**MSIF McDonald Fellowship application form**

The McDonald Fellowship enables young researchers from emerging countries to work in a research institution outside of their own country. Following the award, we expect applicants will be able to use the newly developed expertise and networks, continuing to undertake MS research and/or patient care in emerging countries.

Applicants must be under 35 and citizens of an emerging country (this is defined by MSIF as all countries classified by the World Bank as low income, lower middle income or upper middle income, [World Bank Country and Lending Groups](https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups). Applicants should be educated to post graduate level in an area relevant to multiple sclerosis (MS).

Candidates must also be in one of the following work/study situations:

* Working or studying in an emerging country (all countries with a low, lower middle or upper middle income as defined by the World Bank) at the time of nomination
* Working or studying in another country on a project which started within the six months prior to nomination
* Studying in another country on a project supported by an MS International Federation grant

The Fellowship is a two-year grant, £30,000 per year, to cover travel and living costs, and an additional contribution of £2,000 per year to the host institution.

The MSIF McDonald Fellowship contributes to the following goals:

1. Stronger MS research and clinical workforce in emerging countries

2. High quality MS research by scientists from emerging countries

3. International collaboration involving scientists from emerging countries

4. New or stronger MS groups and organisations in emerging countries

**This is a joint application form from the applicant and host. It is structured to assess each of the above goals. Sections 1, 2 A), 2 B), 3 and 4 should be filled by the applicant. Section 2 C) should be filled by the host supervisor. All sections should be completed in English.**

The application form should be around 4000 words (max 6000 words, around 12 pages), excluding questions and guidance. Application forms should be submitted to research@msif.org by the 30th of June with references from three people, including one from the applicant’s current supervisor or employer.

The outcome of applications will be announced in late September.

**The application will be scored out of 100 points, with the following weighting:**

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| **Section of application** | **Contributes to the following goal** | **Score** |
| 1 | Stronger MS research and clinical workforce in emerging countries | 20 |
| 2 | High quality MS research by scientists from emerging countries |  |
|  | A) Strength of the applicant -  | 20 |
|  | B) Strength of the research proposal –  | 20 |
|  | C) Suitability of the project for the proposed host institute -  | 20 |
| 3 | International collaboration involving scientists from emerging countries | 10 |
| 4 | New or stronger MS groups and organisations in emerging countries | 10 |
| **Total** | **100** |

**Application form**

**MSIF complies with the UK Data Protection Act 1998/EU General Data Protection Regulation 2018.**

**□ I give explicit consent for MSIF to use data as outlined here.**

**We will use the information you give us on this application form and in supporting documents to administer, analyse and promote grants and for our own research purposes both during assessment and during the life of any grant.**

**We may contact your referees and other individuals referenced in your application if we feel that they can give more supporting information. We may give copies of all or some of this information to individuals and organisations we consult when assessing applications, monitoring grants and evaluating funding processes and impacts. These organisations may include accountants, external evaluators and other organisations or groups involved in delivering the project. We might use the data you provide for our own research purposes in order to report on the impact of or improve the grants programme.**

**Applications may be kept for at least 7 years as legally and financially required. We recognise the need to maintain data confidentiality and will not disclose your data to third parties unconnected to the application, except as required by law. Details of applicants may be deleted upon a written request to** **research@msif.org****.**

**Personal details**

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| **Name** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **Phone Number** |  |
| **Nationality** |  |
| **What is your current work/study situation (see eligibility criteria on page 1)** |  |
| **Date of Birth** |  |
| **Current Role / Title** |  |
| **Research Project Field (Please select from HSRC codes, HRCS 1 – Underpinning, HRCS 2 - Aetiology** **HRCS 3 - Prevention** **HRCS 4 - Detection and Diagnosis** **HRCS 5 - Treatment Development** **HRCS 6 - Treatment Evaluation** **HRCS 7 - Disease Management** **HRCS 8 - Health Services)** |  |
| **Two Key Words to Describe Your Research Field** |  |
| **Research Project Title** |  |
| **Host Supervisor** |  |
| **Host Job Title** |  |
| **Host Institute** |  |
| **Host Email Address** |  |
| **Host Phone Number** |  |
| **Reference 1 Name** |  |
| **Reference 1 Email Address** |  |
| **Reference 1 Phone Number** |  |
| **Reference 2 Name** |  |
| **Reference 2 Email Address** |  |
| **Reference 2 Phone Number** |  |
| **Reference 3 Email Address** |  |
| **Reference 3 Phone Number** |  |

1. **Stronger MS research and clinical workforce in emerging countries**

The MSIF McDonald Fellowship contributes to the goal of a stronger MS research and clinical workforce in emerging countries. Following the award, we expect applicants to use the newly developed expertise and networks, and continue MS research and/or clinical practise in emerging countries.

**How will this award contribute to your continued work in MS related work in emerging countries? (Please keep this section concise, approximately 350 words)**

Your answer should include: How you would use the research or clinical expertise developed during this award in your work in emerging countries? Will this address a gap in MS care or research in the local setting?

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1. **High quality MS research by scientists and clinicians from emerging countries**

To contribute to our goal of high quality MS research we are looking for applicants with demonstrable scientific background, experience in a relevant field, such as neurology or immunology. Your qualifications, skills and achievements should highlight why you stand out as an applicant.

1. **Applicant qualifications, skills and achievements. (Please keep this section concise, approximately 600 words)**

**Education and qualifications.** A list of relevant academic accomplishment including: dates, institutions and results.

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**Professional/research experience.** A list ofkey work experience, these could be clinical work or research projects, including: dates, institutions, position held, job role and key skills.

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**Skills and expertise.** Relevant skills could be laboratory, clinical, research related or linguistic.

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**Grants and awards.** Relevant to your grant proposal.

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**Key publications.** Relevant to your grant proposal.

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**Applicant supporting statement. (Please keep this section concise, approximately 350 words)**

Your answer should include scientific/medical experience or accomplishments that make you appropriate to undertake this project. How will this award aid your scientific or clinical development in the field of MS?

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1. **Research project proposal. (Please keep this section concise, approximately 1800 words including citations and figures)**

**Please use the following structure:** abstract, background, objectives, methodology, expected outcomes of this work and citations.

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**Section 2 C) should be written by the host supervisor.**

1. **Host statement of support. (Please keep this section concise, approximately 350 words)**

Please outline your support for this application, including: (a) what expertise and supervision will be provided for this project (b) host facilities, collaborative networks or equipment that make your institute a suitable host for this project (c) the suitability of the applicant for this project.

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1. **International collaboration involving scientists/clinicians from emerging countries**

These awards contribute to international collaboration by enabling researchers and clinicians to undertake MS research at centres outside of their own country. It is important to us that the links formed during this work continue to flourish after the project has been completed. **(Please keep section 3 concise, approximately 350 words)**

Each year, several awards are in partnership with MS organisations. The recipient of a joint award will be expected to build a link with the partner organisation, the partner will provide support to form this link.

**If awarded a McDonald Fellowship, would you be happy to build a link with the partner organisation.**

**Yes □ No □**

**Describe the collaborative aspects of this project**

Include any ambitions for the future, e.g. continued collaboration, joint funding applications, co-authorship of publications etc.

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All awardees of McDonald Fellowship become part of the MSIF research alumni. MSIF aim to develop a lifelong relationship with our alumni, engaging you in global MS research and clinical networks. Alumni will receive information on MSIF funding opportunities, newsletters and reports, an invitation to MSIF’s alumni networking event at ECTRIMS, at which alumni will be expected to present their work. Being a part of the alumni network of junior and senior MS researchers enables new collaborations to form between hosts and awardees from around the world.

**How are you planning to contribute to the research alumni network? (50 words)**

E.g. supporting applications or mentoring future applicants

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1. **New or stronger MS groups and organisations in emerging countries**

MSIF aims to build a stronger global movement by empowering organisations and groups working to improve life for people with MS. We encourage the formation of connections between applicants and MS organisations, and can provide contact information for interested applicants. Relationships with researchers and clinicians can strengthen MS organisations by providing expertise, scientific advice, spokespersons and support for initiatives such as raising awareness or funds. **Please keep section 4 concise, approximately 350 words)**

**Lay Summary (100 words)**

To support MS organisations it is important that you are able to provide scientific information in an accessible way. How would you briefly describe your project to a person with MS, including what you are investigating and how this work could benefit people with MS?

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**What is your current involvement with MS groups and organisations in emerging countries and how are you planning to contribute in the future? (250 words)**

This could include: ongoing interactions, support of fundraising and awareness, prospective contributions to medical/scientific advisory boards or leadership roles.

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I the applicant and I the host submit this joint application, and to my knowledge all the information provided is accurate.

**Applicant signature Host signature**

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