

# INDUSTRY FELLOWSHIPS GUIDELINES

## ROUND 4

### 2023



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## 1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships program is an initiative of the Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) program, made possible by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and operated by MTPConnect.

### 1.1 The Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) Program

MTPConnect deploys the REDI program for the MRFF, leveraging the expertise of our research, training and industry partners to drive skills development and workforce training, through deployment of an integrated, three-pillar plan. The four-year REDI program, initiated in June 2020, will:

- Deliver systemic improvement to Australia's MTP workforce by providing industry experiences and skills development for researchers, clinicians and innovators;
- Develop an industry-ready workforce with the skills necessary to keep pace with a rapidly changing sector.
- Provide a skills development blueprint across the MTP value chain through a 'root and branch' skills gap analysis; and
- Create new training, mentoring and industry placements over the life of the program.

This scheme aligns with REDI Pillar 3: Industry placements, internships and fellowships. To ensure workforce skills align with industry needs and drive industry-research-clinical- entrepreneurship connections, the REDI program is providing targeted short, medium and long-term industry placements, internships and fellowships for clinicians, researchers, academics and MTP professionals, enabling high-performing individuals from these cohorts to gain industry experience. Industry placements will focus on discovery, translation and commercialisation of relevant research.

REDI partners with other organisations for short- and medium-term industry placements:

- APRIntern
- MTPConnect REDI Fellowships program; and
- The Bridge and BridgeTech programs

## 1.2. The Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships Scheme

The Bridge and BridgeTech Programs, facilitated by QUT on behalf of a consortium of key industry partners and institutes, are nation-wide professional development programs. The Bridge Program provides commercialisation training focused on the pharmaceutical sector in collaboration with university and pharmaceutical industry partners. The BridgeTech Program provides commercialisation training focused on the medical technology sector in collaboration with university, industry partners, incubators, accelerators and industry associations. Both programs aim to improve the commercialisation skills and networks of Australia's life science entrepreneurs, researchers, and scientists, to improve the quality and quantity of commercial deals and deepen collaboration between Australian researchers and the relevant industry sectors.

The Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships will specifically focus on enabling the REDI initiative through industry placement fellowships. The existing Bridge and BridgeTech Programs will be extended to provide this new industry enhanced internship program – providing industry fellowships for **10 Bridge participants and 10 BridgeTech participants per year, for four years from 2020-2023.**

### Helpful links and references:

- [MTPConnect REDI](#)
- [Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships](#)
- [Bridge Program](#)
- [BridgeTech Program](#)

## 2. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

The Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships will specifically focus on funding short-term industry fellowships that place Bridge and BridgeTech participants and alumni within industry partners to share knowledge, build networks, develop skills and further commercialisation and research journeys.

Placement opportunities can be internationally focused, or domestic/local collaboration opportunities, with eligible host partners.

### 2.1. Funding

Each successful fellow will receive **\$10,000 per Fellowship** to fund the industry placement opportunity, to be spent on eligible activities and eligible expenditure, as part of undertaking the Fellowship and placement.

### 2.2. Outcomes

The focus of the Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowship scheme will be to place alumni who are early-mid career researchers, entrepreneurs or other MTP professionals, within industry partners. The objective of each Fellowship is to provide the Fellow with an opportunity to develop skills, build networks and advance their understanding and ability to achieve commercialisation outcomes. In addition, Industry Partners are provided with access and insight of Australia's next generation scientists and share and disseminate knowledge, skills and networks.

### 2.3. Duration

The minimum period for each fellowship is **3-6 weeks**. If both parties are willing to extend this placement period, this is allowable; however, the \$10,000 stipend will not be extended. The Fellowship can also be undertaken part time depending on the requirements of the Industry Partner and the agreed Fellowship activities.

All Round 4 Fellowships must be completed by 31 December 2023.

### 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships applications can be made directly through the online application portal at <https://research.qut.edu.au/redi-program/apply/>

Applications open on **Thursday 16 March and will close on Sunday 16 April**. Successful Round 4 Fellows will be contacted in April and announced shortly thereafter

A Round 4 information session hosted by the Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowship team will be held on **16 March at 2:00pm (AEST)**. Event details will be sent to all eligible applicants.

Further program information can be found at <https://research.qut.edu.au/redi-program>.

Queries about the application form or application process can be sent to [redi\\_program@qut.edu.au](mailto:redi_program@qut.edu.au).

## 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- i. Applicants must be Bridge or BridgeTech alumni current participants or associated with the program. If associated, reasonable justification must be provided for association.
- ii. Preference is given to Bridge/BridgeTech participants/alumni however if associated applicants provide outstanding opportunities to grow the MTP sector or if no suitable Bridge/BridgeTech participants are identified, associated applicants can be considered.
- iii. Fellowships have to be undertaken within industry – e.g. with pharma, biotech, medtech, digital health, relevant industry incubators, prototype designers, manufacturers etc. Companies can be start-ups through to multi-national global entities. Host companies cannot be owned or operated by the applicant. Placements within universities, research institutes, governments, industry association/membership organisations and training bodies are not eligible.
- iv. Applicants can be researchers, clinicians, entrepreneurs, business development professionals, etc. Employees of large pharmaceutical companies and large enterprises are not eligible as expectation is they have existing industry support in-house.
- v. Applicants must have secured a formal industry partner prior to application and submit their application with evidence that the industry partner is able and willing to host, if the application is successful.
- vi. Fellowships are to be a minimum of 3-6 weeks but can be extended beyond if both parties agree. Long-term placement opportunities (i.e. beyond 3 months) can be undertaken but the Industry Fellowship will only directly support the first 3 months, with other REDI Initiatives able to support long term placements.
- vii. Fellowships can be undertaken on a full-time, or part-time basis.
- viii. Fellowships must be completed 31 December 2023.

#### 4.1. Eligible Activities

Ultimately the activities that are specifically undertaken during the Fellowship are to be agreed upon by the Fellow and the Industry Partner. However, when considering an Industry Fellowship application and placement, below are some examples of eligible activities;

- In-house project work
- Industry training and mentorship
- Regulatory training
- IP protection strategies
- Business and commercialisation planning
- Prototyping
- Market research and development
- Development of start-up or product development strategies

#### 4.2. Eligible Expenditure

The \$10,000 provided to each successful Fellow is specifically to fund the ability to undertake the placement opportunity and carry out the agreed project activities.

Examples of eligible expenditure include:

- Salary and on-costs
- Travel expenses
- Accommodation
- Insurance costs
- Other placement costs
- Education and training costs

Note that there is no requirement nor expectation that an industry partner will provide additional funding or match funding.

#### 4.3. Ineligible Expenditure

Fellowship funds cannot be spent on contractors, consultants or product development costs such as raw materials, consumables, hardware, software etc. Funds are to directly support the Fellow as an individual, not product development.

For example, prototyping and product development are eligible activities, but Fellowship funds can only fund the placement on-site and the time spent with the



partner on these activities, not the direct product development cost.

Funds cannot be allocated to the industry host partner for the Fellowship.

#### **4.4. Eligible Partners**

Eligible Industry Partners are established companies working in the global and/or domestic MTP sector that have the resources and infrastructure to take on short-term Fellowships and provide the necessary guidance, support and know-how to assist the Fellow in continuing their commercialisation and research career pathways. As this is an Industry Fellowship scheme, only placements within industry organisations will be considered. Placements within universities, research institutes, governments, industry association/membership organisations and training bodies are not eligible.

## 5. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **I'm already in industry/an entrepreneur – can I still apply?**

If you meet the Bridge/BridgeTech program eligibility requirements, and are not a researcher, but an MTP professional such as an entrepreneur, business development professional, tech transfer officer, etc. – you are eligible and encouraged to apply. Please note that direct industry transitions from big pharma to big pharma will not be considered.

### **Can my placement be within a university or research institute?**

No. The Industry Fellowships program, supported by the REDI Initiative, focuses on placing researchers and MTP professionals within industry placements.

### **Can 10k go towards Fellow as salary?**

Yes. This may involve an agreement with your employer to use the Fellowship money as your salary during the Fellowship period under your existing employment contract/arrangement.

### **Can it go beyond 3–6-week period if both parties agree?**

Yes. The initial Fellowship will support a minimum 3–6-week period so if both parties are eager to extend, the Fellowship can continue. However, you will still only be eligible to receive the initial \$10,000 stipend.

### **Can I do the fellowship part time?**

Yes. You can do the Fellowship part time depending on the requirements of your placement partner and the project work. Put your work preferences in your application and if successful the time commitment will be finalised in your Fellowship agreement.

### **If fellowships are remote or local – what can 10k be spent on?**

If you are doing a remote Fellowship or a local Fellowship – costs that relate to executing and undertaking the Fellowship can be eligible. For example, a remote Fellowship may involve education materials, home office costs, etc. A local Fellowship may involve similar costs but could also include transport costs, desk space, etc. Salary supplement for your time is also an option.

### **I'm a Bridge/BridgeTech alumni and I want to host. Can I?**

If you run an eligible Industry Partner organisation and would like to host a Fellow, you are encouraged to do so. You can do this by connecting with relevant participants and alumni throughout our programs, events and networks and by contacting the program directly to express your interest.

## 6. SUCCESSFUL FELLOWS

### 6.1 Round 1

Round 1 Fellowship recipients from the Bridge Program are:

- Dr Sarah Jones, Monash University
- Dr William Jorgensen, the University of Sydney
- Dr Chia-Chi Chien, Ominiwell Pty Ltd
- Associate Professor Lionel Hebbard, James Cook University
- Dr Frances Byrne, the University of New South Wales
- Dr Eliana Marino, Monash University
- Dr Bevyn Jarrott, FelCan Pharma
- Dr Rodney Cusack, QUT
- Dr Ameer George, Australian National University
- Sang-kyu Kim, MecRx

Round 1 Fellowship recipients from the BridgeTech Program are:

- Dr Andrea Coda, the University of Newcastle
- Dr Marie-Luise Wille, QUT
- Dr Elke Hacker, QUT
- Dr Robert Johnston OrthoDx
- Owen Zheng, Morrison Oriental
- Dr Rajesh Kuppusamy, the University of New South Wales
- Dr Bruce Backman, Primus Science
- Dr Griselda Calabrese, QUT
- Dr Omar Zuaiter, Dentroid Technologies
- Brian Hill, Laughing Mind

## 6.2 Round 2

Round 2 fellowship recipients from the Bridge Program are:

- Robert Bischof, Federation University
- Belal Chami, University of Sydney
- Claudio Counoupas, Centenary Institute
- Andrew Currie, Murdoch University
- Roy Kong, University of Melbourne
- Sarah Larcombe, Monash University
- Katie Leach, Monash University
- Padma Murthi, Monash University
- Jane Nikles, University of Queensland
- Helena (Chengxue) Qin, Monash University.

Round 2 fellowship recipients from the BridgeTech Program are:

- Martina Barzan, Griffith University
- Leah Brew, Inventia Life Science
- Abhilash Chandra, SABRN Tech Pty Ltd
- Vadim Dedov, MDXD Pty Ltd
- Angela Fonceca, University of Western Australia
- Sheridan Gho, Cenofex Innovations
- Daniel Martinez, DMM Biomedical Consulting
- Olumide Opeyemi, Queensland University of Technology
- Alan Robertson, ClearSKY Genomics
- Yinghong Zhou, Queensland University of Technology.

### 6.3 Round 3

Round 3 fellowship recipients from the Bridge Program are:

- Preethi Eldi, University of South Australia
- Yi Sing Gee, Monash University
- David Hilko, Griffith University
- Mehak Bholra, Exopharm Ltd
- Erin Brazel, The University of Adelaide
- Darren Riddy, Monash University
- Rebecca Seneviratna, Peter Doherty Institute
- Shayli Varasteh Moradi, Queensland University of Technology
- Jin Yan Yap, The Australian National University
- Kelvin Yip, Monash University

Round 3 fellowship recipients from the BridgeTech Program are:

- Kara Burns, University of Melbourne
- Sriganesh Srihari, QIMR-Berghofer
- Chris Richards, Cenofex
- Lex van Loon, The Australian National University
- Siavash Ahmadi-Noorbakhsh, MedTech Entrepreneur
- Parthasarathi (Parthu) Kalaiselvan, University of New South Wales
- Nataliya Perevoshchikova, Griffith University
- Sinduja Suresh, Queensland University of Technology
- Richard Tan, University of Sydney
- Muhammad Yasir, University of New South Wales