

## GRO FAQs (updated May 24, 2023)

**Please note: After May 24, 2023, the most current updates to the FAQ will only be available on this page: <https://www.afar.org/revolution-grants/hf-gro-frequently-asked-questions>.**

### GENERAL

**1. Q: What is HF-GRO**

**A:** The Hevolution Foundation Geroscience Research Opportunities (HF-GRO) is an initiative that will provide funds for research projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience (no Clinical Trials). Funding will be made available to investigators with labs in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Calls for other regions, including Asia and the Middle East, will be announced at a later time.

**2. Q: How can I apply?**

**A:** The announcement and instructions for submitting the LOI are available on our website ([LINK](#)), and here ([LINK](#)). HF does not fund grants outside our funding priorities.

**3. Q: What is the process of selection?**

**A:** The selection process will use a 2-step approach, whereby applicants will first submit a short Letter of Intent (LOI), and applicants whose ideas are deemed meritorious will be invited to submit a full proposal. At that time, the applicants will also be notified of the maximum allowable budget amount and grant period. In both instances, the review will be carried out by external experts in aging biology and geroscience.

**4. Q: I am not familiar with a biosketch, is there a template I can use?**

**A:** The template for the biosketch can be found here ([LINK](#)).

**5. Q: Can I get an extension on the deadline?**

**A:** No, we will not accept late submissions. The application needs to include all necessary scanned or electronic signatures by the deadline. Please plan accordingly.

**6. Q: How will I know that my Letter of Intent or application was received?**

**A:** After submitting your Letter of Intent/application through the appropriate link, you will receive an automatically generated confirmation email. Please keep this email for your records. If you do not receive this email within 48 hours of submitting your application, please check your spam/junk folder. If you do not receive the confirmation email, contact Hevolution Foundation immediately at [hevolutiongrants@afar.org](mailto:hevolutiongrants@afar.org).

**7. Q: Can my figures and graphs be included as appendices to the LOI or application?**

**A:** No, figures/images must be included in the LOI as instructed if you need to include them. Also, keep them legible and include a legend that allows reviewers to evaluate its value. However, preliminary data is not necessary, as the emphasis is on creativity and innovation.

**8. Q: Can there be more than one PI?**

**A:** Yes, multiple PIs (MPI), Co-Investigators (Co-Is), and collaborators are allowed as long as they meet all previous criteria. The award will go to the primary institution, where a substantial proportion of the work (at least 50%) must be conducted at the primary institution, including appropriate oversight of all matters related to the grant (scientific, programmatic, and financial).

**9. Q: I have a Co-Investigator/Collaborator on my project. Should I have them write a letter of collaboration?**

**A:** You should list them on your LOI, but a letter of collaboration and their biosketch will only become necessary if your LOI is selected for a full application.

**10. Q: Do I need to include Human Subjects Research (IRB)/Animal Use Committee (AICUC) approval with my application?**

**A:** Not at this stage, but if your application is recommended for funding, you will need to provide it prior to the start date of the award.

**11. Q: What are the selection criteria for shortlisting the applications?**

**A:** HF-GRO program supports investigators conducting research in aging biology or geroscience (advances in basic research from the laboratory towards the clinic, or “translational research”). The selection criteria to evaluate the application are the following, as stated in the RFA guidelines ([LINK](#)):

- Quality of the proposed research
- Alignment of the research topic with **Hevolution’s goals and mission**
- Innovation and creativity of the approach
- Qualifications and track record of the applicant
- Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the work proposed

**12. Q: I have a project that includes a clinical trial, does it qualify for this call?**

**A:** No, HF-GRO does not fund projects that include clinical trials. Other non-responsive criteria are the following, as stated in the RFA guidelines ([LINK](#)):

- Research on age-related diseases without a clear focus on the underlying biology of aging
- Projects that deal strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes
- Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution

**13. Q: Is there a limit on the number of projects that can be submitted?**

**A:** Yes, each applicant is allowed to submit only one project to the HF-GRO grant program as a Principal Investigator (PI) and/or Co-PI. If you are a Co-Investigator or collaborator on another HF-GRO project you are allowed to submit your own HF-GRO application.

**14. Q: Can I apply if I already have a grant funded by another institution?**

**A:** Yes, you can apply as long as no funded application has scientific or budgetary overlap with the current proposal. For pending research projects, scientific and budgetary overlap will be re-visited at the time of award, to avoid any overlaps.

**15.Q: When is the start date of the award?**

**A:** We expect awards to start in late 2023.

## ELIGIBILITY

**16.Q: My project focuses on age-related diseases, does it qualify for this call?**

**A:** This program **will only consider** disease-specific research if projects focus on understanding how basic aging processes may lead to disease outcomes or how addressing the basic biology of aging might delay the onset, improve prognosis, or treatment of an age-related disease. For example, if your research is focused on determining how Ab mutations influence Alzheimer's onset and prognosis, that is disease-specific research. However, if your research is focused on understanding how the loss of proteostasis with aging affects the toxic formation of Ab in Alzheimer's onset and prognosis, then this is "aging-focused" research. If you are uncertain, please contact us at [hevolutiongrants@afar.org](mailto:hevolutiongrants@afar.org) prior to submitting your LOI.

**17.Q: What is the difference between Aging Biology and Geroscience?**

**A:** Examples of projects in **Aging Biology** include basic research on the hallmarks/pillars of aging, as well as topics such as fibrosis, organelle dysfunction, the microbiome, and other areas identified as drivers of the aging process. Aging Biology studies can be done in any model system, including yeast, invertebrates, etc.

**Geroscience research** or translational research can be defined as a systematic effort to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications to improve human health and well-being. i.e., if a project has a clearly articulated pathway towards clinical relevance to the health and well-being of older adults then it is **Geroscience research** because it aims at applying those basic biology topics towards a translational goal. These may include proof of concept studies or small-scale studies related to new diagnostic, treatment, or preventive modalities related to aging-relevant biology.

Geroscience studies should use one or more of the following models,

- Human subjects
- Human cells and tissues
- Mice or other mammals.

Programs using other types of models (i.e. yeast, invertebrates, etc.) will only be considered when there is a compelling justification that these studies may be directly relevant to human health and aging.

**18.Q: How do I know the grant period that my project will be eligible for?**

**A:** Projects will vary in length between 4 and 5 years. If you are invited to submit a full application, you will also be notified of the maximum allowable grant period.

**19.Q: What countries are eligible for this program?**

**A:** HF-GRO is an initiative open to investigators based at institutions in the United

States, Canada, and Europe. Calls for other regions, including Asia and the Middle East, will be announced at a later time. Please contact [hevolutiongrants@afar.org](mailto:hevolutiongrants@afar.org) for any further questions.

**20. Q: Are Early-Stage Investigators or investigators who are new to aging eligible to apply? These questions are on the title page of the Letter of Intent, so I just want to be sure.**

**A:** Applicants must be independent investigators/group leaders with independent research space and the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. So, yes, early-stage and investigators new to aging are eligible to apply. The questions on the cover of the title page of the LOI are for internal record-keeping only.

## **BUDGET**

**21. Q: How do I determine the maximum allowable budget?**

**A:** Project budgets will vary in the range of \$300K - \$500K/year (Direct Cost) depending on the country/region. Thus, the budget requested should be commensurate with regional levels of government funding for research projects (see table below). If you are invited to submit a full application, you will be notified at that time of the maximum allowable budget. The decision will be at the discretion of Hevolution Foundation and will not be appealable. The table below can be used as a general reference.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Budget (US dollars)</b>
Canada	\$ 300-400K
USA	\$ 400-500k
Europe	\$ 300-400K

**22. Q: I was selected to submit a full application, can the budget include postdoctoral students and graduate students under personnel?**

**A:** Yes, we cover salary plus fringe for postdocs and graduate students, **but not tuition**. The budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs and it needs to be commensurate with regional standards.

**23. Q: Under personnel in the budget, can fringe benefits be included as well as salary?**

**A:** Yes, but the budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs, and it needs to be commensurate with regional standards.

**24. Q: Does HF-GRO provide indirect costs or Facility and Administrative (F&A) costs?**

**A:** Yes, HF-GRO provides indirect costs up to 25% of the total direct cost of the grant. To calculate the F&A please exclude total cost of Subawards (direct and indirect costs)

and equipment. Please read the grant materials carefully and contact us if you have questions ([hevolutiongrants@afar.org](mailto:hevolutiongrants@afar.org)).