



**Alberta Health
Services**

**2022 Undergraduate Summer
Studentship Awards**

November 2021

Call for Applications

Scientific Office
Critical Care SCN

BACKGROUND

The Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network Summer Studentship Award (CC SCN-SSA) is designed to foster research interest in critical care medicine and related disciplines among students at the undergraduate level of study. It is the CC SCN goal that this experience will stimulate an interest in critical care research or clinical practice in critical care medicine (i.e., nurse, physician, allied health professional) and related disciplines (e.g., public health, social sciences, etc.). The award will fund \$7,500 per student over 4 months between May and August 2022.

This CC SCN-SSA competition will serve to build research capacity within various domains of critical care medicine (e.g., medicine, nursing, pediatric critical care medicine, health services delivery, social determinants of health, pandemic planning, allied health professionals). Through the results of the proposed research projects conducted by the students, this initiative will improve the quality of critical care medicine care delivery within the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability.

ELIGIBILITY

- Studentship applicants must be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in an undergraduate program at an approved post-secondary academic institution;
- The area of proposed research must be related to critical care medicine;
- Candidates must be supervised or co-supervised by a faculty member at one of Alberta's academic institutions;
- Holders of other full-time, major studentship awards (e.g. CIHR, NSERC, AIHS, etc.) are ineligible for CC SCN Studentship awards;
- Each supervisor may have a maximum of three summer students sponsored by the competition. If there are sufficient applications, the number of awards will be limited to 1 per supervisor, and priority will be given to the highest rated applicant.
- Students previously funded by the CC SCN summer studentship competition will not be eligible.

Distinguishing Research from Quality Improvement:

Research is “an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation” (Tri-Council Panel on Research Ethics, 2014). For clarity, research “Has a clearly stated research question [or questions], related to theory and existing literature in the field. [And m]ay test specific hypotheses through measurement of specific variables, or seek to understand a phenomenon” (adopted from Research Services, Dalhousie University, 2013).

“Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, and performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements **when used exclusively for assessment, management or improvement purposes**, do not constitute research” (Tri-Council Panel on Research Ethics, 2014 – emphasis added).

Both research and quality improvement/assurance projects are eligible for funding through the CC SCN Summer Studentship Program. Quality improvement/assurance projects should be scholarly with a clearly articulated publication plan.

Sources

Panel on Research Ethics. (2014). Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Government of Canada. <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/initiatives/tcps2-eptc2/Default/>

Research Services, Dalhousie University. 2013. Guidelines for differentiating among Research, Program Evaluation and Quality Improvement. [https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/doc/research-services/Guidelines%20research%20PE%20QI%20\(28%20Nov%202013\).pdf](https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/doc/research-services/Guidelines%20research%20PE%20QI%20(28%20Nov%202013).pdf)

RELEVANT TOPIC AREAS

Any proposed clinical, health services or population health research questions that have relevance to the CC SCN will be eligible, except that CIHR Pillar 1 (basic science) projects will not be considered.

FUNDING

Each award will provide funding in the amount of \$1,875/month for a maximum of 4 months (May – August 2021). The maximum amount of a single award is \$7,500. The maximum amount of funds available for this competition is **\$15,000** or 2 awards of \$7,500 each. Awards are non-renewable.

REPORTING

The CC SCN-SSA awardees must submit an interim progress report to the CC SCN scientific office describing the progress that was made during the first two months of the studentship training (or to the midpoint of the research training period if the length of the proposed studentship is less than 4 months).

Students will submit a final progress report at the end of the award period (August 31, 2022). The final report will provide a summary of the research activities accomplished during the summer for the proposed research project(s). A template will be provided,

KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

Synopses of the research studies conducted by the award recipients will be shared with the CC SCN Core Committee and may be published on the CC SCN research website. Students are encouraged to publish their research results in relevant peer-reviewed journals.

The Critical Care SCN (CC SCN) Scientific Office should be made aware of scholarly work that was endorsed and/or supported by the CC SCN prior to submission for external publication (i.e. if the CC SCN has supported the research through studentship funding).

TIMELINES

November 2021	Call for CC SCN Undergraduate Summer Studentship
Feb 1, 2022	Applications Due
March 31, 2022	Notification of Awards

PROGRAM POLICIES

1. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Any unused funds at the end of the award term must be returned to the CC SCN Scientific Office for use towards future studentship research funding opportunities.
3. Failure to submit a final report will disqualify the applicant and supervisor from future CC SCN funding.
4. Important changes to the proposed study are permitted due to HREB and recruitment delays; however, they must be reported to the CC SCN Scientific Office in a timely fashion.
5. The funding must be used for student salary and may not be used to fund the research project/program.
6. Students must be actively engaged in the research as full-time summer students. They cannot be attending school or employed in another full-time position at the same time they receive the CC SCN summer studentship award.
7. A total of **1 week** of holidays is permitted during the stipend period; if students wish additional holidays, they are advised to take additional time off before or after the studentship period.
8. Awardees are required to notify the Scientific Office of the CC SCN about any publications or presentations derived from the work supported by the CC SCN summer studentship award.
9. It is expected that CC SCN summer studentship awardees include the following statement under the Acknowledgements section of the publication:

“Research reported in this publication was supported by the Alberta Health Services Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network (CC SCN). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the CC SCN Scientific Office or Alberta Health Services”.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

A panel of reviewers who have no conflict of interest, and are qualified to review, will independently review each application and score them according to the following assessment criteria:

1. The quality of the research proposal;
2. Importance of the research question (i.e. Distinctive contribution to, and likely impact on, critical care medicine);
3. Feasibility of the project.
4. The quality of the research environment, supervisory arrangements, likely quality of training program(s) and student’s preparation for academic research.
5. Student academic record.

A total score (maximum of 30) per applicant will be calculated using the rubric below.

Review Rubric

APPLICANT NAME: _____

REVIEWER: _____

CRITERIA	SubScore
Scientific Quality of Proposal	
Links to existing literature in the field, strength of basis in theory, consideration of a broad range of possible outcomes, suitability of methods to answering the research question(s).	/6
Importance of Research Question	
Importance of the question for advancing knowledge with the potential to positively impact critical care (important questions that are not relevant to critical care medicine should be scored as 0).	/6
Feasibility	
Feasibility and timeline of proposed project.	/6
Academic Record of Applicant	
Publications, awards/prizes, and academic experience (e.g. methods training, research assistantships, participation in conferences and academic workshops).	/6
Training Environment	
Quality of the institution for research, training and career development. Scientific/supervisory track record of the supervisor.	/6
Overall Score	/30

Scoring: 6 = Outstanding, 5 = Exceptional, 4 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor, 0 = Not Fundable

A score of 0 in any category is a recommendation to eliminate the applicant from the competition.

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Students should submit their completed application using the CC SCN Summer Studentship Application Form in PDF format to Dr. Samantha Bowker at samantha.bowker@ahs.ca no later than **Feb 1, 2022**.

Application packages not submitted as a single PDF will be returned for resubmission.

Please indicate “2022 CC SCN Studentship Application – *Student Last Name*” in the email subject line.

For more information contact:

Samantha Bowker, PhD
Assistant Scientific Director
Critical Care SCN
e-mail: samantha.bowker@ahs.ca

Student CV - Example Template

APPLICANT NAME:

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (if any): (list)

PRESENTATIONS: (list)

PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS: (list)

RELEVANT COURSEWORK: (list)

RELEVANT ACADEMIC TRAINING (Workshops, Conferences, etc.): (list)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS: (list)

CURRENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS: (list)

Supervisor CV - Example Template

NAME:

STUDENT SUPERVISED:

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, and include postdoctoral training.)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR(s)	FIELD OF STUDY
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE/EMPLOYMENT (list)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (up to 5): (list)

SELECTED PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS (up to 5): (list)

CURRENT FUNDING: (list)

CURRENT/PREVIOUS STUDENTS SUPERVISED (including degree and completion date): (list)