100 Main Street W.
Hamilton, ON Canada L8P 1H6
DBHSC 5003
http://merit.mcmaster.ca
Phone: 905-525-9140 x 23114
Email: merit@mcmaster.ca
Twitter: @MERIT_McMaster

MERIT Faculty Fellowship

Goal:
The MERIT Faculty Fellowship provides mentorship and supervision in health professions education research. The goal of the program is to increase the number of education scholars within the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster.

Description:
The fellowship provides funding to protect time for a faculty member to develop a year-long, tailored experience in conducting high-quality education research. A MERIT scientist(s) will partner with the fellow to serve as a project supervisor and fellowship mentor. The fellow will complete a scholarly education project, either a research project or evaluation of an innovation. The fellow will design a personalized curriculum to help them acquire the necessary skills to complete their project and acquire the foundational abilities of an education scholar. Learning opportunities may include formal courses, semi- structured seminars, guided readings etc. The fellow will join the MERIT community.

Eligibility:
Any full or part-time FHS faculty member from most classes of appointment (e.g., tenure track/tenured, special/CAWAR, teaching track or contractually limited appointment), except for sessional faculty or adjunct faculty with a primary appointment at another university, is eligible to apply.

Post-doctoral fellows or clinical fellows are ineligible.

Number of fellowships:
Up to two fellowships will be awarded each year.

The fellowship program will run for three years, at which time it will be reviewed. In some circumstances, the fellowship can be deferred for up to one year.

Funding:
Compensation for the fellowship is $25,000 (inclusive of salary and fringe benefits).

Funding is to be used to offset salary support or clinical earnings to protect time to engage in the fellowship. Negotiation of the terms of protected time provided to the fellow will be at the discretion of the fellow's department chair or vice dean, school. It is anticipated that the fellow will spend a minimum of 0.2 FTE dedicated to their fellowship. Funding is not meant to support the infra-structure of a research project.

In-kind Resources:
In addition, MERIT will provide:
- Team-based mentorship,
- Research project collaboration,
- Shared-office space as needed (In-person meetings are desirable to facilitate professional network development; however, virtual participation will be readily accommodated), and
- SPSS and NVivo license, as necessary.

Application:
The application consists of three parts. Each portion of the application will be adjudicated using a rubric to determine the successful applicant(s).

1. Applicant profile, including: (3 pages maximum, 10-point font)
   - Faculty role(s);
   - Previous experience or training in education;
   - Previous experience or training in research, especially education scholarship;
   - Explanation of how the fellowship will specifically advance their academic career as an education scholar.

2. A description of the proposed project, including: (5 pages maximum, 10 point font)
   - Background;
   - Conceptual framework;
   - Methods (including an evaluation plan if proposing an innovation);
   - Knowledge translation plan;
   - A rationale for how the project will address the needs of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

3. A letter of support from the applicant's department chair or vice dean school, including: (2 pages maximum, 10-point font)
   - A description of any in-kind resources provided by the department or school to ensure the fellow is successful and the project is completed.
   - A description outlining the terms of compensation to the Fellow or to the department or school. Negotiation of the terms of protected time provided to the fellow will be at the discretion of the fellow's department chair or vice dean, school.

A MERIT scientist(s) does NOT need to be identified as a supervisor/mentor at the time of application. Successful applicants will be partnered with a MERIT scientist(s) after acceptance of the fellowship.

The application must be submitted as a single PDF file, in the above sequence, labelled: <last name>.<first name>.MFF to merit@mcmaster.ca

Deliverables:
Successful Fellows will need to engage in the following activities:
   - Final project report;
   - Present their project at Norman Education Research Day within 1 year of initiating the fellowship. Work in progress presentations are welcomed.

Timelines:
   - Deadline for submission of an application is April 29, 2024.
   - Applicants will be informed of the selection committee's decision by June 4, 2024.
   - The fellowship begins Fall 2024 with a specific start time to be agreed upon between the Fellow and the Assistant Dean, MERIT.

Previous Fellows:
- 2022: X. Catherine Tong, Dept. of Family Medicine
- 2023: Gregory Spadoni, School of Rehabilitation Sciences
- 2023: Quang Ngo, Dept. of Pediatrics