

2024 Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO)

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL

1. Q: What is HF-GRO?

A: Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO) is an initiative by the Foundation that will provide funds for research projects in **Aging Biology or Geroscience** (no clinical trials). Funding will be made available to investigators with labs in the United States, Canada, Europe and the UK.

2. Q: How can I apply?

A: The announcement and instructions for submitting the LOI are available on our [website](#).

3. Q: What is the review and selection process?

A: The selection process will use a 2-step approach, whereby applicants will first submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI), and applicants whose ideas are deemed meritorious will be invited to submit a full proposal. At that time, the applicants will also be notified of the maximum allowable budget amount and grant period. In both instances, the review will be carried out by external experts in Aging Biology and Geroscience. Hevolution Foundation does not fund grants outside our published funding priorities.

4. Q: I am not familiar with a biosketch, is there a template I can use?

A: The template for the biosketch can be found [here](#). NIH-style biosketch is **not** allowed.

5. Q: Can I get an extension on the deadline?

A: No, we will not accept late submissions. Please plan accordingly.

6. Q: How will I know that my Letter of Intent (LOI) or application was received?

A: After submitting your LOI/application through ProposalCentral, you will receive an automatically generated confirmation email. Please keep this email for your records. If you do not receive this email within 48 hours of submitting your application, please check your spam/junk folder. If you do not receive the confirmation email, contact Hevolution Foundation immediately at hevolutiongrants@afar.org.

7. Q: Can figures and graphs be included as appendices to the LOI or application?

A: No, figures/images must be included in the LOI project description as instructed if you need to include them. Also, keep them legible and include a legend that allows reviewers to evaluate its

value. However, preliminary data is not necessary, as the emphasis is on creativity and innovation.

8. Q: Can there be more than one PI?

A: Yes, multiple Principle Investigators (MPI), Co-Investigators (Co-Is), and collaborators are allowed as long as they meet all the criteria required of Principal Investigators, including geographical location. The award will go to the primary institution, where a substantial proportion of the work (at least 50%) must be conducted, including appropriate oversight of all matters related to the grant (scientific, programmatic, and financial).

9. Q: I received a 2023 HF-GRO grant in 2023. Can I apply?

A: No, HF-GRO PIs cannot apply again if they received a 2023 HF-GRO grant. However, if you are a Co-Investigator or collaborator on an active HF-GRO grant you are eligible to apply.

10. Q: I have a Co-Investigator/collaborator on my project. Should I have them write a letter of collaboration?

A: You should list them on your LOI, but a letter of collaboration and their biosketch will only become necessary if your LOI is selected for a full application.

11. Q: Do I need to include Human Subjects Research (IRB)/Animal Use Committee (AUC) approval with my application?

A: Not at the LOI stage. But if your application is recommended for funding, you will need to provide that information prior to the start date of the award.

12. Q: What are the selection criteria for shortlisting the applications?

A: The HF-GRO program supports investigators conducting research in Aging Biology or Geroscience (advances in basic research from the laboratory towards the clinic, or “translational research”). The selection criteria to evaluate the application are the following, as stated in the RFA guidelines:

- Quality of the proposed research
- Alignment of the research topic with [Hevolution's goals and mission](#)
- Innovation and creativity of the approach
- Qualifications and track record of the applicant
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the work proposed

13. Q: I have a project that includes a clinical trial, does it qualify for this call?

A: No, HF-GRO does not fund projects that include clinical trials. Other non-responsive criteria are the following, as stated in the RFA guidelines:

- Research on age-related diseases without a clear focus on the underlying biology of aging
- Projects that deal strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes

- Projects focused on the behavioural or social determinants of aging
- Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution

14. Q: Is there a limit on the number of projects that can be submitted?

A: Each applicant is allowed to submit only one project to the HF-GRO grant program as a Principal Investigator, but applicants can appear as collaborators in multiple projects.

15. Q: Can I apply if I already have a grant funded by another institution?

A: Yes, you can apply as long as the funded application has no scientific or budgetary overlap with the current proposal. For pending research projects, scientific and budgetary overlap will be re-visited at the time of award, to avoid any redundancies.

16. Q: When is the start date of the award?

A: We expect awards to start in late 2024.

ELIGIBILITY

17. Q: My project focuses on age-related diseases; does it qualify for this call?

A: This program will only consider disease-specific research if the project focuses on understanding how basic aging processes may lead to disease outcomes, or how addressing the basic biology of aging might delay the onset, or improve the prognosis or treatment of an age-related disease.

For example, if your research is focused on determining how Ab mutations influence Alzheimer's onset and prognosis, that is disease-specific research. However, if your research is focused on understanding how the loss of proteostasis with aging affects the toxic formation of Ab in Alzheimer's onset and prognosis, then this is "aging-focused" research. If you are uncertain, please contact us at hevolutiongrants@afar.org prior to submitting your LOI.

18. Q: What is the difference between Aging Biology and Geroscience?

A: Aging Biology includes basic research on the hallmarks/pillars of aging, as well as topics such as fibrosis, organelle dysfunction, the microbiome, and other areas identified as drivers of the aging process.

Geroscience research or translational research can be defined as a systematic effort to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications to improve human health and well-being. i.e., if a project has a clearly articulated pathway towards clinical relevance to the health and well-being of older adults then it is Geroscience research because it aims at applying those basic biology topics towards a translational goal. These may include work on pre-clinical animal models (mice or other mammals), as well as proof of concept or small-scale studies in human cells and

tissues. Work on human subjects must be limited to observational studies where no interventions are involved. Projects using other types of models (i.e. yeast, invertebrates, etc.) will only be considered where there is compelling justification that these studies may be directly relevant to human health and aging.

19. Q: How do I know the grant period that my project will be eligible for?

A: Projects will vary in length between 4 and 5 years. If you are invited to submit a full application, you will also be notified of the maximum allowable grant period.

20. Q: What countries are eligible for this program?

A: HF-GRO is an initiative open to investigators based at institutions in the United States, Canada, Europe and the UK.

21. Q: Are Young Investigators or investigators who are new to the field of aging eligible to apply? These questions are listed on the LOI in ProposalCentral, so I just want to be sure.

A: Applicants must be independent investigators/group leaders with independent research space and the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. So yes, early-stage investigators and those new to the field of aging are eligible to apply. These questions are for internal record-keeping only.

BUDGET

22. Q: How do I determine the maximum allowable budget?

A: Project budgets will vary in the range of \$300K- \$500K/year (Direct Cost) depending on the country/region, as well as whether the research is considered Aging Biology or Geroscience. Thus, the budget requested should be commensurate with regional levels of government funding for research projects (see table below). If you are invited to submit a full application, you will be notified at that time of the maximum allowable budget. The decision will be at the discretion of Hevolution Foundation and will not be appealable.

The table below can be used as a general reference.

	Region	Direct Cost
Aging Biology Budget (in USD) Up to 4 years total	Canada	\$ 300K/year
	Europe & UK	\$ 300K/year
	USA	\$ 400k/year
Geroscience Budget (in USD) Up to 5 years total	Canada	\$ 400K/year
	Europe & UK	\$ 400K/year
	USA	\$ 500k/year

23. Q: I was selected to submit a full application; can the budget include postdoctoral students and graduate students under personnel?

A: Yes, we cover salary plus fringe benefits for postdocs and graduate students, **but not tuition**. The budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs and it needs to be commensurate with regional standards.

24. Q: Under personnel in the budget, can fringe benefits be included as well as salary?

A: Yes, but the budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs, and it needs to be commensurate with regional standards.

25. Q: Does HF-GRO provide indirect costs or Facility and Administrative (F&A) costs?

A: Yes, HF-GRO provides indirect costs (or F&A) up to 25% of the total direct cost of the grant. The indirect cost is *in addition* to the direct cost. To calculate the F&A please exclude total cost of subawards/consortium (both direct and indirect costs) and equipment.

See example below:

<i>Parent Grant Total Annual Direct Cost Per Year</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>
<i>Subaward direct cost \$100,000 plus \$25,000 F&A</i>	<i>\$125,000</i>
<i>Parent Grant Direct Cost amount to calculate F&A</i>	<i>\$375,000</i>
<i>Maximum allowed indirect 25% on \$375,000</i>	<i>\$93,750</i>
<i>Total funds allowed to be requested</i>	<i>\$593,750</i>

For any further questions please contact hevolutiongrants@afar.org.