



Department of Pediatrics Graduate Studentship

Award Information

Purpose of Award

Department of Pediatrics graduate studentships provide opportunities for support of individuals undertaking child health research. The Department of Pediatrics awards are provided and administered in conjunction with the [Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute \(ACHRI\)](#) Research Training Platform.

Eligibility Criteria

Candidates are eligible to apply for the Department of Pediatrics graduate studentship if:

- They have been accepted to, or are currently enrolled in a graduate studies program (Master's or PhD) at the University of Calgary
- Their supervisor holds a primary appointment in the Department of Pediatrics
- Their supervisor is conducting research in the area of child health, within the structure of the Department of Pediatrics

Other Considerations

- Only two applications will be accepted from a single supervisor in each competition cycle
- If two trainees apply for an award under the same supervisor and project, individual roles in the project must be clearly delineated
- Trainees holding a current major external or internal award (e.g., CIHR, Alberta Innovates) at the time of the application deadline are ineligible
- The award can be used to supplement ACHRI's Graduate Studentship Support funding . Applicants whose supervisor is [a full member of ACHRI](#) will be automatically considered for matching funds from the Department of Pediatrics through the ACHRI award application process and review.
- Applicants whose supervisor is not a [full member of ACHRI](#) can apply to receive support from the Department of Pediatrics. These applications are submitted and reviewed within the ACHRI Research Training Platform, but the funding will be distributed by the Department.
- This award may be used for salary support only, and may not be directed towards travel, tuition and other fees. The trainee is responsible for paying tuition and other necessary fees directly to the institution.

Financial Support

Matching funds: ACHRI offers funding for MSc (\$11,000/year) and PhD (\$13,000/year) students through the ACHRI Graduate Studentship Support funding stream. The Department of Pediatrics will provide matching funds of \$9,500 per year (MSc), or \$13,000 (PhD) to eligible applicants successful in the ACHRI Graduate Studentship competition. In addition, matching studentships will include a research allowance from the Department of Pediatrics of \$1,000 per year.

Other awards: Applicants ineligible for ACHRI awards (i.e., supervisor is not a full member of ACHRI) may apply for support from the Department of Pediatrics provided they meet the eligibility criteria. The value of these awards is \$20,500/year (MSc) or \$26,000/year (PhD).

Duration of Award

The duration of each award is a minimum of 12 months and maximum of 24 months. Renewal for year two is contingent on satisfactory progress of the trainee, and completion of a trainee progress report (ACHRI or Department of Pediatrics – see terms below). The progress report must be approved by the supervisor.

Application Deadline

All applications/renewals are due on May 1 by 5:00PM (MST). The funding cycle is from September through to August (e.g., September 2016-August 2017). When the deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, applications are due on the next working day.

It is the responsibility of the trainee and supervisor to ensure all application documents are complete and submitted. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Application Instructions

All applications are completed and submitted to the ACHRI Research Training Platform. The application instructions can be found on the [ACHRI website](#).

Renewal Instructions

- 1) Award holders who have both ACHRI and Department of Pediatrics funding must complete the award renewal process as outlined under the terms of the [ACHRI award](#).
- 2) Award holders who do not have ACHRI funding who would like to renew their funding for year two must complete the following:
 - 2.1 Progress report with signatures (template provided).
 - 2.2 One letter of support, submitted directly from the supervisor, detailing the trainee's progress and highlights from the first year of the award.
 - 2.3 One updated electronic copy of the trainee's academic transcripts (most recent 5 years). Unofficial transcripts are permissible (PDF or JPEG format is acceptable).
 - 2.4 Complete renewal packages and reference letters should be sent by email to pediatrics.research@ucalgary.ca.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the ACHRI College of Reviewers, in conjunction with the Department of Pediatrics including the Department of Pediatrics Deputy Head Research, the Lead for Research Capacity Development and other Faculty reviewers. Applications will be ranked on the following criteria:

- Quality of the candidate: academic excellence, research experience, awards

- Supervisor's research and training environment: publications, grant support, experience in trainee supervision
- Significance and quality of the proposed project

Terms of the Award

Recipients of combined ACHRI and Department of Pediatrics funding must follow the terms and requirements of each award. If at any time during the course of the award a recipient of combined ACHRI and Department of Pediatrics funding becomes ineligible for the ACHRI portion of the award, they must notify the Department of Pediatrics funding administrator so that their eligibility and receipt of the Department of Pediatrics funding can be reviewed.

Department of Pediatrics studentship stipends can only be used for salary support. Awards are not intended to be portable (e.g., different program of study, supervisor change); however, exceptions may be made in extenuating circumstances, subject to the discretion of the funding administrator. Should the trainee's supervisor not maintain a primary appointment in the Department of Pediatrics, the trainee may no longer be eligible to receive the award.

Research allowances are provided to support the trainee for costs associated with the conduct of research activities including: research equipment, materials and research supplies, or travel to scientific meetings. Other uses of research allowance funds may be permitted. Please contact the funding administrator (pediatrics.research@ucalgary.ca) for inquiries regarding research allowances.

By way of acceptance, award recipients and their supervisors agree to the following obligations:

- Acknowledgement of the Department of Pediatrics in publications, presentations, communications and other materials associated with the trainee's research project
- Timely submission of progress reports or other necessary documentation, as required
- Provision of biographical information and a headshot to be used for reporting and publicity purposes
- Provision of project summaries and/or updates as required for reporting and publicity purposes
- The use of funds in accordance with the terms of the award

Studentships are intended to support trainees during full-time academic studies or research related to their degree.

Studentship support will terminate either at the end of the 24 month period or the last day of the month during which the Master's or PhD defense took place, whichever is earlier. The award holder must notify the Department of Pediatrics of their defense date when it is confirmed.

Studentship holders must notify the Department of Pediatrics if they are transferring from a Master's program to a PhD program. If an award holder only used one year of support for one degree (e.g., MSc), he or she can apply as a new applicant for the 2nd year of support (e.g., PhD).

If a trainee is successful in obtaining another major award or a combination of several awards that are greater or equal to the Department of Pediatrics studentship (or combined ACHRI and Department of Pediatrics funding), the trainee is expected to decline the Department of Pediatrics award. Department of Pediatrics studentships recipients are expected to apply for external awards for their second year to be eligible for renewal.

Studentships are available for a total of 24 months (2 years). During this time, an individual may be eligible for a leave up to 12 months (unpaid) for significant life course changes (e.g., sickness, family illness or parental leave), conditional on the approval of their supervisor and the Department of Pediatrics studentship funding administrator. Requests for leaves must be submitted in a letter signed by the trainee and the supervisor, emailed to pediatrics.research@ucalgary.ca. Requests for leaves must be submitted prior to the requested leave start; however, in extenuating circumstances this may be relaxed. For combined ACHRI and Department of Pediatrics award holders, it is the trainee's responsibility to check leave eligibility under each award and notify each studentship administrator.

Contacts

Department of Pediatrics

Nicole Romanow

Program Manager, Child Health Research

pediatrics.research@ucalgary.ca

403-955-7538

ACHRI Research Training Platform

achri.training@ucalgary.ca

403-220-8158