

CAIM RESEARCH FUND FELLOWSHIPS APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline for submission 25 September 2023 23:59 (CEST)

1. AIM OF THE FUND

To fund high-impact projects focusing on digitalization and AI with clear clinical impact. This funding program provides early-stage support to researchers from the University of Bern, the Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital, the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services and sitem-insel to pump prime projects. These must be designed to lead to follow-on external funding for clinical translation research of AI/digitization applications in medicine after support by the CAIM Research Fund.

Scientific Scope: Milestone-driven projects may be discovery, proof-of-concept, or translational and have a strong potential to be groundbreaking for future medical and clinical applications. Projects supported by the CAIM Research Fund must be interdisciplinary (inter-/intra faculty) and foster collaboration between/within the Faculty of Medicine and ideally include other disciplines and/Faculties of the University of Bern.

Fellowships: CAIM is committed support young researchers who show early career promise and are interested in pursuing further work in translational, medical technology research. **CAIM Research Fund Fellowships (CAIM Fellowships)** will provide resources to take steps towards an independent research career. CAIM Fellowships are intended to act as pump-prime funding for larger career and project bids to national and international funders.

2. FUNDING

Length of project funding

- Maximum 2 years

Start of funding:

- Within 6 months of granted date

Available funds

- Up to 100'000 CHF per CAIM Fellowship

Co-funding/matching funds:

- Co-funding from participating institutes is encouraged but is not required. Applicants submitting projects with matching/co-funding should include a letter from the department head confirming availability and commitment of matching funds/resources.

Clinical/Non-Clinical Applicants

- Clinical applicants must have a technical collaborator unless the applicant has a track record in digitalization and AI in medicine research. The technical collaborator must provide a Letter of Support.
- Non-clinical/technical applicants must have a clinical collaborator. The clinical collaborator must provide a Letter of Support.

Industry Endorsement

- Support from relevant industry experts is encouraged but is not required. If available, applicants submitting projects with industry endorsement should include a letter from an industry/company representative confirming the translational potential of the proposed project.

Entrepreneurship Roadmap

- CAIM Fellowship recipients (CAIM Fellows) must include an Entrepreneurship Roadmap (graphical with links) that sets out plans of the CAIM Fellow to engage in entrepreneurship training. These can include no or low-cost analogue or digital coaching courses to acquire marketing, business, regulatory, and other commercial skills from national or international providers e.g., Innosuisse; and/or networking and exchange opportunities like attendance of workshops/trade fairs/specialist events. Courses do not have to lead to accreditations and costs up to CHF 1'000 can be included in the project funding.

Computational resource:

- Project-specific priority CPU and GPU access to the high-performance computing of the University Bern (Ubelix) and Inselspital (Insel Data Science Center) can be applied for **in addition to project funding**.

3. REQUIREMENTS

CV

- Please include Swiss National Science Foundation format CV (i.e., 3-page CV).

Application Form

- Complete the CAIM Research Fund Fellowship Application form, including a GANTT chart as an Annex.

Host Letters of support

- A letter of support from the Head of the department or institute is required for applicants without permanent employment.

Entrepreneurship Roadmap

- 1-Page Entrepreneurship Roadmap with proposed courses, training, and events that will be sought out for participation.

Subcontracting

- Formal quotations for subcontracting services requested in the budget.

File Format

Combine all submission material in a single PDF file with the following naming convention: **CRF_Fellowship_LastNamePI_FirstNamePI.pdf**
(e.g., CRF_Fellowship_Muster_Maria.pdf)

4. EXPENDITURES

Allowable expenditures:

- **Own salary**, or support for research personnel e.g., PhD students, post-docs/data managers at the University of Bern, and/or the Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital and/or the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services and/or sitem-insel
- Consultation/sub-contracting fees (quote from supplier must be included)
- Laboratory supplies and expenses
- User fees for Core Facilities (other than those provided by CAIM)
- Software purchases required for the applied project
- Entrepreneurship training costs (up to CHF 1'000)
- International travel and conference/meeting expenses

Non-allowable expenditures:

- Salary support at institutions outside of the University of Bern, and/or Insel Gruppe/Bern University Hospital and/or the Universitäre Psychiatrische Dienste Bern (UPD)/Bern University Psychiatric Services and/or sitem-insel
- Secretarial/administrative personnel
- Capital costs/equipment, including maintenance/service contracts
- Office furniture and supplies
- Construction, renovation, or maintenance of buildings/laboratories
- Rental of laboratory or office space
- Computers/computing infrastructure (already provided by CAIM)
- Publication costs, including reprints
- Purchasing or binding of periodicals and books
- Dues and membership fees in scientific societies

5. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be employees of the Medical Faculty of the University of Bern or an employee of the Insel Gruppe AG with support from their Head of Department.

Non-clinical scientists:

- Doctorate (PhD) or an equivalent qualification.
- At least two (2) years of research experience after the doctoral defense or equivalent qualification.
- Doctoral defense or equivalent qualification date no more than eight (8) years after doctoral defense or equivalent qualification.

Clinical scientists:

- Medical exam (state examination or equivalent)
- At least 3 years of clinical work **and** at least 2 years of research experience
- Completed the medical exam no more than twelve (12) years after medical exam (state examination or equivalent)

The time periods are calculated based on the submission deadline.

Career breaks (e.g., parental leave, care duties, illness), detailed in the CV and application form may qualify for wider eligibility, subject to individual evaluation.

A letter of support from the Head of the department or institute of the above institutions is required for applicants without permanent employment, confirming employment for the duration of the project.

Support by CAIM Fellowships is not available to employees of other institutions.

6. DEADLINES

Please submit a single PDF application compiled according to the document checklist in the Application Form by **25 September 2023** to the online submission portal: <https://cmt3.research.microsoft.com/CAIM2023/>.

A short list of projects will be invited to present their project on **11 December 2023** in an elevator pitch format. Awards will be announced in early **February 2024**.

7. ASSISTANCE

Please send any queries regarding applications to inti.zlobec@unibe.ch and use "CRF_Fellowship_LastNamePI_FirstNamePI" as the subject of your email in any correspondence.

9. POSTAWARD PROCESS

Data sharing:

- Data used in CAIM-funded projects will be made available to other funded researchers, where “added value” or enhancements to the original data were made.

Data use:

- Will be highly regulated and pre-agreed. Details will be communicated directly to the applicant upon request.

Reporting:

- A scientific and financial report to CAIM detailing the outcome of the project at the end of the funding period (max 3 months after end of funding period) is mandatory.
- Applicants will be asked to present their project at CAIM events.
- Any publication derived from CAIM support should include acknowledgement of support “Supported by the Center of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (CAIM), University of Bern”.

No cost extensions:

- Possible, but not encouraged. Any such requests must be received in writing to Prof. Inti Zlobec inti.zlobec@unibe.ch with a justification, no less than 60 days before the original end date of the grant and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.