



Guidelines for applicants.

Call for proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowship

Application submission deadline Monday September 1st at 07:00

We strongly recommend that applicants read this document carefully as part of their application preparation. Please be aware that some additional information is requested in the online application portal; therefore, we also advise you to log in and familiarize yourself with the application form before you get started.

Information about the funding initiative

Funding research is one of the Norwegian Health Association's main priorities. We have annual calls for funding high quality research on heart and stroke diseases (CVD) and have since 1960 funded about 98 million Euros to CVD research. Each year we are funding about 10-15 CVD proposals.

The Norwegian Health Association will strive to raise more money to fund research that will save and improve lives of people living with heart and stroke diseases.

The Norwegian Health Association research in heart and stroke diseases shall contribute to increase knowledge about:

- Causation and mechanisms of diseases
- Risk factors
- Diagnosing
- Preventing
- Treating
- Rehabilitation
- Research gaps
- Sex and gender disparities

Who can apply?

Only the post-doctoral fellow candidate can apply. Applications from others will not be considered. The post-doctoral fellow is intended in particular to help develop cutting-edge expertise within high-priority fields, to give highly qualified doctorate-holders the opportunity to further qualify for academic positions. Applicants must be affiliated with a Norwegian research institution to be eligible for funding. The post-doctoral fellow candidate must be employed by the institution before entering a contract with Norwegian Health Association. There will be no financial support for partners outside Norway. The applicant must have submitted his/hers doctoral thesis before the end of 2025.

Definitions

The project manager is the post. doctoral fellow candidate and is responsible for submitting the application, securing scientific progression and project completion and to submit requested reports. Project managers who have turned or will turn 72 in the current year may not apply as project manager. If the project manager turns 72 during the project period, the role must be transferred to another named person who meets the requirements. In both cases, the person may continue as a project collaborator. **The project owner institution** is legally and economically responsible for fulfilling the terms of conditions if a grant is awarded. You can only be the project manager for one application submitted to Nasjonalforeningens calls within cardiovascular research each year.

The project administrator is an employee at the project owner institution who has the authority to commit the institution to fulfil the legal and economic obligations on the behalf of the project owner. The project administrator must approve this application by providing an approval letter.



User involvement

It is expected that applicants present a plan for user involvement. Grant proposals must explain who the relevant users are for the given project, and how they will be involved in the planning and implementation of the project and application of the results.

It is important that the anticipated benefits of the project are based on user needs and documented knowledge gaps within the thematic areas described in the text of the call. Relevant user involvement will be positively weighed.

Gender

The Norwegian Health Association will work for reducing the gap in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cardiovascular disease between men and women. The research project should, when relevant, include the sex and/or gender dimension as part of the research design and analysis.

General information

The postdoctoral candidate is offered salary and running costs corresponding to three year's full position. A duration of up to 72 months can be applied for. Annual lump sum is 1 000 000 NOK/year whereas 100 000 NOK is intended for running costs. Running costs may include general costs related to the project (supplies, analyses, laboratory animals, equipment, relevant network building activities, conference fees, project specific services etc.). It is possible to apply for funding for first or second postdoctoral period.

Norwegian Health Association does not offer overhead costs; thus, the institution must cover all institutional costs beyond the granted amount. Norwegian Health Association does not compensate for costs related to leave of absence.

The project owner institution has the employer responsibilities for the postdoctoral fellow. When a grant is awarded, the project owner institution must ensure that the candidate is employed in accordance with the institution's recruitment and selection policies.

Electronic form

Please fill in the required fields.

The project summary must contain the following:

- Background
- Hypothesis
- Aim
- Impact

The project summary will play an important role in the evaluation of the project, see below.

Attachments

All attachments must be written in English and converted to PDF format. Font and alignment instructions: Times New Roman 12 font size (9 for reference and figure texts), margins 2.0 cm, spacing 1.0.

1.0 Project description in English - maximum 7 A4 pages plus the reference list. Use the template for project description available in the Web portal under the heading "Project description and budget".

The project description must contain the following:

- a) Project title
- b) Relevance to the call and previously funding
- c) About the project
- d) Research questions, hypotheses, aims and objectives.
- e) Methodology
- f) Possible impact
- g) User involvement



- h) The project plan and project organization
- i) Dissemination and communication of results
- j) Ethical consideration
- k) Reference list

2.0 CV with track record of the applicant, maximum 4 pages.

Use the CV template available under the heading Project administration in the application portal.

3.0 Letter of approval from the project administrator - maximum one page.

Submitting the application form

- Applications must be submitted through the online application portal.
- The post-doctoral candidate is to serve as the project manager.
- It is the responsibility of the project manager to ensure that the application is submitted before the announced deadline.
- The project manager is responsible for time management in relation to completing and submitting the application. Computer failure, network problems etc., do not constitute valid reasons for an extended submission deadline.
- Submitted applications may be modified prior to the deadline. In the online application portal, select "Applications", then "Submitted", choose the application and reopen it to make the necessary changes. **Please note that the application then must be resubmitted.**
- The application cannot be modified, nor can attachments be sent after the submission deadline.

Application processing and assessment

- The project manager will receive email confirmation of receipt as soon as the application has been received by the Norwegian Health Association.
- The application will be reviewed as it is received.
- Applications that clearly do not meet the formal requirements will not be considered.
- Applications where post-doctoral candidate is not the project manager will not be considered.
- Formally approved applications are submitted to an international per-review panel of six members.
- To be eligible for funding, the project must be considered *relevant to cardiovascular diseases* by the peer-review committee.

The proposals will be evaluated by the following criteria:

- Scientific quality
- Qualification of the applicant and project team
- Relevance relative to the call for proposals
- Overall mark of the panel
- Originality in the form of scientific innovation and/or the development of new knowledge.
- Implementation plan and resource parameters
- How the project plans to integrate user perspectives

The projects will be evaluated in a twostep process by the peer-review committee. **In step one all applications will be evaluated only by the summary.** The best of those will advance to step two. In step two each proposal will be evaluated by the entire application. During the committee meeting, the reviewers must reach a consensus on grades and a prioritized list of proposals. The committee's recommendation will be presented to the Board of the Norwegian Health Association which will make the final funding decision late in November 2025.

All applicants will receive a letter in the online application portal with information about the Board's decision. The decision is final and cannot be appealed. We are unfortunately, not able to provide any feedback on the projects.



Grant terms and conditions

The terms and conditions for research grants will be specified in the contract that is to be accepted by all parties. Transfer of funds may take place from January 2026.

If a project which is rewarded funding by the Norwegian Health Association is offered funding for the same project within the same period, the project manager is obliged to report this to the Norwegian Health Association. If the project manager accepts this offer of funding from others, the Norwegian Health Association will require reimbursing the grant funded by the Norwegian Health Association.

The Norwegian Health Association must be credited as a contributing funder of the project. The project manager/researcher are expected to contribute to the dissemination of research results or other relevant findings. The post-doctoral fellow is expected to hold a lecture per year directed by the Norwegian Health Association.

Project managers who are awarded funding for a project must submit annual progress reports and a final report describing the status and progression of the project.

Ethical guidelines

Projects funded by the Norwegian Health Association are to maintain high ethical standards and uphold fundamental principles for integrity and ethics in research. Please see guidelines provided by the Regional Committees for Medical and Health Research Ethics (REC), "Lov om organisering av forskningsetisk arbeid" for more information and "Forskrift om bruk av dyr i forsøk" (FDU). To be eligible for funding, the project must have an approval from REC or FDU.

Registration of medical and health studies involving human participants

Prospective registration of studies and rapid publication of results are important to ensure full transparency in medical and health studies involving human participants. We have therefore established guidelines for registration for such studies that starts in 2025 and beyond.

Contact information!

Regarding the call and technical assistance:

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