Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Graduate Scholarship 2027 (formerly ACHRI Graduate Scholarship)

Award Guide

ACHF Graduate Scholarships (Master's/PhD) are competitive internal awards for the purpose of providing stipend support to ACHRI trainees pursuing graduate research in maternal and child health and wellness.

This Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation (ACHF) award is made possible by funding from the Child Health Research Training Academy supported by the Harold and Betty Allsopp Fund at Calgary Foundation.

For information on award value, duration and eligibility please refer to the Terms of Reference.

Application Instructions: New Applicants

- Candidates must submit a Graduate Award Competition Application (GAC) online via the Student Centre. Instructions are available on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website.
- Additional information regarding the GAC application can be found on the Graduate Award Competition webpage.
- Candidates must also submit a CSM Harmonized form. Instructions can be found on the Graduate Science Education website.

Application Instructions: Renewing Applicants

- Instructions to renew the ACHF Graduate Scholarship will be sent to the awardee prior to the renewal date stated in their notice of award (NOA).
- Renewal of the award will be dependent on the satisfactory completion of a progress report from the awardee and letter/email of support from the awardee's supervisor.

Application Deadlines

- Competition opens November 1. Deadlines vary by program. Deadline is visible once an application is created or contact your Graduate Program Administrator.

Adjudication process

- Eligibility assessment and review of the applications are done by FGS.
- **Note:** Applications are evaluated by a multidisciplinary panel of reviewers who may not have deep expertise in all areas. Applicants are encouraged to write proposals that are accessible to non-specialist reviewers. The ACHRI Leadership Team, including Training Directors, will make the final selection of awardees from the ranked list provided by FGS. Scores for each application are made available to the ACHRI Team. Selection will be based on:
    - Alignment of the proposed research with ACHRI's mission to advance maternal and child

health and wellness.
    - Representation of awardees across ACHRI's diverse research areas and programs.
    - Awardees will be selected from the top 15% of ranked applications that applied for the ACHF Graduate Award.
- To ensure equitable distribution of awards, a maximum of one award will be granted per supervisor per competition.

Funding process

- Successful awardees' enrollment in a full time, thesis based Graduate Studies program will be verified with the Faculty of Graduate Studies before the announcement of awards.
- Supervisors of ACHRI awardees' must consult their program for minimum stipend requirements.
- Award will be offered by FGS at the earliest possible start date.
- Notification of award (NOA) will be issued.

Terms of award

Training must take place at the University of Calgary, except for short-term research-related visits to other institutions for up to three months per year.

Stipend support

- ACHF Graduate Scholarships may only be used for stipend support. These awards are intended to support trainees during full-time academic studies and research related to their degree.
- Trainees who are successful in obtaining another award must notify both the ACHRI Training Team and the Graduate Awards Office at the FGS as soon as possible.
- The maximum amount a student can hold in internal competitive awards and internships administered by the University of Calgary at any given time is capped. Please refer to the Graduate Award guide and Regulations.
- Holders of the ACHF Graduate Scholarship who are awarded an external award should accept the external award at the earliest possible date and either pause or terminate their ACHF Graduate award or have the ACHF portion of the award adjusted (if allowed by the external award), so that the combined award amount does not exceed maximum stipend limits. CSM students should refer to the GSE funding policy. Non-CSM students should contact their graduate program administrator for stipend regulations.
- ACHF Graduate Scholarships are non-transferable. Trainees are required to notify ACHRI Training Team of any changes to their academic status, supervisor, program, or any other changes in circumstances that may affect the scope of their studentship and/or affect start dates and/or duration of studentship. Continuation of the scholarship will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Awards will also be subject to the policies of the FGS award guide.

Pausing and Termination of award

- Scholarships will terminate either at the end of the 24-month period or the last day of the month in which the Master's or PhD thesis is submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The award holder must notify the ACHRI Training Team of their thesis submission.
- Scholarships may be paused once during the tenure of the award for a maximum of one year, due to an approved leave of absence or to take up an external award.
- For trainees in the Leaders of Medicine program, the ACHF Graduate Scholarship will only be provided during the time they are registered in the doctoral degree portion of their degree and will terminate as soon as the MD component commences.
- Recipients of the ACHF Graduate Scholarship must notify the ACHRI training team if they are

transferring from a Master's program to a PhD program (i.e., not completing the Master's degree prior to commencing the PhD degree), to determine if they are eligible to continue their ACHF Scholarship funding at the PhD stipend rate. In cases where the trainee has completed their Master's degree and has used only one year of their ACHF Graduate Scholarship, and is commencing a PhD program, they may apply as a new applicant for additional funding through the ACHF Graduate Scholarship for their PhD degree, if eligible. If successful, the trainee will receive a maximum of 12 months of ACHF graduate funding for their PhD degree.

Travel allowance

- Travel allowance will be administered by ACHRI training team.
- Awardees will be provided with a one-time allowance of $1000 to be used for research-related travel (e.g. for attending a scientific meeting or a course related to their research/ field of study or travelling to a partner laboratory or an external course to learn a new technique).
- Travel allowance is non-transferable to the trainee's supervisor or another trainee and must be used by the end date of the ACHF Graduate Scholarship.
- If the award is paused to allow the acceptance of an external award, travel allowance is available only if the external award does not provide a travel allowance. All other reasons for pausing the award do not grant the use of the travel allowance during the pause of the ACHF Graduate Award.
- If the award is ended early, due to acceptance of an external award, awardees may use their travel allowance for approved travel for up to 6 months after the end date of the ACHF award. They must remain an active student in the same program with the same supervisor as they were originally awarded. All other reasons for terminating the award do not grant the use of the remaining travel allowance.
- Trainees are not eligible to apply for ACHRI Trainee Travel Awards until their travel allowance is spent in full.

Reporting Requirements

- Acknowledgment of ACHRI and ACHF in publications, presentations, communications and marketing materials associated with the funded research project.
- Timely submission of trainee and supervisor progress reports, final reports, and other documentation, as required.
- Award recipients may be asked to communicate with and/or meet with ACHF donors. Recipients agree to accommodate this communication to the best of their availability.

Holders of the ACHF Graduate Scholarship are strongly encouraged, with the support of their supervisor, to:

- apply for internal and external awards for which they are eligible, including those from provincial or national agencies.
- participate in training activities (i.e., courses, workshops, professional development opportunities) organized by ACHRI
- participate and present at the ACHRI Annual Research Symposium or another similar events

By applying to the ACHF graduate scholarship, supervisors agree to be a reviewer for any trainee award involving ACHRI trainees for a duration of two years.

Please contact the ACHRI Training Team with any questions:
achri.training@ucalgary.ca
403.220.4397

The University of Calgary strives to create and maintain a positive and productive learning and working environment in which there is respect for the dignity of all persons and fair and equitable treatment of individuals in our diverse community. UCalgary has been named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers five years in a row. As part of the UCalgary community, ACHRI believes that diversity in our team is a strength. ACHRI commits to considering qualified applicants from members of any and all equity seeking groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons who are members of a visible minority group in Canada.