Rules and regulations 2021

Context and description

Mental health is a major public health issue because of the high frequency of chronic, costly and disabling of mental illnesses. Epidemiological studies show that psychiatric disorders affect 1 in 5 French people each year.

Yet, psychiatry remains one of the most stigmatized medical disciplines: less than 6% of French medical students choose psychiatry as a specialty, academic posts in psychiatry and career prospects are reduced. In addition, there is a French deficit of research training in psychiatry (only 4% of the public funding for medical research is allocated to psychiatry research against 7% in UK and 16% in USA)

In this context, this program, supported by the Fondation Bettencourt Schueller, aims to train a new generation of psychiatrists with high-potential for research who will be the future leaders of French research in psychiatry and the psychiatrists-researchers essential for the improvement of psychiatric care in France.

Awardees will be selected by a multidisciplinary, independent and international jury. A path of excellence will be proposed which will enable them to dedicate themselves full-time to research for a period of 3 years maximum in order to complete a PhD. This program will also include working seminars throughout the course such as project management, regulatory affairs, scientific article writing, intellectual property, communication and popular science, team management and leadership.

Eligibility criteria

Applications must fulfill all the following eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a psychiatrist or a doctor in the course of DES in psychiatry
- The applicant must be 35 years old maximum at the submission of the application
- The applicant must be of the nationality of one of the member states of the European Union or the EFTA (AELE)
- The applicant must hold a Master 2 degree (or equivalent university degree) at the time of registration at the doctoral school
- The applicant must be hosted in a laboratory located in France, certified by a major research organization (Inserm, CNRS, Universities,...) and whose director is committed to welcoming the candidate and making available all the necessary elements for the implementation of the research project.
- The applicant must present a research project validated by the PhD supervisor who is committed to supervise and support the applicant and who must hold the Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches (HDR).
- The research project must target in at least one of the following disorders: bipolar disorders, schizophrenia, autism spectrum disorders without intellectual disability, resistant depression, suicidal behavior, resistant obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and be
developed in the field of basic, clinical or therapeutic research on pathophysiology, etiology, epidemiology, medical costs studies, clinic or therapeutic innovations.

The Fondation FondaMental reserves the right not to award a fellowship if no suitable or no consistent application with the objectives of the call is received.

Selection process and award criteria

After compliance and eligibility checking by the FondaMental Research Direction, the applications will be assessed by a jury composed by internationally renowned scientific experts independent from the Fondation FondaMental that will select a shortlisted candidates and proceed individual interviews to recommend the awardees. This audition will take place in June, 11th 2021 and include 15 minutes of presentation of the scientific project and 15 minutes of answers to the questions of the jury.

Applications will be evaluated and prioritized according the following key criteria:

- The quality of the candidate’s career,
- The scientific quality, originality and technical feasibility of the research project,
- The relevance of the topic chosen for the improvement of knowledge or the management of psychiatric diseases,
- The quality of the host laboratory (supervision, management, equipment).

Finally, based on the evaluations and recommendations, the Executive Committee of the Fondation FondaMental will decide the allocation of the fellowships.

Submission guidelines

Application materials must be submitted in English.

Application submissions are made online.

The application form is available on www.fondation-fondamental.org and it includes the following elements:

- Individual information
- Proof of identity (scan ID card or passport)
- CV of the candidate
- Motivation letter of the candidate: commitment to devote himself/herself entirely to research for 3 years until obtaining his/her PhD and to actively participate in the activities promoted by the Fondation Fondamental/sponsor including the award ceremony, scientific meetings and writing of reports
- Title, summary and description of the research project
- Commitment letter of the director of the host laboratory
- CV and commitment letter of the research supervisor

Deadline for submission: April 23rd 2021, at midnight

Notification

Final funding decisions will be announced on July 2021 by the FondaMental Executive Committee. Notification by e-mail will be sent to the candidates.

Financing terms

In 2021, one or two fellowships will be funded with the support of the Fondation Bettencourt Schueller which has established an agreement with the Fondation FondaMental.
The fellowships are awarded for a period of three years maximum and are intended to cover the cost of the salary of the awardees that should be maintained at the previous level. The employer will be the institution of the host laboratory, subject to its acceptance, if not, the Fondation FondaMental. The contract will start during 4Q2021 upon registration at the doctoral school.

Beneficiaries will have to suspend their medical activity and devote 100% of their time to their research project.

**Commitment of the awardees**

The awarding is conditional to the compliancy of the following commitment:

- To forward their written acceptance of the award within 1 month of notification of the decision,
- To provide the justification for obtaining the Master 2 level or equivalent,
- To register for a French doctoral school,
- To obtain the agreement from their supervisory authority to devote entirely to the research project for a maximum of 3 years,
- To facilitate the interaction with his/her research institution for the implementation of the contract with the Fondation FondaMental,
- To attend the award ceremony and to give a lecture on his/her research at the award ceremony
- To actively participate to the meetings were they will be invited by the Fondation FondaMental or the sponsor to present their project and results.
- To submit a progress report at the request of the Fondation FondaMental (at least once a year)
- To participate in the communication actions as requested by the Fondation FondaMental

**Award ceremony**

The fellowships will officially be announced at the award ceremony that will be held in Paris and scheduled for October 2021.