

## Participation in Canadian summer program on Longer-living older adults: Multidisciplinary approaches to a growing area of research on aging (SPA 2023)

### Information about the call and application instructions

In this call for applications, you can apply for participation in the 2023 “Summer Program in Aging” (SPA 2023) on *Longer-living older adults: Multidisciplinary approaches to a growing area of research on aging*. This call is a collaboration between the Canadian Institutes of Health Research-Institute of Aging, the Nova Scotia Centre on Aging, Mount Saint Vincent University and Forte. Forte provides funding for your participation in the summer program, housing and travel costs.

The aim of the SPA 2023 Training Program is to provide doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows, interested in research on this year’s theme, 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 three participants that will be granted participation in SPA 2023.

*The deadline for applications is 6 March 2023 at 14:00 CET.*

### Schedule

SPA 2023 will run from June 4-9, 2023 and is planned to be held in person at Nova Scotia at White Point Beach Resort.

### Focus area

Globally we are seeing increases in life expectancy across all regions. For most countries this is resulting in a greater number of older adults living into their 80s, 90s and even older. In Canada, the number of older adults who are 80+ years of age is projected to increase by 300-400 percent from 1,6 million in 2018 to between 4,7- 6,3 million by 2068 (Statistics Canada, 2019). While this demographic trend is a success story in terms of medical and social advancements, the correlation of advanced age with increased co-morbidity and, in particular, dementia will contribute to increased challenges for health services and social supports. SPA 2023 will shine a light on the experiences, realities, needs and challenges of this growing population living into advanced age. The program will provide trainees with a holistic understanding of this segment of our older population with considerations across the aging spectrum from biology, frailty and function, to levels of dependency and solutions for complex challenges facing our health and social systems.

Participants will have an opportunity to:

- Understand the heterogeneity and malleability of health trajectories of the older population living into advanced age with a focus on topics such as dementia, frailty, mental health, disability, multiple long-term conditions, health care utilization and quality of care and support.
- Explore inclusion, diversity, equity and SGBA+ (sex and gender-based analysis plus) considerations for research about longer-living older adults.
- Consider this population through Indigenous perspectives.
- Explore a range of methodological approaches to researching longer-living older adults, including approaches that offer meaningful involvement of older adults.
- Gain an understanding of COVID-related implications for research.
- Understand potential research opportunities and availability of data sources.
- Interact with leading researchers and academic mentors with expertise in longer-living older adults.
- Become familiar with policies and practices that support longer-living older adults in both community and healthcare settings.
- Understand ethical and social issues surrounding research involving longer-living older adults.
- Gain an understanding of the studies and initiatives linked to the Institute of Aging's major initiatives: the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging and the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging.
- Develop skills in knowledge mobilization and knowledge translation for various audiences (general public, media, health professionals, decision makers).
- Develop skills in grant writing and peer review.
- Explore career options and skills for career development.
- Build a professional multi-disciplinary network of researchers interested in research on longer-living older adults.

## The application process

### Who can apply?

Applicants should be PhD students or postdocs at an [administrating organisation approved by Forte](#), and should be conducting research with relevance to the topic of SPA 2023. 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: [health, working life and welfare](#).

Applicants who have never participated in SPA before have priority.

### How to apply

To apply, use the application template that is found under the heading "Attachments" on the call webpage. The application template is based on a form from the organiser. Your CV (a maximum of 3 pages) and a letter of recommendation from your 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 2023” in the subject line of the email.

Please observe that SPA 2023 will be held in English, therefore the application must be written in English.

### **The review process**

The evaluation of applications will be made by an external review panel appointed by Forte. Forte will then make the final decision on who will be granted the opportunity to participate in SPA 2023. Forte will evaluate what impact the summer program may have on the applicant’s research, as well as future development of the research.

### **General assessment requirements**

- The research must be relevant to Forte’s areas and the focus of the call.

### **Assessment criteria**

- The application's link to this year's topic at SPA 2023: Longer-living older adults: Multidisciplinary approaches to a growing area of research on aging
- The proposed contribution of the summer school to the applicant's research and academic development

Forte also strives to achieve an even gender distribution in relation to the number of applicants and to grant researchers and students from different universities.

### **Time plan**

**The call closes:** 6 March 2023 14:00 CET

**Decision on which applicants are granted participation in the summer school:** 27 March 2023

**Summer program in aging:** 4-9 June 2023