

## MIRA Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Aging Research

McMaster University has identified aging as a research priority, and is focusing its research strength on addressing the most pressing questions facing the aging population. The University has recently made a transformative investment in this critical area by creating the **McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA)**, which serves to support and connect researchers and aging research platforms in all six Faculties at McMaster.

MIRA's mandate is to support innovative research approaches that build upon McMaster's culture of interdisciplinary collaboration, and, where appropriate, to engage older adults and other key stakeholders throughout the conceptualization, evaluation and implementation of interventions and technologies.

To this end, MIRA will support the recruitment of **three** interdisciplinary post-doctoral Fellows in the field of aging research. The research projects supported by these Fellowships should aim to generate evidence that contributes to the well-being of older adults.

### Available Awards

Three one-year awards are available. Each award is valued at \$50,000 for salary, plus up to \$15,000 per recipient to be used for research expenses and professional development. The proposed supervisor is expected to contribute at least \$10,000 to fund the benefits of the Fellow. The award may be dispersed over one or two years, provided the supervisor and/or candidate are able to secure funding to meet the minimum requirements for post-doctoral funding in their department for each year of the Fellowship.

Prospective post-doctoral Fellows are invited to submit a research plan that focuses on interdisciplinary, impact-driven approaches in the study of **optimal aging** through one or more of the following research areas:

- 1) The impact of exercise on mobility.
- 2) The interrelationship between psychological function and social function.
- 3) Causes and consequences of multimorbidity, frailty, and polypharmacy.
- 4) The role of caregiving, equity, economics and transportation in optimal aging.
- 5) The understanding of the biological mechanisms of diseases of aging.
- 6) Evaluating approaches to knowledge translation to improve optimal aging.
- 7) The use of technology to promote optimal aging and aging in place.

The applicant and principal supervisor are expected to involve at least two other researchers from two different Faculties (outside of the principal supervisor's Faculty) as mentors in the development of an interdisciplinary research plan. The proposal should clearly indicate how the supervisor and two mentors will contribute to the development and execution of the interdisciplinary project, and how this interdisciplinary approach will bring value to the study.

## Eligibility & Conditions for the Award

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents and international candidates are eligible.
- The Fellowship is open to candidates who have/will have successfully completed their PhD degree requirements before the start of the Fellowship.
- Candidates must be eligible to start a postdoctoral position by November 1, 2017.
- The Fellowship is tenable at McMaster University, where the Fellow is expected to pursue full-time postdoctoral study and research for the term of the Fellowship.
- The supervisor or supervisory team must be able to contribute at least \$10,000 in financial support to fund additional salary and benefits for the Fellow.

## Deadline

Candidates must submit a pdf copy of their complete application to [mirainfo@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirainfo@mcmaster.ca) by July 13, 2017 at 5 p.m.

## Selection Process

The MIRA Executive committee will evaluate the applications and select the award recipients based on the quality, feasibility and impact of the research proposal, the value of interdisciplinary approach, and the alignment with MIRA's goals and mandate.

## Notification of Results

A decision is expected to be made by early September, 2017.

## Inquiries

Questions about the award may be directed to:

Laura Harrington  
*Managing Director, McMaster Institute for Research on Aging*  
[harrin@mcmaster.ca](mailto:harrin@mcmaster.ca)  
905-525-9140 ext. 28658

## MIRA Postdoctoral Fellowship

### Application Cover Sheet

#### 1. Applicant

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Last name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Institution/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Title of proposed research project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Select **one** theme area that your research primarily corresponds with:

- The impact of exercise on mobility
- The interrelationship between psychological function and social function
- Causes and consequences of multimorbidity, frailty, and polypharmacy
- The role of caregiving, equity, economics and transportation in optimal aging
- The understanding of the biological mechanisms of diseases of aging
- Evaluating approaches to knowledge translation to improve optimal aging
- The use of technology to promote optimal aging and aging in place

#### 2. Principal Supervisor

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty & Department \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 3. Mentor

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty & Department \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Mentor

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty & Department \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## MIRA Postdoctoral Fellowship

### Application Checklist

- ❑ Completed application cover sheet.
- ❑ Cover letter written by the candidate that clearly states 1) how the research project will meaningfully incorporate and engage cross-disciplinary perspectives, and 2) how the project will impact the lives of older adults and advance the objectives of MIRA.
- ❑ Curriculum vitae.
- ❑ Research proposal (3-page maximum, 11 pt Calibri or Arial font, standard margins) including a two-page description of the proposed research, half a page for demonstrating the value and purpose of the interdisciplinary approach, and half a page describing the potential impact and future direction of the program of research, including proposed knowledge translation activities.
- ❑ One letter from the proposed supervisor confirming support for the research project and financial support of at least \$10,000 for the salary and benefits of the Fellow. The letter should also note the alignment of the proposed Fellowship with the supervisor's existing program of research.
- ❑ Two letters of support from mentors in two different Faculties describing 1) how their expertise and involvement will meaningfully advance the project, and 2) the mechanism through which their involvement will occur.