



U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention

Quality Research Institute Graduate Fellowship Program

Overview: The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) is a scientific nonprofit organization that sets standards for the identity, strength, quality, and purity of medicines, food ingredients, and dietary supplements manufactured, distributed and consumed worldwide. USP's drug standards are enforceable in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration, and these standards are used in more than 140 countries.

Since its founding in 1820, USP has helped secure the quality of the American drug supply. Building on that legacy, USP today works with scientists, practitioners, and regulators of many nations to develop and revise standards that help protect public health worldwide. Building on this legacy, USP seeks to advance evidence-based policy in medicine and food quality by implementing scientifically-rigorous research that can advance the global health communities understanding of and dialogue on the effect of quality medicines and food on public health.

Toward this vision, USP is launching a **Quality Research Institute Fellowship Program (QRIFP)**. The goal of QRIFP is to:

- Provide accomplished pre- and post-doctoral students with an introduction to USP's mission and work;
- Engage fellows in rigorous research projects that result in driving the dialogue on evidence-based policy in medicine quality; and
- Engage fellows in public health practice that results in policy briefings to provide global leaders with scientific information to make better, more economically informed decisions on the implementation of interventions to improve medicine quality.

Fellowship Description

Areas of focus: Fellows should have demonstrated success in either primary or secondary research. Academic focus areas of interest are public health, political science or economics, with a specialized concentration in health economics.

Our Mission

To improve global health through public standards and related programs that help ensure the quality, safety, and benefit of medicines and foods.

Our Vision

USP envisions a world in which all have access to high quality, safe, and beneficial medicines and foods. USP approaches this vision with a sense of urgency and purpose, strengthened by its cadre of dedicated expert volunteers, members, and staff, and by working collaboratively with key stakeholders across the globe.

Our Impact

USP was created in 1820 by a group of 11 physicians who recognized an essential need for a national lexicon of drug names and formulas in the United States. At the time, the marketplace for drugs and medicines was chaotic: there was little assurance of consistency or quality regarding the medicines that patients were taking. The first edition of the USP featured the best drugs and preparations and defined terminology that facilitated communication between the physicians who prescribed and administered medicines and the pharmacists who prepared them.

Since this time, USP's focus on quality has expanded to new areas of medicine, pharmacy, patient care, dietary supplements, and foods. And, our reach has extended beyond U.S. borders to countries around the world.

Skills: Fellows will be responsible for writing policy briefs on the global economic and public health impact of poor quality medicines. Candidates that can demonstrate skills and competency in the following areas will be given the highest consideration:

- Ability to conduct primary and secondary quantitative and qualitative research in health economics and public health
- Knowledge of economics and intersection with public health and policy (understanding of key issues related to supply chain, harmonization and quality medicine preferred)
- Understanding of operations within and between regulatory agencies that set quality standards
- Excellent writing skills and ability to write for multiple audiences
- Knowledge of at least one statistical program (e.g., SAS, SPSS, Stata)
- Knowledge of advanced topics in Excel
- Ability to work with minimal supervision

Eligibility: The program is open to pre-doctoral students who have successfully completed at least 2 years of doctoral work at an accredited institution, and post-doctoral students that hold a graduate degree in public health, political science, or economics fields. Post-doctoral candidates should be no more than 5-years from the date that their graduate degree was conferred.

At this time, USP does not sponsor visa applications for foreign nationals. However, foreign nationals are welcome to apply if they are enrolled in a U.S. degree granting institution, have CPT or OPT, or have employment authorization in the United States.

Additional requirements:

- Fellows must be able to commit at least 15-20 hours per week for the duration of the five-month fellowship.
- For this posting, New York (including the tri-state area) candidates are preferred.
- Ability to travel to USP Headquarters, located in Rockville, Maryland, up to one time a quarter (USP will pay for travel).
- Ability to participate in periodic (weekly or bi-weekly) status check-ins with USP (telecommuting possible).
- Ability to prepare/ participate in presentations and discussion of research findings and make recommendations for future areas of inquiry and paths forward for action.
- Fellows must perform satisfactorily in their fellowship role. Any fellow who seeks to continue with the program beyond the initial five-month fellowship must also demonstrate satisfactory performance during the academic year. Measures of satisfaction will be collaboratively developed between USP and the fellow's advisor, within the academic guidelines of the respective academic departments.
- A fellow who switches his or her field of study to one outside of USP's fields of interest may have support terminated.

Selection criteria:

USP selects fellows based the following factors, not in order:

- Whether the applicant's field of study matches USP's needs
- Graduate course work and grades
- Research experience at a university or in industry
- Letters of recommendation from a professor and/or employer. Note: The most effective letters are from persons who have supervised or observed the applicant's participation in research

Number of Awards and Duration: USP seeks two fellows for a five-month research fellowship. After five-months, the fellowship can be renewed up to 1 additional year. It is the hope of USP that the fellows would continue beyond the initial 5-month fellowship period.

Stipend:

Fellows receive a stipend of \$2,000 per month.

Application details and procedure: Please submit the application materials listed below and a cover letter to terri.jackson@rabinmartin.com by May 31, 2016.

- 1) A current CV
- 2) Two writing samples
- 3) A statement explaining how this fellowship with USP will contribute to your professional goals
- 4) An official transcript directly from your school or university
- 5) Two letters of recommendation from teachers, college professors, or employers