

## Participation in Canadian summer programme on longitudinal studies on ageing (SPA 2020)

### Information about the call and application instructions

In this call for applications, you can apply for participation in the 2020 “Summer Program in Aging” (SPA 2020) on longitudinal studies on aging. This call is a collaboration between the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) – Institute of Aging, and Forte. Forte provides funding for the summer program, housing and travel costs.

The aim of the SPA 2020 Training Program is to provide PhD students and postdoctoral fellows interested in research on longitudinal studies on aging an advanced training program that crosses disciplines, sectors, institutions and geography. The summer program also provides an opportunity of networking and career development for junior researchers. The summer program is held in English.

In this call, Forte can approve four participants that will be granted participation in SPA 2020.

*The deadline for applications is 2 March 2020 at 14:00 CET.*

### Schedule

SPA 2020 will run from June 7-12, 2020 at the Hockley Valley Resort, approximately one hour north of Toronto, Ontario.

### Focus area

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Understand methodologies used in longitudinal studies of health and aging;
- Explore analytical approaches to the analysis of longitudinal data;
- Frame longitudinal research questions to address interdisciplinary research on aging and health;
- Increase awareness of potential research opportunities and the availability of data for trainees to undertake research using longitudinal studies on aging;
- Explore opportunities for data harmonization and pooling across national and international longitudinal studies and understand advantages and disadvantages of the data harmonization of longitudinal studies;
- Interact with leading researchers and academic mentors in the field of longitudinal research from across the country and abroad;
- Develop skills in knowledge translation of longitudinal studies for various audiences (general public, media, health professionals, policymakers, decision-makers and industry);

- Develop skills in grant writing and peer review;
- Learn how to effectively communicate research findings to the public through traditional media and social media;
- Gain an understanding of the studies and initiatives linked to the Institute of Aging's major initiatives: the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) and the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) – the Canadian Component of the CIHR Dementia Research Strategy;
- Understand ethical and social issues surrounding longitudinal studies;
- Build a professional interdisciplinary network of researchers interested in or working in the area of longitudinal research on aging;
- Promote skills training and career building relevant to cross-disciplinary, longitudinal research.

## The application process

### Who can apply?

Applicants should be PhD students or postdocs, and should be conducting research with relevance to the topic of SPA 2020: longitudinal studies on aging. Not yet registered PhD students may be considered for participation, if the summer program's focus is of high relevance to the planned PhD project. In addition, the research should be within Forte's areas of responsibility: [health, working life and welfare](#).

### How to apply

To apply, use the application template that is found on the call webpage. The application template is based on a form from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and applications will subsequently also be sent to them. CV (a maximum of 3 pages) and a letter of recommendation from the supervisor should be attached to the application form. Preferably, you may save all documents as one file. The filled-in application along with the attachments should be sent as one/several pdf- or word document to [forte@forte.se](mailto:forte@forte.se). Please name the file(s) with your surname, followed by your first name. Please write "SPA 2020" in the subject line of the email.

Please observe that SPA 2020 will be held in English, therefore the application must be written in English.

The deadline for applications is 2 March 2020 at 14:00 CET.

## The review process

The evaluation of applications will be made by Forte, who will also make the final decision on which applications to grant funding for participation at SPA 2020. In this call, Forte strives to spread the grants between researchers from different groups and universities. The research need to be relevant to this year's SPA 2020 topic: longitudinal studies on aging. Forte will evaluate what impact the summer program may have on the applicant's research, as well as future development of the research.

**Assessment criteria**

- The application's link to this year's topic at SPA 2020: longitudinal studies on aging
- How we see that summer school contributes to the applicant's research and research development

Forte also strives to grant researchers and students from different universities.

**Time plan**

The call closes

**2 March 2020 14:00 CET**

Forte decides on funding

**7 April 2020**

SPA 2020

**7-12 June 2020**