

## BIOSECURITY GAME CHANGERS FELLOWSHIP

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **Are there location requirements, for example, if I work in the United States or Africa but my citizenship is in another location?**
  - a. There aren't specific location requirements, but the fellowship is partially intended to build biosecurity networks among African and United States of America early-to-mid-career experts. Therefore, we will give strong preference to applicants who are from and based in either Africa or the United States.
2. **Does one's experience need to be specifically in health security?**
  - a. Yes. It is strongly preferred that the applicant has a background in health security and/or a specific element of health security. Such elements may include areas such as biosecurity & biosafety, disease surveillance, laboratory capacity, nonproliferation of biological weapons, antimicrobial resistance, and other elements of the IHR.
3. **Will the work that we are expected to do be synchronous and during the workday or is it a flexible schedule?**
  - a. Each fellow will be expected to work 50% of their time, negotiated with the fellows' home academic institution or employer and fellowship placement. The fellowship is not a full-time opportunity, but it is intended to provide an in-depth experience for fellows as part of an operational project team, so time during the work-week will be required in order to be able to fully participate in the fellowship and with the host organization. Your precise schedule will be at the discretion of you and your placement organization (e.g., CEPI, Gavi, PAN, IBBIS, BWC, Brown). If you have scheduling constraints, it would be helpful for you to include those in your application materials.
4. **Is the stipend inclusive of travel costs or are those separate?**
  - a. Travel costs will be separate from the fellowship stipend. You will be expected to attend the workshop in Addis Ababa on September 3-5, 2024 which will be funded by Brown in addition to the stipend. If your host entity wishes you to (additionally) travel, this would be negotiated with that organization once you are matched.
5. **Can I apply if I am not in current employment and/or not currently affiliated with any other institution?**
  - a. This opportunity is intended for people who are in the health security career track, early-to-mid career, and with an undergraduate (baccalaureate) degree already - focused on building the next generation of health security leaders. If you

are currently between positions or in a student situation, please note that in your application and include a reference from a former employer.

**6. Are Master's and PhD students eligible to apply?**

- a. Yes, you are eligible to apply if you have completed or are currently completing a doctoral or masters program. However, we are asking that each applicant has at least 5 years of experience and an undergraduate degree. Your host institution would have to agree.

**7. Can I use this opportunity as part of my PhD dissertation?**

- a. We intend this to be an operational experience. While we encourage students to apply, the question of how this experience would fit into your doctoral or other dissertation program would have to be adjudicated with your host institution and your placement office.

**8. Are people working in media eligible for this fellowship?**

- a. One of our recommended qualifications is at least 5 years of experience in health security. If your media experience involves health security, then you are eligible to apply.

**9. Would students who enrolled in our SPH Online Master of Public Health program be eligible for the Biosecurity Game Changers Fellowship? One of our graduation requirements is to complete an applied experience/practicum. It seems like this fellowship would satisfy this requirement and also provide a valuable experience for them.**

- a. Yes, students in the online MPH program would be eligible to apply. We do recommend that applicants have at least 5 years of experience in a field related to health security but encourage those interested and passionate about biosecurity to submit an application.

**10. What is the criteria for becoming a partner organization?**

- a. The criteria for partner organizations, are those with a strong commitment to pandemic preparedness and response, with a particular focus on operational health security, as well as components of health security such as biosurveillance, biosecurity, biosafety and/or non-proliferation of biological weapons.
- b. Selected organizations must be able to provide fellows with strong operational experience where they would have opportunities to be part of a team working to prevent, detect and/or respond to emerging biological threats and finding solutions for better future preparedness. The challenge is to get ahead of emerging threats that are unusual and novel and to work closely with policymakers to head them off.

11. **How are you defining 50% of time - 20 hours per week or 50% of your primary workplace duty time?**
  - a. The fellowship opportunity requires a commitment to spend 20 hours per week or 50% of your primary workplace duty time. Half of your working time should therefore be devoted to the fellowship effort. How that is individually structured will be negotiated with your employer and your fellowship placement organization. An important component of this fellowship is integration with the project team.
  
12. **What is the duration of the program? How long is the fellowship?**
  - a. The duration is one year, starting September 2024 and ending August 2025.
  
13. **Is this the pilot launch for the fellowship?**
  - a. Yes.
  
14. **Would a epidemiologist from a local or state health department in the US that hopes to have a future career in global health security be a good candidate?**
  - a. Yes, this is an example of a qualified candidate.
  
15. **Is it open for prospective fellows working in NGOs?**
  - a. There is not a preference for specific types of employment situations that fellows might have, so long as they have the recommended 5 years of experience in health security, a commitment from the employer for the fellow to make a 50% time commitment, and the other application requirements.
  
16. **I'm rounding up my PhD Microbiology, and I have more than 9 years experience as occupational health and safety officer, and was a frontline worker during the Covid-19 pandemic - I'm I qualified?**
  - a. Yes, you are eligible.
  
17. **How many pages of CV do you typically expect?**
  - a. A shorter resume would be appropriate, rather than a long *Curriculum Vitae*. If we need more information, we will request it. A resume of 2 to 3 pages would be ideal.
  
18. **Should our application include specific diseases we would want to work on?**
  - a. No, the fellowship is disease agnostic. Keep in mind that our primary challenge is dealing with infectious disease outbreaks with epidemic and pandemic potential.

**19. Can you provide more details on what operational experience would entail?**

**What kind of tasks would we be expected to complete?**

- a. This will be specific to the host institution. Applicants are encouraged to read up on the missions of the placement organizations to get a sense for what kinds of tasks they will be expected to perform and speak to those during the interviews.

**20. What is the age limit for this fellowship?**

- a. There is no age limit, but the fellowship is focused on individuals who are early to mid-career with the desired 5 years experience.

**21. Is the stipend intended to cover a portion of the fellow's salary at their company?**

- a. The stipend is intended to provide an incentive for applicants to be able to spend 50% of their time committed to the fellowship. The exact quantum of the stipend paid will be depend on your years of experience

**22. Besides attending the workshops, how often will we be required to be outside the office?**

- a. Workshop attendance is mandatory. Any other travel should be negotiated with your host organization.

**23. Is 5 years experience post bachelor's a hard cut off? For example, if we have specific health security experience that includes undergrad experience that accumulates to 5 years will we still be considered.**

- a. No, it is not a hard cut off. We are looking for people who are serious about pursuing a career track in health security as demonstrated by having worked in the field and wanting to take the next step. If somebody is really close to that time period and demonstrates that they have an analogous type of experience, then we will take that into account.

**24. Is someone with a health policy background an eligible candidate?**

- a. Yes. It is recommended that your experience include at least five years in the field of health security, specifically, which bridges health and national security and includes prevention, detection, and response to infectious disease threats.

**25. Will the \$20,000 stipend be a once off payment or paid monthly?**

- a. It is likely that fellows will be paid in monthly installments, unless another arrangement is made with your host organization.

**26. How many fellows will be placed within each organization? Will fellows work on the same projects?**

- a. We are currently planning on one fellow per partner organization, with a maximum of 10 fellows selected. Projects will be specific to each placement organization.

**27. What if you change employers during the one year duration?**

- a. The purpose of having a letter from your employer or academic institution is to make sure that you are able to fulfill the time commitments of the fellowship. If you know now that you will be changing employers or moving to a new academic institution, please note that in your fellowship application and ensure that you have captured their agreement that you are able to spend 50% of your time committed to this fellowship experience.

**28. Is prior research experience necessary or considered in the application process?**

- a. No. The fellowship recommends at least 5 years or equivalent experience post-baccalaureate in the field of health security. It does not specify the background of the candidate within that field.
- b. We anticipate that many of our prospective applicants will have research experience, but research experience is not a requirement. Qualified candidates may have requisite experience in other fields, such as policy, national security, humanitarian response, or other adjacent fields. We are looking for a wide range of trained individuals for this fellowship.

**29. Is resigning from one's current job advised if selected for this fellowship?**

- a. No, we are not advising that.

**30. Which of the partner institutions would be best for someone with interest in disease surveillance?**

- a. The placement institutions have their mission statements posted, and we ask that you review those for alignment. Please indicate your top 2 choices in your application.

**31. Can the experience gained before attainment of a bachelor's degree count or be added for the experience? If someone did their diploma before the degree and the degree was obtained in 2022.**

- a. We will take into account all of the experience that you have in the field of health security. We want to make sure that we attract people who are committed to a health security career track.

**32. Do pharmacists fall in the category of health security experts?**

- a. Yes, for example you would be a qualified candidate if you are a pharmacist who has health security experience and you are exploring or committed to exploring a career in the area of health security.

- 33. What organizations can be potential employers for graduates of the fellowship?**
- We are not able to place people in positions post-fellowship. However, this fellowship is intended to further your education, training and experience in health security and expand the opportunities you will have in the future.
- 34. In the duration of the fellowship, do we need to also be at Brown University, as well as the partner institution?**
- No. Brown University School of Public Health will provide a faculty appointment for fellows, but fellows will not be located at Brown University.
- 35. During the application process we should outline which placement we are most interested in, correct?**
- Yes. So we would like fellows to look at the list of placements and share their preferences which we will try to meet.
- 36. Are there any 'after fellowship' deliberate programs?**
- Not currently. We intend to maintain and ideally expand the Game Changers fellows' network. We anticipate future opportunities to stay connected with fellows.
- 37. In South Africa, the University of Stellenbosch is listed as a partner organization for this effort. Will they host Fellows?**
- We are collaborating with Stellenbosch University on this effort, but they are not currently a hosting organization for Game Changers fellows.
- 38. Can fellows rotate between two partner institutions?**
- No, fellows anticipated to work with their partner organization for the entirety of the fellowship. If you are interested in an opportunity for joint collaboration among more than one fellowship placement, please make that case in your application, recognizing it is unlikely to be a possibility this year.
- 39. Are there any placement organizations that will be added, in addition to the current ones? If so, when are they likely to be added?**
- The fellowship placement organizations that are available are those that are listed. In the event there are any additions to the list, those would be added and posted before the fellowship interviews begin.
- 40. How does the placement with Brown Pandemic Center differ from the other placements, as Brown is managing this fellowship?**
- There are two options for placement with the Brown Pandemic Center. The first option is that the Brown Pandemic Center may serve as the formal host for one of the listed partners if that arrangement were to be convenient for the organization and for the fellows. As a second option, the Brown Pandemic Center may serve as

a project placement organization itself. Please see our exciting project opportunities linked here.

**41. Can negotiations with your employer regarding the amount of time spent on the fellowship be less than 50%? Or is 50% the minimum?**

- a. Fellows must be committed to spend 50% of their time on fellowship activities.

**42. Is the Africa CDC a hosting partner organization?**

- a. Presently, Africa CDC is not a hosting partner organization for Game Changers fellows. They are a collaborating partner, which will inform the network and its work. As such, a senior member of Africa CDC staff serves on the Steering Committee for the effort. We anticipate organizations like Africa CDC will help build linkages among fellows and related activities on the African continent.

**43. What do you see as the big challenge for prospective fellows that are placed?**

- a. The biggest challenge for prospective fellows will be to prioritize your work. Fellows should be self-directed, able to work independently, and team players who are open to extensive mutual learning. The fellowship opportunity is focused on gaining policy and operational experience. A successful fellow is expected to thrive in a dynamic environment, be able to quickly shift gears and work on operational interventions, as well as manage unintended consequences. A key goal for you as a Game Changers fellow will be to enhance, expand and refine your skill set in decision-making.