**International collaboration program on musculoskeletal health**

***Open call***

1. **The Musculoskeletal Health (MSH) Program of Amsterdam Movement Sciences**

The overall aim of the Musculoskeletal Health (MSH) Program of research institute Amsterdam Movement Sciences is to improve the physical performance, the activities of daily life and health related quality of life for people who suffer from musculoskeletal disorders through high quality research.

This program focuses on common musculoskeletal disorders, such as osteoarthritis, back- and neck pain. More specifically, research in this program addresses:

1) the (psychosocial, biomechanical, (neuro)physiological, neuroimmune) mechanisms underlying the development of musculoskeletal disorders and of the progression of declines in physical performance, activities of daily life and health related quality of life due to musculoskeletal disorders.

2) the development of methods to accurately diagnose and track the progression (neurophysiological, neuroimmune changes as well as functions) of the musculoskeletal disorders.

3) diagnosis and prognosis of declines in physical performance and health related quality of life and the underlying impairments due to musculoskeletal disorders,

4) the efficacy, (cost-)effectiveness of existing and novel interventions, and underlying (working mechanisms of) interventions to prevent/reduce declines in physical performance and health related quality of life.

Within the MSH Program, we also encourage the international collaboration between Amsterdam Movement Sciences and high-profile international research groups. Therefore, in this call, the MSH Program offers financial support to PhD candidates to travel to and work with a research group abroad.

1. **The international collaboration program**
	1. *Objective*

The objective of the international collaboration program is to initiate and/or strengthen the international collaboration of Amsterdam Movement Sciences with a high-profile international research group by financially supporting PhD candidates from a department or institute affiliated with Amsterdam Movement Sciences to travel and work abroad. The international collaboration program will also enable PhD candidates to gain knowledge and experience abroad, as well as to strengthen their intended PhD thesis.

* 1. *Applicants*

The applicants are PhD candidates who already started with their PhD thesis, who are employed at a department or institute affiliated with Amsterdam Movement Sciences. Priority will be given to PhD candidates from departments directly linked to the MSH Program.

* 1. *Period*

The MSH Program will provide PhD candidates with financial support for the year 2023.

* 1. *Budget*

The MSH Program has a total budget of €40,000. In total, up to 2 PhD candidates will receive financial support from the MSH Program (up to a maximum of €20,000 per candidate) to cover travel and accommodation costs for a stay abroad of at least four weeks.

* 1. *Compulsory criteria*

Applicants must concur with the following criteria:

1. Employment at a department or institute affiliated with Amsterdam Movement Sciences;
2. Registration as PhD candidate (e.g., Doctoral School of the Amsterdam University Medical Centers);
3. Submission of at least one manuscript forthcoming from the international collaboration program (within the subsequent 12 months) that (i) involves authors from collaborative research groups, (ii) mentions the funding provided by the MSH Program in the acknowledgment, (iii) will be part of the intended PhD thesis of the candidate and (iv) is relevant to the MSH Program
4. The results of this visit to the research group abroad should result in a submission or publication of at least one manuscript in a peer-reviewed international journal and which should also be included in the intended PhD thesis; the funding provided by the MSH Program should be acknowledged in the manuscript;
5. Letter signed by the Principal Supervisor (*Promotor*) confirming that the intended visit abroad contributes substantially to the quality of the intended PhD thesis;
6. Letter signed by the head/chair of the high-profile international research group confirming the intended visit abroad of at least 4 weeks over the year 2023.
	1. *Additional criterium*

Applicants might want to consider to combine their visit abroad with a presentation (oral and/or poster) at a conference in the intended country or with a course at the intended foreign institution. Additional costs for conference and/or course registration might be supported within the international collaboration program of the MSH Program but only if the financial support requested does not exceed €20,000.

1. **Open call**

Applicants should submit electronically to Dr. Wendy Scholten-Peeters (g.g.m.scholten-peeters@vu.nl) the following documents:

1. The application form with all sections completed and signed;
2. Proof of registration of the candidate as PhD candidate;
3. The letter signed by the Principal Supervisor (Promotor) confirming that the intended visit abroad contributes substantially to the quality of the intended PhD thesis;
4. The letter signed by the head/chair of the high-profile international research group confirming the intended visit abroad.

The submission deadline is October 25th, 2022 (12.00 AM). The MSH Program board will determine whether the applications submitted meet the established criteria and subsequently will assess whether the applications concur with the objectives of the MSH Program. Up to 2 applicants will receive financial support from the MSH Program.

***Time schedules***

Deadline submission : October 25th, 2022 (12.00 AM)

Decision : End of December 2022

Commencement of visit : In 2023, at the latest November 2023

**International collaboration program on musculoskeletal health**

***Application form***

1. **Personal Details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title(s) |  |
| Surname |  |
| First name |  |
| Date of birth |  |
| Email address work |  |
| Institution, faculty and department |  |
| University of PhD project |  |

1. **Principal supervisor (*promotor*) Amsterdam University Medical Centers / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title(s) |  |
| Surname |  |
| First name |  |
| Email address work |  |
| Faculty and department |  |

1. **Head/Chair of the high-profile international research group**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title(s) |  |
| Surname |  |
| First name |  |
| Email address work |  |
| Institution and department |  |

1. **Summary of the ongoing PhD project**

|  |
| --- |
| Title |
|  |
| Start date |
|  |
| Intended end date |
|  |
| Summary (max 200 words) |
|  |
| Relevance to the objectives of the MSH Program (max 200 words) |
|  |

1. **Summary of the visit abroad**

|  |
| --- |
| Reasons for the visit abroad and information about topic of research work (max 200 words) |
|  |
| Relevance of the visit related to the MSH program (max 200 words) |
|  |
| Duration of the visit (including intended start and end date) |
|  |
| Details of the financial support requested (divided in travel and accommodation expenses, and/or congress or training costs, if applicable) |
|  |
| Details of the intended conference participation (optional) |
|  |
| Details of the intended course participation (optional) |
|  |

1. **Signatures**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Place  | Date | Signature applicant |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Place  | Date | Signature Principal Supervisor (*Promotor*) Amsterdam Movement Sciences |
|  |  |  |

**Documents to merge with this application form and to submit as one single PDF file:**

* Proof of registration of the candidate as PhD candidate;
* The letter signed by the Principal Supervisor (Promotor) confirming that the intended visit abroad contributes substantially to the quality of the intended PhD thesis PhD thesis;
* The letter signed by the head/chair of the high-profile international research group confirming the intended visit abroad.