

The Global Child Health (GCH) Fellowship – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How long is the Global Child Health fellowship program?

The Global Child Health Fellowship is designed as a two-year program. In exceptional circumstances, the program may consider fellowships of a shorter duration (no less than one year).

When does the fellowship program start?

Fellows typically begin their training appointment in early July, approximately one year after submitting their application. For example, successful candidates who apply in June 2025, will begin their fellowship in July 2026. However, earlier start dates can also be arranged, pending project availability.

Who is eligible for the GCH fellowship program?

There are two tracks to the fellowship program, and each track has a separate set of eligibility criteria.

To be eligible for the Track 1 (Research) program, applicants must:

- Have completed a doctoral graduate degree in epidemiology, biostatistics, nutritional sciences, public health, biochemistry, microbiology, applied physics, applied mathematics, computer sciences, environmental sciences, geography, demography, nursing, social work, global health, or any discipline that can contribute to tackling global health challenges, by the start of the fellowship program; OR, have completed a medical degree (e.g., MD, MBBS, etc.) and specialist certification (or eligibility for certification) (e.g., completion of residency training program, or equivalent) by the start of the fellowship program^a;
- Have demonstrated exemplary recent scholarship (i.e., first author publications, conference presentations, and/or successful grant applications);
- Have demonstrated a strong interest in the field of global health, or in transitioning from a non-global health area to collaborative global health work.

^aPhysicians who are licensed to practice medicine in Ontario and associated with a hospital-based clinical program have the option of dedicating 20 per cent of their full-time equivalent (FTE) to clinical responsibilities (and 80 per cent of their FTE to their research). It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to identify and secure clinical placement opportunities.

To be eligible for the Track 2 (Capacity Building) program, applicants must:

- Have completed a professional degree in medicine with specialist certification (or eligibility for certification) (e.g., completion of residency training program, or equivalent); OR have a professional degree in nursing, or an accredited allied health program (e.g., speech therapy,

- physiotherapy, social work, dietetics, etc.) and have completed or have evidence of working towards a masters degree by the start of the fellowship program^{b,c}; OR, have completed a master's degree in global health, public health, or related discipline;
- Have experience in the design, implementation, evaluation, coordination, or management of capacity building programs in areas of health system strengthening and/or health worker training programs;
 - Have demonstrated a strong interest in the field of global health, or in transitioning from a non-global health area to collaborative global health work.

^bApplicants who hold a masters degree or a degree in nursing or an accredited allied health program must be legally authorized to work in Canada to be considered eligible for this program. Applicants with a medical degree (or equivalent) are eligible to apply to the fellowship program, regardless of their legal status to work in Canada.

^cPhysicians, nurses, and other allied health professionals who are licensed to practice clinically in Ontario and are associated with a hospital-based clinical program have the option of dedicating 20 per cent of their FTE to clinical responsibilities (and 80 per cent of their FTE to their capacity building scholarly work). It is the sole responsibility of the candidate to identify and secure clinical placement opportunities.

What does the curriculum include?

The Global Child Health Fellowship Program is designed to train an interdisciplinary cohort of fellows. The curriculum involves several key components including mentorship, a scholarly project, and seminar sessions. While international travel is not a mandatory part of our curriculum, pending project needs, travelling to study sites may be required.

Mentorship: Fellows are paired with a primary supervisor who will provide mentorship and guidance related to the fellow's scholarly project (see below for more information regarding the selection of a primary supervisor). Fellows are also matched with a committee of between three to four core faculty members, senior staff, or others at SickKids and other institutions who have expertise in the topic area of the fellow's scholarly project. Fellows will meet quarterly with their committee and receive research and professional development advice at each of these meetings. Moreover, an evaluation form of the fellow's progress is completed and shared with fellows at the end of each committee meeting.

Scholarly Project: Fellows are required to play a leadership role on one or more scholarly projects within the Centre for Global Child Health's research or capacity building pillars. In addition to working closely with their primary supervisor, fellows will have the opportunity to collaborate with other members of the Centre for Global Child Health during their fellowship training.

Seminars: Fellows are expected to attend the Centre for Global Child Health's weekly seminar series in global health.

How will I spend my time during the fellowship?

Fellows who have a clinical background (i.e., MD, MBBS, RN, or other allied health professionals) and have a license to practice in Ontario will spend approximately 80 per cent of their time (four days per week) working towards the completion of their scholarly project. Activities during this time may include attending supervisor or committee meetings, working on research or capacity building projects, or attending seminars and other learning sessions at the Centre for Global Child Health. The remaining 20 per cent of their time should be spent working clinically to ensure that they maintain their clinical acumen. Securing a clinical placement is the responsibility of the fellow. Fellows who either a) do not have a clinical background (i.e., PhD) or b) are clinicians but do not have a license to practice medicine in Ontario, will spend 100 per cent of their time (five days per week) working towards the completion of their scholarly project, and participating in other scholarly activities.

How much time will I spend on research or capacity building?

All fellows will lead a scholarly project during the two-year program and are expected to spend between 80 per cent and 100 per cent of their time (four to five days per week) pursuing scholarly work. Scholarly projects may include work in either research (Track 1) or capacity building (Track 2). Fellows will also gain exposure to advocacy work and other research and capacity building initiatives at the Centre for Global Child Health that are unrelated to their primary scholarly project.

How do I choose a supervisor?

We match fellows with supervisors from the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health based on an alignment in the fellow's research and/or capacity building interests and project availability. Specifically, we match fellows with a primary supervisor who has similar research/capacity building interests to the candidate as well as an available and funded project.

Does my supervisor have to be from SickKids?

Yes, all fellows must be matched with a primary supervisor who is affiliated with the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health. Fellows may receive input related to their project from other mentors, both internally to SickKids and at other external institutions; however, primary supervisors must be Core Faculty members at the SickKids Centre for Global Child Health.