

Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows
Program Call for Applications for 2nd Round of Funding
Oct 11, 2022

Postdoctoral Fellows (PDFs) are engines of thriving research, scholarly and artistic programs. The numbers of PDFs often are correlated with quality and quantity of research productivity, and research directly influences a university's impact and rankings.

Through a recent seed investment by the University of Saskatchewan (USask) with significant contribution from Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), the Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellows program was recently launched to recruit outstanding PDFs to USask's research, scholarly and artistic enterprise.

The Office of the Vice-President Research is now accepting applications for funding from the Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows program.

This program is structured differently than other post-doctoral fellow programs at our university. Instead of allocating one PDF to one faculty member at a time, applications will need to be for a cohort of 2-3 PDFs jointly put together by multiple (2-3) faculty members. This program is meant to foster inter-disciplinary collaborations.

Furthermore, each PDF in the cohort will have at least two mentors: one primary faculty mentor and one from outside of the academy such as a private or public sector partner. A simple example would be where a soil scientist, drone technology scientist and a policy expert come together to seek two or three PDFs to investigate the use of drones to determine soil characteristics and the policy around the use of drones and the handling of the visual data. The PDFs thus selected will not only foster interdisciplinarity on our campus but will also gain from interactions with more than one mentor and with their PDF peers. The PDF cohort will have opportunities to work together across the disciplinary landscape.

Eligibility: Open to all USask faculty.

Note:

- PDFs who are already at USask are not eligible for this funding.
- Only under exceptional circumstances, someone who has obtained PhD from USask will be considered for funding.

Selection: The applications will be reviewed by a Living Skies Post-Doctoral Fellows Selection Committee. EDI will be considered in the selection of the cohort applications and the PDFs and the applicants can refer to following website to read about best practices: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx>

Funding: Each PDF will receive a stipend of \$60,000/year out of which \$40,000/year, guaranteed for a maximum of two years, will be contributed from the central funds while the remaining will come from the faculty research grants and department/college contributions.

Recruitment of PDFs: Once a cohort application is approved, the recruitment will proceed right away. Recruitment processes should follow CGPS appointment procedures found here: <https://cgps.usask.ca/postdocs/appointment-info/future-postdocs.php>, and must adhere to the USask Postdoctoral Fellows policy: <https://policies.usask.ca/policies/research-and-scholarly-activities/postdoctoral-fellows.php>

The Vice President Research will ask for regular updates on progress.

Application Deadline and Submission: Applications are now being accepted. They can be submitted to Alice Der, Executive Assistant, by email (alice.der@usask.ca). Deadline for submission is November 10, 2022.

Decision Announcement: December 2022.

Comments or Questions: Comments or questions can be directed to Baljit Singh, Vice-President Research, by email (Baljit.singh@usask.ca) or Tonya Wirchenko (tonya.wirchenko@usask.ca).

Living Skies Postdoctoral Fellows Program Application

1. Applicants:
 - a. Names of the applicants
 - b. Departments
 - c. Contact information
2. Description of project for each PDF (maximum one page/PDF) including listing of the grants available to support the projects (**35% weight in selection**)
3. Description of joint inter-disciplinary and professional activities for the PDFs to show the work of PDFs as a team (maximum one page) (**15% weight in selection**)
4. Mentorship and professional development plan jointly prepared by the applicants for the PDF cohort and the outcomes of the mentorship (maximum two pages) (**15% weight in selection**)
5. Plan to secure extra-mural funding (Tri-council and such) for the PDFs including timeline for the applications (maximum one page) (**10% weight in selection**)
6. Source of matching funds (\$20,000/year for two years):
7. Please attach your CVs (USask format) (**25% weight in selection**)