

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship: FAQ

Please consult this list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) before contacting the Urban Studies Foundation (USF) about this award scheme. Please also read the **Further Particulars** documentation available on the USF website.

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Q) I was awarded my PhD more than five years ago, am I eligible?

A) No – the condition of eligibility is that a candidate should have been awarded their PhD within five years (exactly) at the time (exact date) of submitting their application.

The only exception which can be made to this condition is where a candidate can demonstrate significant extenuating circumstances that have led to a career break which brings the total period of time under five years. For example, if a candidate was awarded their PhD five years and six months prior (to the date they submit their application), but may have documented evidence of serious illness that lasted for seven months (thus making the total period of time four years and eleven months). Other examples of justified career breaks are documented in the award Further Particulars, and might include (but are not limited to): unemployment, carer responsibilities, illness, parental leave, a lack of resources, the COVID-19 pandemic, or other extraordinary circumstances. Applicants should seek guidance on their case for eligible career interruptions from the USF Director of Operations prior to applying, and use the section on ‘mitigating circumstances’ to declare such matters in their application.

Q) I won't get my PhD until after the award application deadline, am I eligible?

A) No – as stated in the call and Further Particulars documentation, you need to have already obtained your PhD at the time of applying, and you must attach proof of this to your application.

Q) Can I remain at the institution to which I am currently attached?

A) Yes – applicants may apply to be hosted by the institution to which they are already attached, but the same criteria of excellence will naturally apply to their application, e.g. suitability and fit of institution and mentor.

Q) I applied to this award before but was unsuccessful, can I apply again?

A) Yes – provided you meet all eligibility criteria (e.g. PhD obtained within preceding five years) you may apply again to this award if you wish.

Q) Can my PhD supervisor be my mentor?

A) No – your proposed mentor cannot be any of your previous PhD supervisors.

Q) Do I have to be physically based at my host institution?

A) Yes – you must primarily be based (full-time) at the host institution throughout the fellowship, except where your research may require that you be elsewhere for any extended duration (e.g. fieldwork).

Q) I already have a full-time academic position, am I eligible?

A) Yes – provided you meet the other eligibility criteria (e.g. your PhD was awarded within the past five years), you are eligible to apply regardless of the type of academic position you currently have (e.g. tenured, part-time, etc.).

Q) Can I apply with more than one proposal?

A) No – each applicant may only submit one application per each round of this scheme.

Q) Can I apply for a part-time fellowship?

A) Yes – Fellowships may be proposed on a part-time basis provided there is good justification for this, and that the total duration of the fellowship does not exceed three years and the maximum annual funding total as indicated above.

Q) What kind of HEI is eligible?

A) HEIs may be anywhere globally. The HEI should typically be a public university, but other research institutions are eligible provided that they are non-profit, publicly-accountable, dedicated to scientific research, and able and willing to support the Fellowship.

Q) Does the award allow for research expenses and support costs?

A) Provided there are funds remaining after the payment of the gross annual salary, they may be allocated to any reasonable and justified research support costs (travel, equipment, assistance, etc.). This should be detailed in section 3.2 of the HEI support form. Additionally, the HEI may also wish to contribute such costs in-kind, if the maximum award does not cover such budget items.

Q) Can I nominate more than one mentor?

A) No, candidates must only nominate one mentor at the HEI. However, candidates may wish to nominate a secondary support from another informal mentor based elsewhere, and are free to upload additional support letters in the supplementary documents field. This might be particularly relevant if the candidate is proposing to be based at a HEI in a region without a strong specialist but with a suitably senior mentor, and then with the support from a secondary informal mentor in

another region of the world. However, candidates are strongly advised to discuss such proposals with the USF DoO prior to applying.