



New Harvest Fellowship

Program and Community Logistics

Paperwork

[Grantee Agreement](#)

Signer: the fellow (there have been unique situations in which the university insists on being a signer on this as well)

- This is intentionally an agreement between New Harvest and the fellow. Our approach really focuses on empowering the fellow, and as such nearly everything goes through them.
- We have had PIs push back on this because it is non-traditional! Most graduate student funding is awarded to the PI, who controls in the funds. But an important part of our fellowship design is that the funding belongs to the fellow.

[Grant Agreement](#)

Signer: whoever is handling the funds (typically the university)

- Although we would prefer to pay the student directly, it is not typically feasible for large research projects (e.g. buying research equipment/reagents). Usually, funds are sent to the university, which disburses the funds according to the budget.
- This is also a great place to get sign-off from the university on our open policy.
 - We've used very explicit language here, inspired by the licensing approach taken by the [Broad Institute for CRISPR patents](#). Convincing universities to give up patents altogether is nearly impossible. But, we've had success having them sign onto free licenses for academic and non-commercial use.
- **Disbursement schedule:** You'll notice payments are made every 6 months. We've found this is important for holding the student and university accountable. And it's much easier than trying to get funds back if needed!

Community

Slack

The New Harvest team and grantees use Slack to create a virtual community.

We've found that fostering this virtual community is one of the most challenging, and most rewarding, aspects of the fellowship!

It is important to create a space where fellows buy in and want to engage regularly. Not all will, but we do have fellows posting and discussing on Slack every day.



Regular Meetings

This has evolved over time! But, we find it to be important for the international community to come together regularly, even if virtually.

We call our meetings “Jam Sessions”. Jam Session is a weekly, mostly optional, place for NH fellows and NH staff to check in and/or discuss relevant topics as a group. The goal of Jam Session is to foster connection across our virtual community where we can:

- Gather context, history, and information about the field
- Test ideas, brainstorm
- Exchange opportunities and connections

The type of session rotates between:

- **Slack Jam:** session on Slack to connect with the community and share what’s on your mind at the moment. Someone (sometimes a fellow) facilitates, and everyone responds to the prompts (1) What’s on my mind? (2) What's challenging me right now? (3) What help/support would be beneficial?
- **Video Jam:** a video call to discuss a relevant topic as a group, sometimes with a guest speaker.
- **Fellow Up:** a video call dedicated to discussing research projects. Kind of like a distributed “lab meeting”. These are mandatory for fellows with active grants.

We’ve heard that the variety of formats is helpful: everyone wants to engage differently!

Fellowship responsibilities and expectations

Focused Research

Because we are funding fellows fully, we expect they will focus full-time on their research project. As such, New Harvest Fellows cannot undertake other research or employment while participating in the Fellowship. We do consider exceptions to this, which is a conversation between the fellow and the fellowship director.

Commitment to Open Information

New Harvest’s community of research grantees is a collection of scientists from institutions around the world who share ideas, offer support, and celebrate wins together. Fostering a culture of openness in this community is critical to realizing its potential. As such, grantees are held to [New Harvest’s Non-Confidentiality Policy](#) and commit to keeping all of their research open to the community (even if embargoed).



Research Updates

We require biannual reports on the progress of fellows' research. These include:

- A brief update on research progress and any changes (change is normal - we just want to know about it!)
- Photos (at least 2 photos of research and/or life in the lab) - important for comms!
- Any publications (in progress, submitted, or published) - to keep on our radar and make sure they are open access

These updates also include an anonymous survey which helps us get feedback on how we are doing with the fellowship programming and support.