Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

SVRI Early Career Research Fellowships: Advancing Research on the Intersection of Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children

1. Who is eligible to apply for the SVRI Early Career Research (ECR) Fellowship?

You are eligible if you:

- Are a **national of a low- or middle-income country (LMIC)** as classified by the World Bank
- Are **enrolled full-time** at an **accredited, in-person academic institution** in an LMIC
- Are conducting **PhD dissertation** or **postdoctoral research** on the **intersection of violence against women (VAW) and violence against children (VAC)**
- (PhD applicants only) Have a **defended or institutionally approved dissertation proposal** focused on VAW/VAC intersections

2. What is meant by "intersection of VAW and VAC"?

This refers to research exploring the **overlapping, connected, or co-occurring experiences** of violence that women and children face. This could include:

- Shared risk factors
- Co-occurrence of IPV and child maltreatment
- Intergenerational cycles of violence
- Prevention or response strategies that address both forms of violence

Please see SVRI's shared research agenda on intersections between VAC and VAW [Intersections Between VAW and VAC: Global Shared Research Priorities - SVRI]

3. How many fellowships are available?

Two fellowships – two for Doctoral Students and two for post-doctoral researchers are available.

4. What is the value and duration of the fellowships?

- **PhD Fellowship**: USD $17,000/year for up to **2 years**
- **Postdoctoral Fellowship**: USD $20,500/year over up to **2 years**

This includes research costs, travel for a 4-day academic site visit to Canada, one conference attendance, and up to **15% overhead**.

5. Can I apply if I'm from a high-income country but studying in an LMIC?

No. **Applicants must be nationals of an LMIC** and based at an academic institution **in an LMIC**.

6. Can I submit my application in another language besides English?

Yes. Applications are accepted in:

- **English**
- **French**
- **Spanish**

7. What documents do I need to submit with my application?

- Completed online application form (via Proposal Central)
- Proof of enrollment and nationality (letter from institution)
- Academic transcripts (past two years)
- Two reference letters (preferably one from your academic advisor)
- Full research proposal (using the SVRI grant format)

8. Where do I submit my application?

All applications must be submitted online through Proposal Central: https://proposalcentral.altum.com

You must register an account if you're a first-time user. Search under **Award Maker: Sexual Violence Research Initiative**.

9. What happens after I submit my application?

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted for a **panel interview**. Final selection decisions will be communicated thereafter.

10. Can I submit more than one application?

No. Each applicant may submit **only one proposal**.

11. What should I include in my budget?

Budgets should include:

- Research costs
- Travel for one 4-day academic site visit to Canada
- Attendance at one academic conference
- Administrative/overhead costs (maximum 15%)

Note: South African applicants must submit budgets in **ZAR**, not USD. All other applicants should submit their budgets in USD.

12. Do I need ethical approval before applying?

Not necessarily. You must:

- State whether ethical approval has been granted, is pending, or will be sought
- Identify the ethics committee or board that will review your proposal
- Clearly explain how you'll manage ethical risks in your study

Fellowships will only be awarded once **ethical clearance** is obtained.

13. Can I apply if I'm in the final year of my PhD or postdoc?

Yes, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria and your research aligns with the fellowship objectives.

14. My university is a past SVRI grant award winner, can I still apply to the fellowship?

Yes, you are eligible to apply to the fellowship as the funding mechanism for fellowship is different than the annual SVRI research awards.

15. Can my PhD advisor charge for their time mentoring me on my research?

No, this fellowship is only to support your research, and your time spent in conducting the research- this does not cover the staff time of advisors or other university staff.

16. My university is asking for additional fees to process the award, will SVRI cover these costs?

We suggest that you enquire with your university in advance about the administrative procedures. The SVRI fellowship allows for 15% indirect costs, which are meant to cover administrative costs for the fellows' universities to process the award. Any additional cost will not be borne by SVRI.

17. What will happen if I drop out or change by university or topic during the two years of the fellowship?

You will be ineligible for the fellowship if your new topic is not related to VAW/VAC intersections or if you drop out of your academic institution. This fellowship is intended to support researchers working towards a PhD or postdoctoral qualification. We cannot accommodate a change of university within the fellowship period.

18. What is the selection process?

SVRI will follow a 2-step selection process as described below:

Step 1: Review of the applications received by a panel of experts

Step 2: Interviews with shortlisted applicants, followed by shortlisting of the fellowship winners.

19. Will SVRI provide mentorship during the fellowship?

Yes. Fellows will have opportunities for **learning, mentorship, and networking** through SVRI's broader programming, including:

- Peer engagement
- Knowledge-sharing platforms

- Potential participation in **SVRI Forum** or other events

20. When is the deadline to apply?

All applications must be submitted by: **15 January 2027 at 11:59 pm (South Africa time).**

Late or incomplete applications will **not** be accepted. Applications must be submitted via Altum | Proposal Central. Applications submitted via individual emails will **NOT** be accepted.

If your question is not addressed here, please contact us at: **svri@svri.org** with subject **'fellowships'.**

SVRI will conduct one informational webinar to address questions regarding the Fellowship applications in early December 2026.