

# Santé Sector - Professional Postgraduate Training in research (fellowship) (BF10) 2025-2026

**Competition year:**  
2025-2026

**Amount:**  
\$45,000 per year

**Deadline (application):**  
October 8, 2024, 16:00 (EST)

**Announcement of results:**  
April 2025

**Duration:**  
2 years



**In the event of a discrepancy between the English and French versions of this program, the French version prevails.**

It is the applicant’s responsibility to read the rules of this program and the [Common General Rules \(CGR\) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec \(FRQ\)](#). The program rules provide additional details and information that supplement the CGR. In the event of any discrepancy with the CGR, the program rules shall prevail.

The rules for this program are available in full and in PDF format here. A compilation of all documentation relevant to the scholarship application can be found in the Toolbox, for information purposes.

Professional Postgraduate fellowship applications must be submitted via the [FRQnet electronic Portfolio](#) (ePortfolio), the transactional interface used by the FRQ for the submission of funding applications and the management of awards. To submit an application, the applicant must first create an FRQnet account. **At the competition deadline, i.e., October 8, 2024 at 16:00, the status of the application in the ePortfolio must be “Transmitted to the Fonds”. An application with any other status will be inadmissible.** It is impossible to submit an application, or add a document to the application, after the competition deadline.

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## Overview of the application evaluation process



## 1. Objectives

The objective of the training awards offered by the Fonds de recherche du Québec is to help support new generations of students in all sectors of research: natural sciences, mathematics and engineering (FRQNT), human health (FRQS), humanities, social sciences, art and letters (FRQSC).

More specifically, the Professional Postgraduate Training in research (fellowship) Scholarship aims to:

- Encourage new professional doctoral graduates to further their training and broaden their field of research;
- Foster mobility towards stimulating and dynamic scientific environments;
- Facilitate integration into new networks and the development of new collaborations;
- Encourage the acquisition of new skills, such as the ability to facilitate dialogue between science and society;
- Attract and retain top talent in Québec.

This particular program is designed for human health professionals who seek to gain health research training after completing a professional degree. It aims to enable them to concurrently pursue a career as a clinician and researcher. Applicants to this program must dedicate at least 75% of their time to research activities.

## 2. Features

### 2.1. Value and duration of the scholarship

The annual value of the Professional Postgraduate Training in Research Fellowship is **\$45,000**.

Its duration is a minimum of **6 months** and a maximum of **2 years**, for a total of \$90,000.

It is possible to apply for renewal of the fellowship, in order to obtain a third year of funding. See Section 10 “Renewal” for more details.

### 2.2. Supplement for host environment outside Québec

A supplement of \$10,000 per year will be granted **if the host environment and, should the fellowship be awarded, the awardee’s place of residence**, are located outside Québec (see Section 3.4 for conditions governing the use of the scholarship outside Québec).

In the case of a co-supervising institution outside Québec, the annual supplement is conditional on the awardee spending a minimum of 180 days per year at the co-supervising institution.

Awardees who are eligible for this supplement are also entitled to reimbursement of certain travel expenses (see Section 8.7).

### 3. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must comply with the following eligibility requirements. If the scholarship is awarded, awardees must meet the conditions described in Sections 3.1 and 3.4 to 3.6 throughout the duration of the scholarship.

#### 3.1. Basic requirements

This program is intended for candidates who::

- wish to undertake or pursue a professional postgraduate research training program **in one of the [fields covered by the Health Fund](#)**;
- completed or intend to complete a professional university degree in human health and obtain a license valid in Québec from the start date of the award and throughout the tenure of the award.

Furthermore, in accordance with Section 2.1 of the CGR, to be eligible to apply this program, an applicant must:

- be a Canadian citizen or Canadian permanent resident  
AND
- have a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline, or proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline.

Applicants who do not meet one or both of the above conditions are still eligible to apply, provided they submit an electronic Supervisor Acceptance Form from their supervisor (see Section 4.2). In addition, they must carry out their Professional Postgraduate Training in Research Fellowship in Québec (see Section 3.4).

#### 3.2. Eligibility period

To be eligible for a Professional Postgraduate Training in Research Fellowship, applicants must, at the competition deadline plan to complete their professional doctorate no later than **March 1, 2026**.

#### 3.3. Restrictions

Only one scholarship application (master's, doctoral, postdoctoral or re-entering research) may be submitted per Fonds in any given year. In accordance with Section 3.1 of the CGR, an awardee may hold a training award from only one Fonds.

Applicants who have received or are currently receiving a Professional Postgraduate Training award from a Québec or Canadian granting agency (e.g., SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, FRQNT, FRQS, FRQSC) are not eligible for this competition.

In accordance with Section 2.2 of the CGR, applicants who hold a regular professorial position at a university are ineligible for this program.

#### 3.4. Conditions for using the scholarship outside Québec

In accordance with Section 2.1 of the CGR, to use a postdoctoral training award outside Québec, the awardee must:

- be a Canadian citizen or Canadian permanent resident  
AND

- have a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline, or proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline.

**Awardees who do not meet one or both of the above conditions are required to carry out their fellowship in Québec.** In this case, their continuous physical presence in Québec is required throughout the duration of funding, excluding break periods listed in the university calendar. However, travel outside Québec deemed necessary for the proper implementation of activities related to the postdoctoral internship may be allowed if it is approved by the affiliated institution and does not exceed 180 days per year.

**Awardees who are not eligible to use their fellowship outside Québec at the time of application will remain ineligible throughout during the funding period, even if their citizenship status changes.**

### 3.5. Choice of host environment(s)

The proposed host environment(s) must enable applicants to join new networks in order to enhance their research prospects and develop collaborative relationships in a quality scientific environment. **The Fonds encourages mobility**, whether within Québec, outside Québec or internationally, when permitted by the program's eligibility requirements.

**The applicant must plan to be present at the supervising institution or co-supervising institution throughout the duration of the internship.** However, field research and data collection trips are permitted, subject to the eligibility requirements for the use of the scholarship outside Québec. When field research or data collection trips exceed six months, a co-supervision agreement must be formalized in the application (see Section 4.2).

### 3.6. Supervision and co-supervision

The postdoctoral internship must be supervised by a person whose position or university affiliation qualifies them to act as the sole supervisor of graduate students and independently lead research projects.

The fellowship may also be co-supervised. If so, the applicant must indicate this on the application form. Co-supervision must be provided by a person who holds a regular university position or a full-time paid position in a university-affiliated service centre; a company; a public, parapublic, community, private or practice sector organization; or any other setting deemed appropriate. The co-supervisor's expertise must be considered relevant to the fellowship.

Supervision and co-supervision of the postdoctoral internship come with a commitment to responsible research conduct, to upholding ethics and integrity standards, and to encouraging the applicant's own commitment to ethical and responsible research conduct.

## 4. Application

The electronic Professional Postgraduate Training in Research Fellowship application form is available in the [FRQnet ePortfolio](#) no later than one month before the competition deadline. A PDF version for information purposes is provided in the Toolbox. Applicants can also consult the [FRQnet ePortfolio technical users' guide](#).

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to select the right funding program and application form for the appropriate sector, by referring to the list of research areas for each ([Nature et technologie sector research areas](#), [Santé sector research areas](#), [Société et culture sector research areas](#)). In the event of an error, the Fonds will not transfer the application from one program to another, and the application will be ineligible.


Applicants must prepare their application sufficiently in advance to ensure that they are able to obtain all the required documents and submit the form within the required deadline. Applicants must also anticipate and consider the high volume of funding applications received by the Fonds near the competition deadline.

In accordance with Section 3.6 of the CGR, the application form must be completed in French.

Documents in PDF format are to be attached to the scholarship application form. These documents may be written in French or English and must respect the [presentation standards for PDF attachments](#).

**The absence of any of the required documents will render the application ineligible.** In addition, no documents received after the competition deadline will be considered. No document that was not requested will be sent to the review committee.

The submission of a funding application implies a commitment to read and abide by the standards of ethics and integrity, the [Open Access Dissemination Policy](#) and the [Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

 A checklist of documents to be attached with the application can be found in the Toolbox. To streamline the process, transcripts and doctoral degrees are no longer included in the list of documents to be submitted with the application.

## 4.1. Documents required from the applicant

### 4.1.1. RAMQ card

Applicants who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada must provide:

- a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline

OR

- proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline.

In accordance with Section 3.4 of these rules, applicants who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents, or do not have either of the two documents listed above, are still eligible for this competition, but must carry out their postdoctoral internship at a Québec university.

### 4.1.2. Transcripts

**Transcripts that are missing, incomplete, unofficial, uncertified or not up-to-date shall render the application ineligible.**

Copies of all transcripts are required for all the applicant's academic studies, whether completed or not, including transcripts from exchange programs and courses (equivalencies), if applicable.

The transcript for an applicant's current program of study must include the last semester completed prior to the competition deadline, including the summer semester, if applicable.

The elements that make a transcript official may differ from one academic institution to the next. Nevertheless, in order to be considered official by the Fonds, each transcript must:

- be issued by the relevant academic institution;

AND

- include the elements that prove it is an official transcript from the academic institution, including the university seal and/or signature of the registrar and/or wording such as "official transcript", etc.

A WATERMARK does not render a transcript unofficial as long as the requirements specified above are met.

If there is any doubt as to the authenticity of a transcript, the Fonds reserve the right to confirm the information with the applicant and with the academic institution.


A transcript submitted in a sealed envelope from a registrar's office may be opened and scanned.

Other documents to be attached with the transcripts (if applicable):

- For transcripts obtained outside North America, a document explaining the current grading system. The attachment must clearly explain the grading system so that the transcripts may be easily understood;
- Explanatory letter\* from the institution (registrar's office or equivalent administrative body) when no transcript is issued. The attachment must detail the reason(s) for the missing transcripts. The Fonds reserve the right to verify the admissibility of the reasons given;
- Explanatory letter from the applicant and signed by the department chair of the host institution when no transcript is issued and the applicant is unable to obtain a letter from the university.

### 4.1.3 Curriculum vitae

Applicants must attach a curriculum vitae in the "Other documents" section of the application form. Applicants who already have one can use the **Canadian Common CV (CCV) and detailed contributions document**. Applicants who do not have a CCV, or decide not to use it, may attach the **FRQ Postdoctoral CV**. In this case, the detailed contributions document need not be included.

 The CCV will no longer be used in Professional Postgraduate Training in Research Fellowship program as of 2025.

#### CCV and detailed contributions

Applicants must complete the version of the [Canadian Common CV](#) corresponding to the Fonds to which they are applying for a postdoctoral scholarship. Once the CCV has been completed, the applicant must save a copy and combine it with the [detailed contributions file](#) into a single PDF document. The CCV and detailed contributions must be up to date as of June 2024.

For more information, see the document [Preparing a CCV for the Fonds](#), with the exception of Section 7, which is not applicable at the postdoctoral level.

#### FRQ Postdoctoral CV

The FRQ Postdoctoral CV must be prepared using the following template: [Instructions and template for the FRQ Postdoctoral CV](#).

### 4.1.4 Other documents to attach to the form

Applicants must also attach the following documents in the appropriate sections of the application form:

- **Integrated background presentation** (maximum 1 page): description of the links between the applicant's experiences and interests on the one hand, and education, training and career choices on the other. While there are no evaluation criteria for this, the integrated background presentation can help the review committee to better understand, contextualize and assess

the applicant's academic record, background and contributions. Applicants are not expected to disclose any personal, sensitive or confidential information.

- **Research project** (maximum 3 pages): description of the research project demonstrating the originality of the project and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge; the clarity and coherence of the research problem; the appropriateness of the methodology; the feasibility of the project and the realism of the time frame.
- **Bibliography** (maximum 1 page): full references of the works used in the description of the research project. In accordance with Section 3.2 of the CGR, links to web pages may be included as bibliographic references where relevant.
- **Justification and suitability of host environment** (maximum 2 pages): justification of the quality and suitability of the supervising or co-supervising institution for carrying out the research project, including the integration plan. Must also demonstrate the added value of this environment to the development of the applicant's career plan. To this end, it is recommended that the following be addressed:
  - how the research project fits in with the research activities of the supervising or co-supervising institution
  - the type of supervision provided by the supervisor and, where applicable, the co-supervisor
  - how the supervising or co-supervising institution will enrich the applicant's experiences and broaden the applicant's area of expertise
  - the material resources available to the applicant for carrying out the project

#### 4.1.5 Documents for eligibility period exception

Applicants seeking an **eligibility period exception** (see Section 3.2) must provide:

- **Justification of request for an eligibility period extension or exemption** (maximum 1 page): the applicant must justify the exception request and provide, in the case of a request for extension, the dates and duration of the interruptions. This document must be attached in the "Other documents" section of the form and **will not be sent to the review committee**.
- **Supporting documents**: documents supporting the exception request (e.g., medical certificate, disability certificate, child's birth certificate, caregiver tax credit application, official document or letter from employer, etc.) allowing the Fonds to determine the duration of the extension to be granted. These must be attached in the "Other documents" section of the form and **will not be sent to the review committee**. Any supporting document for an exception request submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a translation.

Applicants seeking an **exception regarding the supervising or co-supervising institution** (see sections 3.5 and 3.6) must provide:

- **Justification of the exception** (maximum 1 page): the applicant must demonstrate having considerable mobility restrictions due to medical reasons, a disability or major family obligations. The applicant must also demonstrate that it is impossible for the postdoctoral internship to be carried out at an institution other than the one that awarded the doctorate, or to be supervised by a person other than the doctoral supervisor. This document must be attached in the "Other documents" section of the form. **It will not be sent to the review committee**.
- **Supporting documents**: documents supporting the exception request (e.g., medical certificate, disability certificate, child's birth certificate, caregiver tax credit application, official document or letter from employer, etc.) must be attached in the "Other documents" section of the form. **They will not be sent to the review committee**. Any supporting document for an exception request submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a translation.

## 4.2. Documents required from the (co)supervisor

The applicant must identify, in the “Host environment” section of the form, the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship supervisor, and the co-supervisor where applicable. **The supervisor and co-supervisor must first create an FRQnet account.** An email will then be sent to them, and an electronic Supervisor Acceptance Form will automatically be added to **their** FRQnet ePortfolio. A PDF version of the form is available in the Toolbox for information purposes.

The Professional Postgraduate Fellowship supervisor, and co-supervisor where applicable, must complete the **electronic Supervisor Acceptance Form** and attach a **letter of acceptance** (max. 2 pages). The form and letter must be completed and **submitted before the applicant submits the scholarship application form.** If this is not done, the applicant will not be able to submit the form and the application will be inadmissible. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide the persons concerned with the necessary instructions for creating an FRQnet account and writing the letter, and to ensure that the form(s) and letter(s) are submitted within the prescribed deadline.

The Fonds expects the supervisor and, where applicable, the co-supervisor, to support the development of the applicant’s future career. The letter of acceptance attached to the form is not a letter of recommendation. It should contain only the following information:

- how the applicant’s research project fits in with the (co)supervisor’s research activities
- the type of supervision offered to the applicant
- how the supervising or co-supervising institution will enrich the applicant’s experiences and broaden the applicant’s area of expertise
- the material resources available to the applicant for carrying out the project

Once the form and letter have been submitted by each supervisor, no further changes can be made.

## 4.3. Selection of the review committee

### 4.4. Applicants are responsible for selecting their review committee. No changes may be made after the competition deadline. The choice must be made on the basis of the research topic, field and training program. See the *List of review committees* in the Toolbox. Eligibility notice

All applications received by the Fonds are assessed for eligibility. Applicants will receive an email notification no later than December following the competition deadline, informing them of the result of the eligibility assessment of their application and, where applicable, its transmission to the review committee. Applications sent to the review committee may nevertheless be declared ineligible at any time.

## 5. Evaluation

For more information on the rules regarding the evaluation process, refer to Section 4 of the CGR.

Applications are reviewed according to the following evaluation criteria and weighting:

### EVALUATION CRITERIA

#### Academic record and background (35 points)

- Transcripts
- Honours (awards, distinctions, scholarships)



- Achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) and relevant experience (related to the project or background)

#### **Research project (50 points)**

- Originality of the project and potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge
- Clarity and coherence of the research problem
- Appropriateness of the methodology
- Feasibility of the project and realism of the time frame

#### **Host environment (15 points)**

- Justification and suitability of the host environment(s) chosen for the project
- Added value for the development of the applicant's career plan

## **6. Partnership scholarships**

The scholarship may be offered in partnership. For this, applicants must select, in the Partnerships section of the application form, one or more partners whose research areas are in line with their research theme. **They must also ensure that they meet the conditions set out in the partner description, where applicable.** If the scholarship is awarded, the Fonds sends the selected partners the information needed to assess the relevance of the partnership to their strategic and research priorities (project title, abstract, areas of research). If the applicant's research project is deemed relevant by one or more partners, the scholarship will be offered in partnership.

### **Pediatric Research Foundation**

#### **Early childhood diseases**

Training scholarships in the Pediatric research field, primarily in the area of childhood diseases. Amount of the scholarship: \$51,000 per year



## **Parkinson Canada**

### **Parkinson's disease**

Training scholarship in the field of Parkinson's disease. Candidates must also submit an application to Parkinson Canada. Amount of the award: \$50,000 per year



## **Parkinson Québec**

### **Parkinson's disease**

Training scholarship in the field of Parkinson's disease (for Canadian citizens or Canadian permanent residents only).



## **Alzheimer Society of Canada**

### **Alzheimer's disease**

Candidates must also submit an application to the Alzheimer Society of Canada. Amount of the award: \$51,500 per year.



## **Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada**

### **Multiple Sclerosis**

All candidates must also submit an application to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada (for Canadian citizens or Canadian permanent residents only). Amount of the scholarship: \$50,500 per year



## **L'Unité de soutien au système de santé apprenant (SSA) Québec (l'Entité nationale de formation de la SRAP)**

### **Research with and for patients in a learning health system approach**

The Unité de soutien au système de santé apprenant (SSA) Québec is a provincial unit of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR).

The Unit works to continuously improve Quebec's healthcare system and make it a learning system. It mobilizes and equips the network to do things differently and achieve the quintuple objective by promoting partnership work, the integration of science and innovation, and the facilitation of change. Its pan-Quebec team deploys its expertise in training, consulting, tools, facilitation and networking:

- Building scientific and experiential knowledge
- It offers à la carte support to project leaders in the network
- It orchestrates continuous quality improvement

The National Training Entity (NTE), also part of CIHR's PRAS, is a pan-Canadian organization that aims to increase, support and sustain the capacity of a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment focused on partnering with and for patients. ENF provides answers to changing healthcare questions, helping to improve the patient experience.

The fellowships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the National Training Entity enable award holders to hone their skills and gain experience in research with and for patients, to network and to work interdisciplinarily with people and organizations working in healthcare in a learning health system approach.



### **Kidney Foundation of Canada and Canadian Society of Nephrology – KRESCENT program Kidney health**

Candidates (Canadian citizens or Canadian permanent residents only) must also submit an application to the KRESCENT Program (Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training).



## **7. Open access policy**

Peer-reviewed publications stemming from the research funded by the scholarship must be released as immediate open access (without embargo) under an open license in accordance with the FRQ's [Open access policy for the dissemination of research](#).

## **8. Rules for using the scholarship**

The rules presented in Section 8 apply to all scholarships awarded under this program. However, applicants are encouraged to read them when applying, and to keep them for future reference if they are awarded a scholarship. **Technical details are provided in the technical scholarship user guide**, which is common to the three Fonds.

To retain the scholarship, awardees must meet all eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application. In addition, the following conditions must be met throughout the funding period:

- Be engaged in the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship on a full-time basis, subject to the rules governing paid employment and internships described in Section 8.3.2
- Comply with the rules pertaining to concurrent funding described in Section 8.3.1

Awardees must notify the Fonds as soon as one of these conditions is no longer met and of any change in their situation that could affect compliance with the conditions of the scholarship. Failure to meet these conditions (or failure to inform the Fonds of such a change) may result in the cancellation of the scholarship and the obligation to reimburse the sums received.

## 8.1. Scholarship start date

The scholarship must begin **between May 1 of the year of the offer and March 1 of the following year.**

## 8.2. Part-time postdoctoral internship

A part-time Professional Postgraduate Fellowship is permitted only in the cases listed below, on the condition that the postdoctoral supervisor authorizes it and on presentation of supporting documents:

**Family obligations or medical condition:** family obligations (e.g., family caregiver, primary caregiver for a young child) or a medical condition that prevents the awardee from pursuing the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship on a full-time basis. During part-time periods, awardees may receive 50% of the value of the scholarship payments.

**Disability:** handicap as defined in the *Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration* ([CQLR, c. E-20.1](#)) that prevents the awardee from pursuing the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship on a full-time basis. The awardee may receive full fellowship payments.

In both cases, the total value of the fellowship is not affected.

## 8.3. Rules for concurrent funding (scholarships, employment and internships)

### 8.3.1. Concurrent awards

The following table details the rules for concurrent awards.

Type of scholarship / Scholarship program	Rule
Training scholarships (master's, doctoral and postdoctoral) from federal granting agencies: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Partial concurrent funding* allowed
Training scholarships (master's, doctoral, postdoctoral, partnership) from Québec granting agencies such as the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT), the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC), the Conseil de recherches en pêche et agroalimentaire du Québec (CORPAQ)	Concurrent funding prohibited

Scholarships from Canadian and Québec government departments and agencies other than those mentioned above	Concurrent funding allowed
Co-supervised international mobility scholarships and scholarships for internships in or outside Québec	Concurrent funding allowed
Scholarships from the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) or Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ)	No concurrent funding if the scholarships are for the same project
Scholarships from the private sector, internal scholarships from universities and affiliated centres and supplementary scholarships from the postdoctoral supervisor	Concurrent funding allowed

#### **\*Partial concurrent funding with a scholarship from a federal granting agency**

Partial concurrent funding with a scholarship from a federal granting agency is possible when the Fonds scholarship is of a **higher annual value** or **longer duration** than the scholarship from the federal agency. In such cases, the awardee **must accept** the federal scholarship. However, the awardee may also accept the Fonds scholarship to take advantage of additional benefits that are not covered by the federal scholarship, as applicable:

- When the **annual value** of the Fonds scholarship is higher than that of the other scholarship, the amount will be adjusted to make up for the shortfall.
- When the **duration** of the Fonds scholarship is longer than that of the other scholarship, the Fonds will extend the term of the scholarship to make up for the shortfall when the other scholarship ends, unless the total value of the other scholarship is equal to or higher than the total value of the Fonds scholarship.
- If the requirements governing the **start date** of the federal scholarship do not allow the first instalment to be paid as soon as the thesis is submitted, the awardee may receive **one instalment** of the Fonds scholarship while waiting to meet the conditions for obtaining the first instalment of the federal scholarship. However, the federal scholarship cannot be delayed in order to benefit from this first payment from the Fonds.
- All the financial benefits associated with the Fonds scholarship will also be available to the awardee.

It is not possible to defer a payment or the start of a scholarship in order to receive another scholarship with which concurrent funding is prohibited.

Awardees who receive payments in a situation in which concurrent funding is prohibited will be required to reimburse the sums paid.

### **8.3.2. Paid employment and internships**

Paid employment or internships undertaken alongside the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship and **that do not interfere with research activities** are permitted, without time restrictions, provided they are approved by the postdoctoral supervisor.

In addition, awardees may be paid a salary by their postdoctoral supervisor or co-supervisor to work on the research project funded by the Fonds while holding the scholarship. Excellence awards paid by the Fonds do not constitute a salary.

## **8.4. Payments and management**

### **8.4.1. Payment schedule**

The annual scholarship amount is paid to the awardee in three instalments. Each instalment covers a four-month period.

The first payment must be claimed **between May 1 of the year of the offer and March 1 of the following year**, failing which the scholarship will be immediately cancelled (see Section 8.4.3). Within this period, the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship may begin at any time. The payment schedule allows payments to be made on the 15th or 30th of each month, with the exception of July 30 and December 30. A detailed schedule of payments, including the periods for claiming them, can be found in the technical scholarship user guide. Once the scholarship has been awarded, awardees will be able to consult the payment schedule in their FRQnet ePortfolio.

### **8.4.2. Payment conditions**

Awardees must comply with all the conditions associated with their payments. In particular, they must make their initial doctoral thesis submission before claiming the first payment and must meet all requirements for obtaining the doctoral degree before claiming the third payment. All payment conditions are described in the technical scholarship user guide and in the FRQnet ePortfolio.

In addition, the postdoctoral supervisor must provide an attendance certificate each year. A PDF version of this document is available in the Toolbox.

### **8.4.3. Cancellation of a payment or scholarship**

The first scholarship payment must be claimed no later than March 1 following the year in which it is awarded, failing which the scholarship will be immediately cancelled. Starting with the second payment, a payment will be cancelled, after prior notice, if it is not claimed or deferred or if required documents are not received within two months of the scheduled date of the payment concerned.

The Fonds will cancel a scholarship, after prior notice, if the awardee has not taken any action in the FRQnet ePortfolio for two consecutive payment periods.

The Fonds will cancel a scholarship, after prior notice, if two consecutive payments must be cancelled due to non-compliance with the eligibility requirements or failure to submit required documents in the two months following the start of the periods concerned.

In addition, the Fonds reserves the right to cancel any payment or scholarship in accordance with the [Policy for the responsible conduct of research](#).

### **8.4.4. Mandatory basic research ethics training**

*Who must take this training?*

Basic research ethics training is mandatory for all awardees whose research involves humans (direct participation or the use of human biological material or data concerning humans). The training consists of completing levels 1 and 3 of the [research ethics tutorial](#) developed by the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux within one year of receiving an FRQS award.

## 8.5. Deferral of payments

### 8.5.1. Gaining relevant experience

The Fonds may authorize the suspension of the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship for the acquisition of relevant experience (experience within a research team, teaching experience related to the field of research, language stay, etc.), for a period of four months **for each full year of funding granted**. The scholarship payment for this period is then deferred until the end of the funding period. The Fonds reserves the right to deny any request that is insufficiently justified or inappropriate.

The deferral periods authorized for the entire duration of the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship may be taken consecutively if this is approved by the supervisor.

Awardees cannot use this provision for their first payment, to accept another scholarship with which concurrent funding is prohibited, or to accept paid employment.

### 8.5.2. Sick leave or family obligations

In accordance with Section 6.14 of the CGR, awardees may obtain a deferment of payment if their Professional Postgraduate Fellowship is suspended due to illness or family obligations, for as long as the university permits.

### 8.5.3. Parental leave

In accordance with Section 6.13 of the CGR, awardees may obtain a deferment of payment for the birth or adoption of a child for a **maximum period of 12 months**.

## 8.6. Scholarship supplement for parental leave

In accordance with Section 6.13 of the CGR, during the authorized suspension of research for parental leave (see Section 8.5.3), awardees may apply for a **scholarship supplement for a continuous period of eight months** (i.e., for a maximum of two payments).

To be eligible for this supplement, awardees must have already received their first scholarship payment and have suspended their Professional Postgraduate Fellowship. In addition, the awardee must not hold paid employment for the duration of the leave.

In the case of partial concurrent funding with an award received from a federal agency, the awardee must take the parental leave allowance offered by the federal program.

## 8.7. Reimbursement of travel expenses

### 8.7.1. Eligible expenses

Awardees who are eligible for the **\$10,000 supplement for a host environment outside Québec** (see Section 2.2) are also entitled to reimbursement of the following travel expenses, provided that they are not already reimbursed by another organization:

- travel expenses for the applicant for one round trip between Québec and the supervising or co-supervising institution outside Québec at the beginning and end of the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship travel expenses for the applicant's spouse and children, for the same round trip

The Fonds will reimburse the cost of one additional round trip if the awardee's thesis defense takes place during the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship.

#### **Air travel**

The Fonds will purchase airline tickets for the awardee as well as the awardee's spouse and children.

If the airline tickets were purchased prior to the award, the maximum reimbursement amount is equivalent to the price of a round-trip economy ticket. The awardee is responsible for providing proof that the airline tickets purchased correspond to the average price of a round-trip economy ticket.

### **Road or train travel**

Awardees who travel by car receive a per-kilometre allowance, up to the cost of a one-way economy airfare. Awardees who travel by bus or train, in economy class, are entitled to reimbursement of the cost of their ticket.

## **8.7.2. Non-eligible expenses**

The following expenses are not reimbursed by the Fonds:

- Airline tickets purchased directly by the awardee after the scholarship is awarded
- Moving costs for personal effects
- Transportation of research materials
- Any additional baggage fees imposed by airlines
- Vehicle rental
- Parking fees
- Urban public transportation/commuter train fees
- Taxi fare
- Meals and accommodation

## **8.8. Changes during the funding period**

### **8.8.1. Request for changes**

Any change in the awardee's situation must be communicated to the Fonds. In accordance with Section 6.5 of the CGR, the Fonds will ensure the requested change does not impact the outcome of the application's initial evaluation and remains in compliance with the eligibility requirements and program rules. The Fonds will assess the requested change and may decide to continue, reduce, suspend or terminate the payments. The Fonds may also require that the awardee reimburse the sums paid.

The decision to accept or refuse the requested changes is sent by email.

### **8.8.2. Change in scholarship start date**

The duration of funding is based on the information provided in the application form.

If a change in the start date of the internship is required, the awardee must request this before the first payment is made. It is strongly recommended that the change be requested at the time of accepting the scholarship. Increases in the duration of funding are not permitted.

### **8.8.3. Change in host environment**

The new host environment must comply with the relevant program rules (see Section 3.5). The awardee must justify the suitability of the new host environment and demonstrate that this choice is equivalent to the initial proposal.

The Fonds will take into account the evaluation criteria used to assess the initial choice of host environment when analysing the request.

### **8.8.4. Change in supervisor**

The new supervisor must comply with the relevant program rules (see Section 3.6). The awardee must justify the relevance of the new supervisor's expertise and demonstrate that this choice is equivalent to the initial proposal.



The new supervisor must also attach a letter of acceptance. The Fonds will take into account the evaluation criteria used to assess the initial choice of supervisor when analysing the request.

### **8.8.5. Addition of a co-supervising institution**

The addition of a co-supervising institution and a co-supervisor must comply with the relevant program rules (see Sections 3.5 and 3.6). The awardee must justify the added value of this co-supervising institution.

The co-supervisor must also attach a letter of acceptance.

### **8.8.6. Change in research project**

To change research project, the awardee must:

- demonstrate that the new project remains in the same field of research, i.e., that it would be evaluated by the same review committee as the one that evaluated the initial project
- demonstrate that the new project is of the same scientific quality as the initial project.

It must also be indicated whether the awardee intends to stay with the same research supervisor, at the same host environment and in the same department.

In addition, the project supervisor must agree to and justify the proposed change.

The Fonds will take into account the evaluation criteria used to assess the initial project when analysing the request.

### **8.8.7. Withdrawal or part-time Professional Postgraduate Fellowship**

An awardee who withdraws from the postdoctoral internship during the course of funding, or who decides to pursue it on a part-time basis, with the exception of the cases described in Sections 8.2, is no longer eligible for the scholarship and must notify the Fonds to terminate it. The awardee may be required to reimburse the last payment received.

## **8.9. Final report**

In accordance with Section 7.2 of the CGR, a final report is required three months after the last payment. The final report allows the Fonds to document the impact of the scholarship and the value of the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship. Future funding under a different program is contingent upon receipt of this final report.

## **8.10. Converting the scholarship into a starting grant**

Part of the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship (up to \$15,000) can be used as a starting grant by an awardee who is offered a position as a regular professor in a Québec university. The awardee must have completed a full year (12 months) of funding under the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship or received 3 full scholarship payments before requesting conversion of the scholarship. The effective date of the starting grant is the awardee's employment start date.

A copy of the letter of employment must be sent to the Fonds via the awardee's FRQnet ePortfolio. It is not necessary to provide salary information.

The starting grant is subject to the same rules as those for the Starting Grant for New Investigators (see the [Research Scholars](#) program rules). Awardees who benefit from this conversion remain eligible to apply for this support program.

A recipient of a postdoctoral award from a federal granting agency who also received and accepted a funding offer from the Fonds under this program may benefit from this conversion, if applicable.

## 9. Renewal

It is possible to request the renewal of the Professional Postgraduate Fellowship for one additional year (\$45,000) by completing the form provided for this purpose in the FRQnet ePortfolio.

To be eligible for renewal, the renewal application must be submitted within the last year of the Fonds scholarship. A renewal application submitted after the end of the Fonds scholarship is not eligible.

Scholarships may only be renewed once.

**Awardees who have received three (3) or more years of Professional Postgraduate Fellowship since the initial scholarship offer, regardless of the funding agency, are not eligible for renewed funding.**

The evaluation criteria for the renewal application are:

**Research project's state of advancement since the start of Professional Postgraduate Fellowship (60 points)**

- State of progress of the project in view of the methodology and the research area (20 points)
- Justification for renewal and potential for successful outcome (20 points)
- Research supervisor's evaluation (20 points)

**Achievements since the start of Professional Postgraduate Fellowship (40 points)**

- Lectures and presentations (20 points)
- Publications (20 points)

There are three renewal competitions per year. The deadlines for these competitions are :

- September 15
- January 15
- May 15.

Renewal applications are evaluated by a peer committee and the results are announced about six weeks after the competition deadline.

No change of host environment is permitted between the submission of the renewal application and the end of the third year of funding.

The eligibility requirements described in Section 3 of these rules continue to apply for the additional year of funding.

## 10. Effective date

These rules apply to the 2025-2026 fiscal year.