

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Health Policy Research Scholars (HPRS) Program**
Version January, 2022

COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

CFA: Call for Applications

HPRS: Health Policy Research Scholars

NPC: National Program Center. The NPC for HPRS is the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

HPRS PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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

HPRS will select up to 40 pre-doctoral scholars from any research-focused disciplines that are entering their second year of study in fall 2022 who are interested in and have an application to health policy research. Specifically, we aim to recruit doctoral students from a variety of disciplines (e.g., urban planning, health, economics, ethnography, education, social work, political science, etc.) who are training to be researchers. We strongly encourage applications from non-health related disciplines; having scholars from diverse fields is critical to advancing a Culture of Health.

Which underrepresented and historically marginalized populations are eligible?

Examples of eligible individuals from underrepresented populations and/or historically marginalized 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. The application includes space for applicants to describe how they are from underrepresented populations and/or historically marginalized backgrounds. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact the NPC.

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. This is a program that is focused on individuals pursuing research-based doctoral degrees.

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, but for example, are underrepresented in computer science.

Is HPRS using the number of credits to determine if the applicant is in their second doctoral year?

HPRS participants must be full time students entering their 2nd year as of September 2022. Applicants must be enrolled in a program that is offered full-time. Applicants who are in a part-time doctoral program, but taking additional credits that may be similar to a credit load for full time students, are not considered full-time. If the applicant is unsure whether they meet this requirement, they should contact the NPC at hprs@jhu.edu.

Is there an alternative program for doctoral students who are not entering their 2nd year?

Not at this time.

Is there an age requirement or limit?

Yes. Full time doctoral students must be at least 21 years old when they begin HPRS. There is no upper age limit to participate in HPRS.

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

Yes, applicants who have other active RWJF funding, grants, or contracts may apply if they meet all eligibility requirements. More information can be found [here](#).

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

Yes. However, no letters of reference will be accepted from individuals who are current RWJF staff members or have been RWJF staff members within the last five years, the RWJF Board of Trustees, staff members from the NPC, members of the HPRS National Advisory Committee (NAC), or staff from 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, 2022 and will end August 31, 2025, or once the Scholar completes his/her/their doctoral requirements – whichever occurs first. After this time, Scholars will transition to HPRS alumni.

What is the time commitment for the program?

HPRS is designed to complement your doctoral training and may require up to an additional five hours per month during the academic year for the online modules. Scholars will also attend a three-day Fall Institute in their first year, and a required one-week Summer Institute in July.

Where will the HPRS Program happen?

The HPRS program is conducted virtually, except for the dates outlined in the next question.

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

- 2022 HPRS Fall Institute in Baltimore, MD, October 6th – 9th
- 2023 RWJF Leadership Institute, and annual meetings thereafter
- 2023 HPRS Summer Institute in Baltimore, MD July 16-22, 2023 (1 week)

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

Yes, related expenses associated with travel and lodging to events required of RWJF scholars are covered.

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

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 create and propose a budget consistent with these award policies and work with their institution to determine how the grant funds will be set up and disbursed to support their successful completion of the program. Scholars may choose to use the award funds to pay for expenses such as: living or child-care expenses; research expenses or statistical software; registration fees for relevant conferences, workshops, or professional associations; conference, professional development, or research-related travel; equipment such as laptops, tablets, audio recorders or other devices needed for research or other program requirements; and supplies including books and other education-related materials. Grant funding is not intended to support the individual's tuition or indirect expenses of the home institutions. The award funds are to be used to support the Scholars by alleviating some of the financial burden with attending graduate school.

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

Students who have graduate or teaching assistantships are eligible to receive the HPRS award. Grant funding **should not** replace existing funding such as teaching assistantships, research assistantships, grants, or other education-related support such as departmental stipends. Scholars who are currently receiving support through a federally-supported training grant (e.g., a Kirschstein-NRSA individual fellowship) can receive support from HPRS but applicants should verify the rules of the particular program with the applicable federal agency. Institutions should not use HPRS funds to pay the scholar as part of an existing funding package. We strongly encourage applicants to discuss the impact that receiving this award may have on other assistance with their home institutions prior to submitting an application and involve the HPRS NPC if questions arise.

What is the dissertation grant?

Scholars may apply for one-time dissertation award of up to \$10,000, which will be available through a competitive process with multiple submission dates each year. Scholars can apply for this grant after they have their proposal accepted by their home institution.

How many Health Policy Research Scholars applicants will be funded?

Up to 40 Health Policy Research Scholars will be selected for the 2022 Cohort.

What is meant by "health policy research?"

According to the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, “[h]ealth 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 interdisciplinary, 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/>

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.

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. This person is a critical part of the scholar’s mentoring team. The home institution mentor will participate in an onboarding webinar and orientation with the Scholar in September/October 2022, as well as an annual check-in. The home institution mentor will receive a small honorarium from the NPC each year that the scholar is active in the program. Home institution mentors will also have access to information shared via newsletters, professional development resources, and select opportunities to interact with other home institution mentors, the NPC, and Scholars.

Do the Home Institution Mentors need to travel as well?

No.

The Call for Applications references RWJF’s Policy on Open Access. Where can I find more information?

The policy and frequently asked questions on the policy can be found at

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/about-rwjf/our-policies/policy-for-open-access.html>.