

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS) Program

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

CFA: Call for Applications

HPRS: Health Policy Research Scholars

NLPC: National Leadership Program Center. The NLPC for HPRS is Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities

HPRS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Which fields or disciplines are eligible for the Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS) program?

The Health Policy Research Scholars Program will enroll up to 50 first and second year pre-doctoral scholars (as of September 2017) from any research-focused disciplines who are interested in and have an application to health policy research.

Which underrepresented and disadvantaged populations are eligible?

Examples of eligible individuals from underrepresented populations and/or disadvantaged backgrounds include, but are not limited to, first-generation college graduates, individuals from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, individuals from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented in doctoral programs, and individuals with disabilities. Specifically, we aim to recruit doctoral students from a variety of disciplines (e.g., urban planning, health, economics, ethnography, education, social work, etc.) who are training to be researchers. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact the NLPC.

Which degrees does HPRS consider clinical degrees?

Doctoral degrees that are primarily for professional training (MD, DO, DPT, DVM, DDS etc.) are not eligible for this program. Note that this is not an exhaustive list but a sample of clinical degrees that are not eligible and that this is a program that is focused on research based doctoral students.

Are women considered underrepresented?

The determination of whether a particular demographic is underrepresented will depend on the field of study. In general, women are not considered underrepresented in public health and social science doctoral programs.

Is HPRS using the number of credits to determine if the applicant is on his first or second doctoral year?

Students must be full time students entering their 1st or 2nd year as of September 2017, full time status as an incoming student and completion of full time 1st year requirements are what determine eligibility.

Is there an alternative program for 3rd and 4th year doctoral students?

Not at this time.

Is there an age requirement or limit?

Yes. Full time doctoral students must be at least 21 years old.

Can I apply to Health Policy Research Scholars even if I am already funded by RWJF?

Yes, applicants that have other active RWJF funding, grants, or contracts may apply if they meet all eligibility requirements.

Can a previous RWJF grantee or a faculty that has received RWJF trainings write a Letter of Reference?

Yes. However, no letters of reference will be accepted from current or former members of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation staff, the RWJF Board of Trustees, staff members from the program center at Johns Hopkins and George Washington Universities, national advisory committee members, application reviewers, or other RWJF national leadership program centers.

PROGRAM DETAILS

What is the time period (start/end dates and duration) for this program?

Health Policy Research Scholars will officially begin September 1, 2017 and will end in approximately five years, or once the Scholar completes his or her doctoral requirements – whichever occurs first.

What is the time commitment for the program?

This program will be supplemental to your doctoral training and may require up to an additional 2-4 hours per week during the academic year for the online training modules. During the summer the scholars will participate in required trainings on site with one of the partners for between 2 and 4 weeks.

Where will the HPRS Program happen?

The training will be done virtually, with the exception of the dates outlined in the next question.

What are the key anticipated activities or dates I should reserve?

- Participation in 2017 Fall Institute, October 13th-19th, 2017 and annually thereafter
- Participation in the 2018 HPRS Culture of Health Summer Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore 3-4 weeks in June 2018
- Participation in the 2019 Health Policy Research Experience summer 2019
- Participation in the 2020 Health Policy in Washington DC 2 weeks in June 2020

Is the travel and lodging expenses covered by the HPRS Program?

Yes, travel and lodging to events required of RWJF scholars are covered.

Do the mentors need to travel as well? Are their expenses paid?

Mentors only need to travel once in the 1st year to the fall institute and these expenses will be paid by the program.

What will the participant stipend be and for what can it be used?

Health Policy Research Scholars will receive up to \$30,000 per year for up to 4 years. Grants will be made to the scholars' home institution to support the scholar's participation in the program. Scholars will work with their home institutions to determine how the grant funds will be used to support the participants' successful completion of the program, for example, living expenses, relevant conference/workshop registration fees, travel, supplies, equipment, software and other scholar needs. Grant funding is not intended to support the individual's tuition or indirect expenses of the home institutions. The stipend is to be used to support the scholars in succeeding in their doctoral programs while incorporating a health policy context.

Are there any restrictions on receiving the stipend for students that are Graduate Assistants or Teaching Assistants?

Students who have graduate or teaching assistantships are still eligible to receive the HPRS stipend; however, if a student has another stipend based scholarship there may be restrictions or limits to the other stipend the student receives. Please note that the HPRS stipend will be given to the scholar's home institution to disburse to the scholar, so any stipends will have to follow home institution rules on multiple stipends.

What is the dissertation grant?

Limited dissertation grants for scholars who propose research related to health policy will be available through a competitive process.

How many Health Policy Research Scholars applicants will be funded?

Up to 50 Health Policy Research Scholars will be enrolled in the 2017 Cohort.

What is meant by a “health policy research?”

Health policy and systems research (HPSR) is an emerging field that seeks to understand and improve how societies organize themselves in achieving collective health goals, and how different actors interact in the policy and implementation processes to contribute to policy outcomes. By nature, it is inter-disciplinary, a blend of economics, sociology, anthropology, political science, public health and epidemiology that together draw a comprehensive picture of how health systems respond and adapt to health policies, and how health policies can shape – and be shaped by – health systems and the broader determinants of health.

Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO 2016

<http://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/about/hpsr/en/>

What is “Change Leadership?”

Change leadership means thinking big about impact, responding to urgent needs, and actively tolerating risk. This is the kind of big, bold way of working—together—that will get us to a Culture of Health.

What is meant by “home discipline?”

The “home discipline” is the primary discipline that the scholar is studying for their respective doctoral degree.

What is meant by “Home Institution Mentor?”

The Home Institution Mentor is the faculty member who has agreed to work with the scholar to support, advocate, and guide their successful progress toward the student’s doctoral degree.

The Home Institution Mentor will accompany the scholar at the Fall Institute. The Home Institution Mentor will receive honorarium from the NLPC each year that the scholar is active in the program. Home Institution Mentors will also receive reimbursed expenses related to relevant mentor convenings associated with the program.

What is a “co-mentor”?

The Home Institution Mentor and/or applicant may select a second faculty mentor to assist with research, academic, and career mentoring the applicant. The Co-Mentor may have special expertise in an area of research that is of interest to the applicant and complements the skills, time and availability of the applicant’s primary Home Institution Mentor.

What is a “partner site?”

Partner sites for HPRS are Mayo Clinic, University of California-Los Angeles, and University of Michigan. Research will be conducted in the second summer of the program at Mayo Clinic, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Michigan. Additional partner sites may be considered in the future and at the discretion of the National Leadership Program Center managing the HPRS program.

How does Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) define “interdisciplinary?”

The next generation of leaders in health policy must have the skills to work collaboratively across and with leaders, community members, researchers, agencies, and institutions from multiple disciplines to develop research-informed health policies...this constitutes the interdisciplinary approach.