

SYLVIA & CHARLES VIERTEL CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How do I know if I am eligible?

In order to be eligible to apply for these awards you would need to be able to convince the Foundation's Medical Advisory Board that your new role satisfies the program's requirement as your "first definitive clinical position in an academic environment".

2. What is your definition of a Clinical Investigator?

Generally, someone who is a medical graduate or a graduate of another clinical discipline with a definitive clinical appointment of at least 0.2 FTE or higher working in a University clinical department, a teaching hospital, a clinical research unit in a research institute or in an academic general practice setting.

3. Do I need to be actively engaged in clinical research?

The Foundation's program is directed towards assisting new investigators to establish their research program. Applicants should be actively engaged in clinical research.

4. Does the researcher need to be involved in a clinical trial?

Applicants for the Viertel Foundation's Clinical Investigator Awards do not need to be engaged in a clinical trial. As long as they meet the eligibility criteria (e.g. have an appropriate clinical appointment and are engaged in research) then they would be eligible to apply for this award.

5. I am currently completing my post-doc and will have submitted by the time the awards are notified. I have commenced a clinical position, would I be eligible for a grant?

Yes, subject to fulfilling the application criteria and having appropriate support from your proposed host institution.

Eligible applicants will be medical graduates or graduates of other clinical disciplines who have completed both their clinical and research training which will normally be at doctoral level and are commencing their first substantive clinical position, or have been in such a post for no more than 36 months on 1 May of the year of application.

6. Can I apply for a fellowship if I am not an Australian citizen or permanent resident?

No. To be eligible for the Viertel Clinical Investigator award you must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

7. Do I need to have employment in place with a research institute prior to applying for the award?

Yes. Part of the application process requires evidence of an agreed (current or potential) employment arrangement with an Australian research institute.

8. The guidelines states that ethics approval must be sought and approved. Does this have to happen during the application period or can it be a condition met later in year?

Applicants shortlisted for interview will need to provide proof of ethics approval having been sought and/or approved. No award will be made until ethics approval has been granted by the Institutional Ethics Committees or Human Research and/or Animal Experimentation as appropriate. The award must be taken up by the July of the year following the one in which they are awarded.

9. What does the selection process entail?

All applications are reviewed by the Foundation's Medical Advisory Board members and they will make recommendations to the Foundation's Trustees.

10. Can I apply again if I have been previously unsuccessful?

Yes, you may re-apply providing that you are still eligible. Unsuccessful applicants may re-apply the year following, provided that they have still been no more than 36 months in their position.

11. What if I wish to take parental leave during the award?

Recipients of the award are subject to the employment conditions of their host institution. The Foundation – on the advice of its Advisory Board – will consider requests from the recipient to place their award on hold temporarily where those requests have the support of the recipient's host institution. Parental Leave and periods of major illness are examples of situations where the Foundation will consider requests from the recipient to temporarily put their award on hold.