

## **ACHRI Summer Studentship Support**

### **Eligibility Criteria & Application Instructions**

#### **Purpose of Award**

This competitive internal award is intended to provide stipend support to undergraduate students pursuing a summer research position at the University of Calgary, encouraging trainees to explore research as a potential field of study.

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

Candidates are eligible to apply for the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI) Summer Studentship if they have secured a training position with a supervisor who is a full member of ACHRI, and whose research program falls within the mandate of ACHRI.

Applicants must also meet one of the following criteria:

- be registered in a University of Calgary undergraduate degree program in a medical or health-related field, or
- be registered in an undergraduate degree program outside the University of Calgary, and desiring to engage in research during the summer months at the University of Calgary, or
- currently be in the last term of their undergraduate degree and have applied to either Medical School or a graduate program commencing in the coming Fall.

ACHRI summer studentship funding is not available to medical students who have already begun their medical training.

Only two summer studentship applicants from the same lab / supervisor are allowed to apply in one given summer competition, with only one applicant per supervisor being eligible for funding each year.

#### **Financial Support**

The ACHRI STEP will provide a monthly stipend of \$1,375; supervisors are required to supplement this stipend with a minimum of \$500 per month. The minimum amount of the stipend for a summer student enrolled in the ACHRI Summer Studentship is therefore \$1,875 per month, or \$7,500 for the May – August period (i.e., 16 weeks). Please note, health benefits are not part of the award.

The award may be held for a minimum of 8 weeks and a maximum of 16 weeks during the May through August term. The award amount is paid on a monthly basis and is prorated based on the student's term. Students are allowed a maximum two-week vacation during the four-month period, at the discretion of their supervisor(s).

## **Application Deadline**

Summer studentship competition takes place in winter. Students must apply using the UCalgary Summer Student Application portal. Application deadlines (typically in early February) are indicated on the [Summer Student Application portal page](#) and [ACHRI Trainee Funding page](#). Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

## **Application Instructions**

To apply for the ACHRI Summer Studentship, please use the [UCalgary Summer Student Application portal](#), which is also used for ACHRI-BME Summer Studentships, Alberta Innovates, PURE, Alberta Cancer Foundation, Alberta Transplant Institute Summer Studentships and the O'Brien Centre Summer Studentships. Award eligibility is automatically determined at the time of application, based on the qualifications of the applicant. Applicants will be considered for all awards for which they meet the criteria; however, only ONE (1) offer of award will be made to each successful applicant.

University of Calgary supervisors are limited to supporting only TWO (2) applications through this consolidated application system.

## **Evaluation Criteria**

The ACHRI Training Review Committee ranks applications based 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
- project's fit with the mandate of ACHRI

A strong application:

- provides comprehensive information on the trainee's educational accomplishments, awards and honors and research experience
- ensures that the project description clearly states background information, aims, hypotheses and methodologies as well as the trainee's role in the project
- convinces reviewers that the proposed project is in line with the mandate of ACHRI and significant to the big picture of child/ maternal health
- includes strong letters of reference
  - well-written reference letters play a critical role in making a strong case for the applicant, and present an opportunity to highlight traits, abilities, and talents that make the applicant stand out from the candidate pool.

## **Terms of the Award**

Summer trainees may hold only one award. If the trainee is successful in obtaining a major award or a combination of several awards greater than or equal to the ACHRI Summer Studentship stipend level, the trainee is expected to decline the ACHRI Summer Studentship award.

ACHRI Summer Studentship awards may only be used for salary support and not for travel, relocation or other purposes. Health benefits are not provided by the ACHRI STEP.

All ACHRI Summer Studentship awardees will be required to deliver a podium or a poster presentation on their summer project at the end of the summer term at the ACHRI Summer Student Symposium. In addition, a one-page written report on the project is required at the end of the summer studentship. For details, please contact our Program Manager at [achri.training@ucalgary.ca](mailto:achri.training@ucalgary.ca).

Awarded trainees and their supervisors agree to certain obligations that include but are not limited to:

- acknowledgment of ACHRI in publications, presentations, communications and marketing materials;
- timely submission of trainee and mentor progress reports, final reports, and other documentation, as required;
- provision of biographical sketches to be used for reporting and publicity purposes;
- participation by the supervisor in the Committees of ACHRI or ACHRI STEP, when asked.

**With any questions, please contact the ACHRI STEP at [achri.training@ucalgary.ca](mailto:achri.training@ucalgary.ca).**