



# CREST Publication Fellowship

## Application FAQ

The CREST Publication Fellowship is offered to support nursing and allied health clinicians with potentially publishable work (e.g., research, implementation, quality improvement initiatives) to prepare their manuscript(s) for submission, which may fall outside their usual work duties. The Fellowship is intended to account for the time required to engage in this effort and will also encompass training and mentorship to successfully navigate the publication process. Any exceptions to the eligibility criteria will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

If your question is not answered below or would like more information about the Fellowship, please contact Riley Louie or Wilma Chang at [researchtraining@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:researchtraining@providencehealth.bc.ca).

### **I have not written or published a manuscript before. Can I still apply?**

Absolutely! This Fellowship is designed to support nursing and allied health clinicians to take their completed work through to publication, regardless of past experience. In your application, please be sure to highlight why you are interested in the Fellowship and any relevant experience/supports (e.g., experience with other writing styles) that will help reviewers to understand your commitment to a successful publication.

### **What happens if my work does not get published during the Fellowship?**

We understand that there are many factors that can influence whether a manuscript is ultimately published. Publication during the Fellowship is not a requirement or guaranteed



outcome, though we have designed the schedule and training components so that you will have submitted your manuscript at least once during the term. Our aim is to equip you with the training and confidence to continue pursuing publication after the Fellowship, for your current and future work.

### **How do I choose a mentor?**

Your mentor should be someone that will boost your chances of a successful publication. They should be someone with ample experience in academic writing and scientific publication, so that they can provide relevant insight and guidance for your publication effort. If possible, they should also have some connection to your discipline or topic of research; they will be able to better guide you through the research and publishing landscape, and engage even further with the content of your manuscript.

From a practical standpoint, you might consider someone with a university affiliation (such as a professor or adjunct faculty member) in order to leverage their access to publishing discounts.

We encourage you to discuss authorship with your (potential) mentor, to meaningfully honour their contribution of time and support. Please note that to be considered an author, your mentor should be directly involved in interpreting the research findings and in developing the manuscript.

### **How do I choose a target journal?**

You should identify journals that publish work similar to yours, in terms of subject, scope, approach, and audience. For example, if you have conducted a study on the experience of living kidney donors, you might consider submitting your article to *Journal of Transplantation*, *The Canadian Journal of Kidney Health and Disease*, or *BMC Nephrology*. You should visit each journal's website to read their Aims and Scope or Mission Statement, to ensure alignment for your article. Your mentor may also be able to provide you with potential journals to target, especially if they are in your field. The impact factor of a journal is a metric of how frequently its articles are cited, and so this might give you a sense of how visible your article will be in that journal.

Be aware that some journals are considered predatory – they charge authors a high fee without providing a legitimate peer review. Checking if the journal is indexed in reputable databases, such as [PubMed](#), is a quick way to screen for predatory journals.

**Is the Fellowship only for publishing original research? Can I apply with a commentary, case study, brief report, or other type of article (non-research) for publication in a scientific journal?**

The intent of the Fellowship is to support nursing and allied health clinicians to publish their original work (primary research, quality improvement, evaluation). Priority will be given to primary research applications, though we will consider other types of articles for the Fellowship. Please ensure, if you are applying with an alternative type of article, that you provide strong justification for why it should be published and that your target journals are appropriately selected (e.g., do they publish the type of article you intend to submit?). Please also note that the education included in the Fellowship will be focused on primary research manuscript preparation.

**I am partway through drafting a manuscript already. Can I still apply?**

Yes, absolutely. The Fellowship is intended to support you whether you're just starting a manuscript, or you have a near-complete draft (e.g., final report from the Research Challenge). We have set a requirement for all Fellows to complete and send a first draft to their mentor within the first 6 – 12 weeks of the term, and so you will have a head start on this milestone.

**I have published before and feel confident in my abilities. Do I still need to attend the monthly education meetings?**

Yes, all Fellows are expected to participate in the monthly meetings. These education sessions also function to build community and share group learnings, in addition to providing practical tools and insights for navigating the writing and publishing process. In fact, if you have published before, we encourage you to share your personal experience and reflections at these meetings!

**I am a nurse or allied health professional, but I am not in a clinical position (e.g., practice consultant, patient care manager, etc.). Can I still apply?**

Yes, you may apply. Please note that the primary intent of the Fellowship is to support nursing and allied health clinicians who have limited time allocated within their roles to engage in project-based work, such as publishing original research. We recognize that many nursing and allied health professionals have brought their valuable experience to other important roles in the organization. With that said, in the event that we receive more applications than we can fund, priority will be given to those in clinical positions.

**Who should I include as an author? How do I determine authorship order?**

Anyone that has substantially contributed to the original research and manuscript should be included as an author. For example, if your mentor contributes to interpreting your research results and critically reviews your manuscript, they could be listed as an author. For additional information about authorship criteria, please refer to the [ICMJE recommendations](#).

For authorship order, the first/lead author is usually the person who has led the research and prepared the first draft of the manuscript. The last author is usually the person who fulfilled a supervisor or principal investigator role on the work. The co-authors between the lead and last author are listed in order of contribution, in descending order. Note that diversity in this approach exists, such as simply listing co-authors alphabetically.

**I only work part-time. How should I schedule the time off, and is it still five days?**

The intent of the funding is to support the time and effort required to engage in the publication process. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to scheduling time off. For example, someone who works part-time may or may not work another job, and this in turn determines if they have spare time outside of PHC to engage in writing and submitting their manuscript. The funding for each Fellowship is set at \$2,000, and whether that is used to buy-out five days, will be negotiated individually between the Applicant and their Department/Program Leader, considering operational requirements.