

Yale-China Association Chia Family Foundation Health Fellowship Program at Yale 2024-2025 Fellowship Announcement

General Introduction

Made possible by a generous grant from the Chia Family Foundation and the support of Central South University (CSU) Xiangya School of Medicine, the Chia Family Health Fellowship Program seeks to improve the health outcomes of local people through supporting nursing research and interventions by promoting the role of early- to mid-career Chinese women in nursing.

Two Chia Fellowships at Yale will be awarded for 2024-2025 for candidates from Hunan. The Chia Fellowship has two components: a semester (six months, July 1st-December 31st, 2024) at Yale, followed by project implementation in Hunan.

Program Priorities

There are two distinctive features of the Chia Fellowship. First, it is aimed at advancing the careers of early- to mid-career women in nursing from Xiangya. Second, the Chia Fellowship aims to support health projects that are concerned with improving health outcomes of underserved and vulnerable populations in resource-limited communities, through strengthening health services delivery and health systems quality, improving health equity, and addressing emerging health needs in chronic diseases, mental health, pediatrics, geriatrics, women's health, and environmental health. Selection of Hunan applications will give priority to projects based in Western Hunan.

The Fellowship Program

In the first year of the fellowship, Chia Fellows will come to Yale for six months, including six weeks in the summer, and the fall semester 2024. While at Yale, each Chia Fellow will have the opportunity to study and develop their research proposals under the guidance of Yale faculty. By the end of the six months at Yale, each fellow will submit an application to the Yale University Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the proposed project activities in China that will be conducted upon returning to China, after project approval by the Yale IRB and the fellow's own institution IRB. Chia Fellows have up to two years to complete their research projects, with project funding support of up to \$3,000 provided by the fellowship.



Chia Fellowship Candidate Qualifications and Selection Criteria

Only women working in the nursing field at Xiangya professional schools and hospitals are eligible to apply for the program. Following a review of proposals submitted by the candidates, a committee composed of representatives of the Yale-China Association and the Xiangya School of Medicine will invite selected candidates for interviews virtually in early December 2023.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. The candidate's academic and professional strength, and preparedness for the Chia Fellowship Program.
2. The candidate's professional motivation, training, and experience.
3. Overall assessment of the proposed project according to the following:
 - Quality of the research proposal
 - Feasibility of the research proposal
 - Relevance of the research proposal to program priorities as stated above
4. The availability of an appropriate Yale faculty mentor.
5. The likelihood that the proposed work will continue upon return and support from superiors.
6. The candidate's potential to influence health practice and policy in Hunan.
7. The candidate's commitment to community services and potential to continue to work in the same priority areas as outlined by the program.
8. The candidate's English ability: Candidates are expected to be able to understand English academic lectures, read academic journals, write effectively and clearly in English, and be comfortable speaking in English about their own professional or research work.

Proposed projects will be judged upon their academic merits and topic, as well as on applicants' likelihood to continue to work in the priority area, beyond completion of the fellowship. Chia Fellowship recipients will be announced in January 2024.

Funding Requirements

One of the fellowships will be funded largely with the generous support of the Chia Family Foundation. The second fellowship is partly funded through your home institution and partly from the Chia Family Foundation, which will provide the \$3000 in project funding for the project to be implemented during the two years after your time at Yale. For this partially self-funded fellowship, currently, Yale requires a financial support letter from your institution indicating a monthly minimum salary support of \$3,200 for the duration of your stay at Yale, from July 1st to December 31st.

For ALL applicants, we ask that you provide a letter of support from your institutional leader on the institutional letterhead, indicating their agreement to provide the following funding support for your fellowship at Yale, including (1) round trip travel to the U.S. (including visa related expenses), (2) minimum \$3,200 monthly salary support for six months (\$19,200 total) to cover your health insurance costs, rent, utilities, and living stipend for your U.S. visit, and (3) \$3000 fee to Yale faculty who will serve as your advisor. The letter must indicate that the funding your institution will provide will cover the fellowship appointment period from July 1st to December 31st, 2024. However, if you are selected for the fully funded fellowship, the Chia Family Foundation will provide for your stipend, housing, airfare and other fees, and your institution will not need to provide that support.

Institutions must provide proof of funding for fellows to the Yale-China Association prior to arrival at Yale. Chia Fellows without full funding secured from institutions prior to their arrival may experience

a delay in departure, or, in the most extreme cases, selection as a Chia Fellow may be rescinded. Only verified institutional support is acceptable; personal funding is not acceptable.

Application Process and Timetable

Application forms and instructions are available at the Xiangya School of Medicine or the Yale-China Office. The 2024-2025 Chia Fellowship candidates will be interviewed in early December 2023, with final decisions announced in January 2024, which will allow new Chia Fellows ample time to prepare for their studies at Yale the following fall.

Required Application Materials

1. **Chia Fellowship Application Form** (1 page)
2. **Research Project Proposal** (4-5 pages)
3. **Curriculum Vitae**
4. **Institutional Support Letter** indicating minimum monthly salary support of \$3,200 for the period of July 1st to December 31st, 2024 (six months), as well as Yale faculty advisor fee of \$3,000, and any visa and travel expenses

Each applicant should submit two copies of the application, one copy to the Xiangya School of Medicine (via email to zhouxc@csu.edu.cn) and one copy to the Yale-China Association (via email to health@yalechina.org) by **Friday, November 17th, 2023**. Applicants must notify your school/hospital international office of your intention to apply for the Chia Fellowship. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applicants selected for an interview will be notified.