

Global Health Equity Scholars Program 2024-2025 Fellowship Year

Program Information and Application Guidelines

Introduction

The Global Health Equity Scholars (GHES) program is a 12-month mentored global health research training fellowship at select institutions in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The program was established in 2012 and is comprised of four U.S. partner institutions – Yale University, the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, and the University of Arizona – that together have collaborations with established medical and institutions in 24 LMICs. GHES is part of the Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars/Launching Future Leaders in Global Health Research Training Program (LAUNCH; <https://www.fic.nih.gov/Programs/Pages/scholars-fellows-global-health.aspx>) sponsored by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and several collaborating institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The mission of the GHES program is to train new communities of researchers, educators, and professionals who are prepared to address new and emerging global health challenges. The program has historically focused on health challenges that arise from rapid urbanization and social inequities that are prevalent in the world's burgeoning informal settlements, commonly known as slums. Rather than addressing one disease at a time, our program uses a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and integrated approach to training and research to address the complex health issues. We encourage research on the challenges of delivering accessible, high-quality healthcare within resource-limited settings and research on interventions that address the efficient management of scarce resources and innovative solutions to improve health services. Chronic and noncommunicable diseases, HIV/STIs and other infectious diseases, environmental health hazards, maternal and child health, intentional and unintentional injuries, and mental health are additional areas of research that are supported under this program.

This GHES fellowship should be tailored to each trainee's specific needs, incorporating structured learning, skills development, networking, and mentoring activities to enhance the trainee's fellowship year. All trainees must attend a mandatory 5-day orientation session at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland at the beginning of the fellowship year, anticipated to be held mid-July 2024.

GHES offers hands-on opportunities to conduct research projects relevant to the health priorities of stakeholders and partners at established medical and research institutions and project sites in collaborating LMICs while being mentored by dedicated experts. The program is designed for pre- and post-doctoral trainees who are dedicated to pursuing a career in global health and want to gain a solid scientific research foundation in a collaborative environment to develop into productive, independent researchers. Pre-doctoral applicants are students in pre-doctoral or pre-health professional degree programs. Post-doctoral trainees are recent graduates of doctoral and health professional degree programs, usually within 5 years of obtaining their terminal degree. During the fellowship year, trainees participate in a research experience at one of these institutions and conduct a research project relevant to the health priorities of the collaborating LMIC under the supervision of their mentors.

Additional details can be obtained from the GHES website (<https://medicine.yale.edu/yigh/ghes/>).

How to Apply

1. Review the program eligibility criteria described below to ensure you are eligible.
2. Review the application requirements described below to familiarize yourself with the application questions and the materials you must submit.
3. Choose your research area.

We encourage research on health challenges that result from rapid urbanization and social inequities, research on challenges of delivering accessible and high-quality healthcare within resource-limited settings, and research on interventions that address the efficient management of scarce resources and innovative solutions to improving health services. Research areas include (but are not limited to) chronic and noncommunicable diseases, HIV/STIs and other infectious diseases, environmental health, maternal and child health, intentional and unintentional injuries, trauma, and mental health.

4. Choose your desired research training site and contact the affiliated mentors.

GHEs has collaborations at research training sites in 24 LMICs. See the GHEs website for information about the research training sites and the affiliated mentors (<https://medicine.yale.edu/yigh/ghes/research-training-sites/>).

You should pick a research training site that does research that you are interested in, and that has mentors whose research aligns with yours.

Applicants must submit a letter of support from one U.S. based mentor affiliated with the University of Arizona, the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University or Yale University. Applicants must also submit a letter of support from one LMIC mentor affiliated with a research training site in one of the 24 collaborating LMICs.

5. Complete the online application and submit the required materials by November 1, 2023. The application is available here: https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dm1Doa7yYaEyCLs.

Eligibility

Please carefully review the GHEs program eligibility criteria before you apply. This is a mentored fellowship and parts of this application must be completed with the input of your proposed mentors. All applicants must secure the commitment and letter of support of an affiliated GHEs U.S. mentor and an affiliated GHEs LMIC mentor.

GHEs has designated mentor teams across U.S. and LMIC institutions. In many instances, the mentor teams are already collaborators so if you propose to work with a specific GHEs U.S. mentor it is likely that your LMIC mentor will be his/her collaborator and the other way around. All applicants must have a primary GHEs U.S. mentor (defined as a faculty member at Stanford University, University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, or Yale University) and a primary GHEs LMIC mentor (defined as a faculty member at an institution in one of the GHEs collaborating LMICs). You can propose to have additional mentors, however, you must have at least one primary U.S. and one primary LMIC mentor that are part of the GHEs program. U.S. post-doctoral and pre-doctoral applicants can be from any college or institution in the country. You do not have to be part of or affiliated with Stanford University, University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, or Yale University to apply. However, you do

need to have a professional relationship with a GHES U.S. mentor at one of these universities. LMIC post-doctoral applicants must be part of or affiliated with an institution in one of the GHES collaborating LMICs. If you are applying for a post-doctoral fellowship, you must have a doctoral or health professional degree (you are not eligible with only a master's-level degree). Post-doctoral applicants must have completed their terminal doctoral or health-professional degree within in the last five years (2019 and later). If you completed your terminal doctoral/health-professional degree before 2019 and completed a master's degree between 2019 and the present, you ARE NOT eligible to apply.

Interested individuals from an institution that is not part of GHES are strongly encouraged to contact a GHES Program Manager to discuss their application. Program Managers are available to help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research focus areas and career goals.

Eligibility criteria

U.S. post-doctoral applicants must have completed their terminal doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, DrPH or comparable research degree) or health professional degree (e.g., MD, DO, DVM, DDS, MBBS, MMed, or comparable professional degree) by the beginning of the training period (July 1, 2024).

U.S. pre-doctoral applicants are students currently enrolled in a pre-doctoral (e.g., PhD, DrPH, etc.) or pre-health professional (MD, DO, DVM, etc.) degree program. Ideally, pre-doctoral students will have passed their qualifying examinations by the time of application. If you are a pre-doctoral student who expects to complete your degree program by July 1, 2024, please apply for a post-doctoral fellowship.

LMIC post-doctoral applicants must be a citizen of one of the 24 collaborating LMICs and have completed their terminal doctoral degree (e.g., PhD, DrPH or equivalent research degree) or health professional degree (e.g., MD, DO, DVM, DDS, MBBS, MMed, or equivalent professional degree) by the beginning of the training period (July 1, 2024). LMIC applicants are not eligible to apply for a pre-doctoral fellowship.

All post-doctoral applicants must meet these additional criteria:

- Health professional post-doctoral applicants must have completed their clinical training within the last five years (2019 and later).
- Non-clinical post-doctoral applicants must have completed their doctoral degree within the last five years (2019 and later).
- If you completed your terminal doctoral/health-professional degree before 2019 and completed a master's degree between 2019 and the present, you ARE NOT eligible to apply.

U.S. citizens/U.S. permanent residents must meet these additional criteria:

- Can be from any college/university in the country. Do not have to be part of or affiliated with Stanford University, University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, or Yale University to apply for this fellowship. However, you will need to have a professional relationship or collaboration with a GHES U.S. faculty mentor at one of these schools to apply.
- Must be able to spend 10-12 months at a GHES LMIC site.

For applicants with other sources of funding:

- The program can provide partial fellowship to applicants who already have funding. For example, T32 fellows can be awarded GHES research and travel funds while their stipends are provided by the T32 fellowship.
- FIC concurrent support must be allowable from the other sources' perspective.

- FIC cannot support research activities already funded. If you have support and are applying for GHES, you need to highlight how the GHES proposal differs from your already funded activities, and/or how the GHES award would cover expenses not supported by your additional funding.

Key Terms

Key terms used in the application are defined here.

Health professional degree - You have a health professional degree if you treat patients or provide direct patient care of any type.

Comparable doctoral degree from an accredited domestic or foreign institution - Comparable doctoral degrees include, but are not limited to, the following: D.M.D., DC, DO, DVM., OD, DPM, ScD, EngD, DrPH, DNSc, DPT, PharmD, ND (Doctor of Naturopathy), DSW, PsyD, as well as a doctoral degree in nursing research. If you are not sure your degree is comparable, contact a Program Manager.

Terminal degree - A terminal degree refers to the highest academic degree that can be awarded in a particular field.

U.S. applicant - Must be a citizen of the United States or its territories or possessions or be a U.S. permanent resident. A permanent resident number must be included in the application of a U.S. permanent resident.

LMIC applicant - Must be a citizen of one of the 24 collaborating LMICs: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Samoa, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia or Zimbabwe.

Professional relationship – We ask that you have a professional relationship with your proposed GHES mentors. A professional relationship is between individuals in a professional setting. Mentors serve as guides for their mentees, and both parties take responsibility and actively participate in the relationship. A professional relationship between mentors and mentees should be respectful, positive, and encouraging. A professional relationship with GHES mentors means that your proposed mentors support your research focus area(s) and you are willing to listen to work with them to create opportunities for your growth and development.

Program Commitments and Requirements

Please make sure you can meet the following program commitments and requirements if you are accepted:

- You are required to devote 100% of the 12-month fellowship year to the GHES program. This means you must work full-time on GHES, and you cannot hold another job at the same time.
- U.S. fellows must spend 10-12 months of their fellowship year at their GHES LMIC site.
- LMIC fellows must spend 1-3 months of their fellowship year at their GHES U.S. institution.
- All fellows must attend a week-long orientation held at the NIH Campus in July.

Application Requirements

Complete the online application, available here:

https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dm1Doa7yYaEyCLs

The online application system will save your partially completed application using your computer IP address and you can return to it later. Please try to avoid starting multiple applications.

The application includes the following sections:

- Introduction
- Section 1. Main Application (Questions ask about type of application, contact information)
- Section 2. Research Proposal and Additional Supplemental Materials
- Section 3. Applicant Demographics

The Introduction provides an overview of the program and the application process.

Section 1. Main Application asks questions about type of application, contact information, foreign language skills, research training site, academic and professional background, research experience, publications/abstracts, career goals, mentor names, mentorship plan, training plan, IRB approvals and timeline.

Section 2. Research Proposal and Additional Supplemental Materials

Submit a research proposal that includes the following sections:

1. Title of project
2. Abstract
3. Proposal with these sub-sections:
 - a. Background
 - b. Specific aims
 - c. Research methods
 - d. Significance of study
4. Reference list

Additional Supplemental Materials include:

Letters of support (minimum 2, maximum 3)

- One letter should be from your GHES primary U.S. mentor at one of the four participating universities (University of Arizona, University of California Berkeley, Stanford University, Yale University). One letter should be from your GHES primary LMIC mentor at the collaborating LMIC research training site.
- The optional third letter of support should come from either: 1) someone who knows you well and can address your research accomplishments, research potential, and likelihood of a successful research career in global health research; 2) or an optional third mentor who has content or technical knowledge related to the research focus area.
- Each letter should be on the mentor's institutional letterhead and include the following:
 - 1) Mentor's name
 - 2) Mentor's position and institution
 - 3) Mentor's email address
 - 4) Mentor's phone number
 - 5) Mentor's work address
 - 6) Letters should be addressed to the Global Health Equity Scholars Fellowship Selection

Committee

7) Letter must be signed by mentor

- The letters should be scanned or saved as a PDF file and emailed to ghes2024@gmail.com. The mentor should email their own letter.

NIH biosketch for applicant

- Upload your NIH biosketch using the FELLOWSHIP biosketch format. For instructions on how to format your biosketch, please refer to NIH guidelines of a FELLOWSHIP biosketch (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>). We strongly suggest having a mentor review your biosketch if this is your first time generating one.

NIH biosketch for mentors

Upload the NIH biosketches for your U.S. and LMIC mentors, using the NON-FELLOWSHIP biosketch format (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>).

Transcripts

- Applicants who do not yet have their doctoral degree at the time of application must provide a copy of their most recent transcript (non-official transcripts are allowed).

Section 3. Applicant Demographics asks questions about applicant demographics and under-represented minority criteria. The National Institutes of Health requires that NIH-funded training programs conduct outreach to, and quantify applications from, under-represented minorities in the health sciences, people with disabilities, and people from disadvantaged backgrounds. This information is used solely for reporting to NIH and is not a factor in eligibility for or selection into the fellowship. You can choose not to answer these questions if you wish.

Applications must be completed and submitted online by 5:00 PM EST on November 1, 2023. Please do not submit your application until all required components have been completed and uploaded/emailed. Letters of support can be emailed separately by the mentors but must also arrive by 5pm EST November 1, 2023.

Selection Process

A panel of external reviewers will read application materials for all eligible candidates and will assign a score to each application. The GHES Principal Investigators may conduct online interviews with applicants as needed. Final selection of applicants will be made by the GHES executive committee based on candidate's application materials, the external reviews and, where applicable, an online interview.

The first round of fellowship awards will likely be offered in April 2023. The second round of fellowship awards will likely be offered in May-June 2022. A formal letter of award will be sent to each fellowship recipient.

Candidates who were not selected will be informed by email.

Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in and commitment to a career in global health research. The selection criteria are as follows:

- Candidate background (education, research, publications, international experience, language)
- Career statement (evidence of commitment to global health research)
- Research proposal (feasibility, context, and contribution to global health research)

- US and LMIC mentors (mentor background, research training experience, publications, commitment to mentoring the applicant)

Contact Information

Please direct inquiries regarding the GHES program, eligibility or the application process to the GHES Program Managers at each of the four universities:

- Maria Teresa Hernandez, UC Berkeley - maria.hernandez@berkeley.edu
- Roxanna Apaez, University of Arizona - rapaez@arizona.edu
- Ryan Borg, Yale University - ryan.borg@yale.edu
- Yosefa Gilon, Stanford University – ygilon@stanford.edu

Interested individuals are strongly recommended to contact a GHES Program Manager to discuss the application process. The Program Manager can help connect potential applicants with GHES faculty mentors based on research interests and career goals.