The fellow will have the opportunity to shadow their appointed mentor during daily activities, including meetings with project and study teams and key stakeholders to discuss various topics (e.g., drug development strategy and execution, regulatory strategy implementation, statistics, marketing, clinical operations). Depending on the background of the fellow, additional focus areas can also be provided (e.g., preclinical research, biomarker discovery).

The spectrum of activities is highly diverse. The training experience during the course of the fellowship includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Learning the fundamentals of conducting clinical research in oncology, such as:
 - understanding potential predictors of response to therapies
 - identifying early response endpoints
 - developing optimal trial design methods for evaluating a large number of novel drug combinations and quickly identifying the most promising combinations
- Learning about clinical trial design, protocol development, and data analysis
- Designing and completing a clinical research project
- Participating in weekly meetings
- Participating in additional training on site
- Opportunities for publication and presentation of the research

The fellow will have the opportunity to develop expertise in drug development and commercialization, including developing an understanding of preclinical research, biomarker strategy, and study design in clinical phases 1-3 (depending on their interest). There will be the potential of becoming an expert on the clinical candidate(s) being followed in terms of understanding the competitor landscape and the underlying science and biomarker strategy.

14. Who should I contact if I have a question that is not listed here?

Please contact AACR's SRGA at grants@aacr.org.