

Faculty of Medicine

Summer Research Program (SSRP) for non-medical students

Description: The goal of this program is to increase the number of African and Indigenous students in medicine by providing medically related research experience. The Imhotep Legacy Academy, the Indigenous Health in Medicine and PLANS (Promoting Leadership in Health for African Nova Scotia's) have partnered with the Faculty of Medicine to create these Summer Research Studentships. Students who are confident that medical research will be part of their professional careers will gain valuable experience in the design, execution, and evaluation of experiments. Participating students will receive a stipend of \$5,000 over a 12-week period (with 2 weeks personal vacation) during the summer. Conference related expenses like registration fees (if any) may be reimbursed to a certain amount (pending abstract submission and acceptance to present at a national/international conference).

The Application Process: Completed applications must be submitted on or before **Thursday, March 31, 2022**. Supervisors are asked to assist students in the completion of the application form, but it is the student's responsibility to submit the application on time. For students who require assistance in identifying a supervisor for this program, MRDO can help identify and match them with an available and interested supervisor(s). Please contact mrdo@dal.ca for any assistance.

Selection: Awards will be made on a competitive basis. Representatives from the Faculty of Medicine Research Advisory Committee, Imhotep, Indigenous Health in Medicine and PLANS (Promoting Leadership in Health for African Nova Scotia's) will review each application with reference to the goal of enabling students to have maximum involvement in a research project that will be conducted in a productive and supportive environment.

Reviewers will assess all applications against the following criteria:

1. Students must have completed at least 2 years of their undergraduate program;
2. Students must be members of the Maritime Indigenous community, living in Nova Scotia of African descent and show evidence of community engagement/interaction;
3. Students must demonstrate a serious interest in a future career in medicine or medical research
4. Student GPA;
5. Quality of the student (research experience, skills, fit to the project);
6. Potential contributions of the student to the project.

Students participating in the program are required to:

1. submit a written report of their work in October;
2. submit student and faculty evaluation forms;
3. participate and present research Virtually or In person at a local/national/international conference or research day

Students who complete all requirements will receive a notation on their transcripts "Faculty of Medicine Summer Student Research Program non-medical students completed Summer XXXX". Students external to Dalhousie University will receive a certificate of completion.

Instructions for the written research reports are on the website. Students are urged to begin writing their paper during the summer as other time commitments place a strain on available writing time during September. **It is the student's responsibility to ensure that a Faculty Evaluation form is submitted.**

Application Instructions

Each application must be single-sided, single-spaced, using a font of 12 point and with margins of one inch. Each application must contain the following to be considered complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant without review:

1. A complete application form, signed and dated (template provided)
2. Lay summary (to be completed by the student) - An abstract summarizing the project, including a statement of what issue the project addresses and a description of why the work is important to furthering knowledge in the area. A lay description (not to exceed 200 words) of the primary applicant's research will help the Faculty provide its donors with a better overall picture of the ongoing medical research activities at Dalhousie which their financial contributions help support.
3. Research proposal (**max 3 pages, excluding references**).

This section can be completed by either the student or the proposed supervisor. The proposed project must be of a size capable of completion during the period of the Studentship and should be a closely supervised full-time research experience. Either the student or the supervisor may propose the project which may be a mini-project forming a part of the supervisor's own major interest. The project may also be a sub-study of the supervisor's own major interest. However, the proposed project must have a **clearly defined timeline** to demonstrate that it is of a size capable of completion during the three-month period of the Studentship.

Summarize the current state of knowledge relating to the research proposal. Ensure that the following subheadings are used:

- Title of project
- Hypothesis to be tested or series of questions to be tested
- Rationale
- Experimental design or methods
- Role of the student (including the benefits for the student)
- Outline of events

Outline proposed research to be undertaken by the student. Indicate how this project will fit into your research program and what experience the student is expected to gain.

Clearly identify the role of the student including an outline of events throughout the research period (i.e., student will spend two weeks doing literature review, six weeks in lab etc.)

For the purposes of this award, chart reviews are not normally considered for funding. If a student is conducting a chart review, the proposal must clearly indicate how the project will enhance the student's understanding of research and how it is based on a research hypothesis or testable question, as opposed to a routine clinical audit.

4. Students must show evidence of community engagement/interaction. The Committee will accept a summary of community engagement/interaction with reference names/contact information or a letter from the organization.
5. Maximum two-page CV from the student
6. Letter from research supervisor
The proposed supervisor should mention the following points in the letter:
 - a) indicate their involvement in the completion of the application (i.e., the approximate percentage of the application written by the supervisor versus the student);
 - b) flexible work plan outlining lab access, relevant online lab training, lab work or at home research relevant work, the student will engage in. Supervisors and students will be required to follow Dalhousie return to research guidelines and policies while accessing any labs on Dalhousie campuses;
 - c) amount of time per week that you will be available to the student; amount of time you may expect to be away from the University or Hospital during the summer research period, and what plans have been made for supervision of the applicant's work;
 - d) indicate what portion of the overall project the student should be able to perform during the period of the research award;
 - e) describe the student and the benefits of this experience, including the student's role in the study;
 - f) research environment - state the number of students who will be in the laboratory concurrent with this candidate; and
 - g) describe the supervisor's training record.

This signed letter should be scanned and emailed to the student to include with the full application.

7. Common CV **with attachments** (preferred cv) from proposed supervisor; will accept NIH biosketch, but the following **MUST** be outlined: 1) pubs last five years, 2) funding, 3) supervisory experience (include summer students). To be forwarded to student to include in final application
8. Student transcripts
9. Self-Identification Questionnaire (Template provided)
10. Ethics approval form (if applicable)

Applications that do not adhere to the above guidelines will be returned without review

Application Checklist

- Application Form Pages 5 and 6
- Attach Lay Summary
- Attach Research Proposal (**max 3 pages, excluding references**)
- Attach evidence of community engagement/interaction
- Attach Student CV (max 2 pages)
- Attach Letter of support from proposed supervisor
- Attach Faculty Common CV **with attachments** (preferred cv) from proposed supervisor; will accept NIH biosketch, but the following **MUST** be outlined: 1) pubs last five years, 2) funding, 3) supervisory experience (include summer students). To be forwarded to student to include in final application
- University transcripts
- Self – Identification Questionnaire
- Ethics approval form (if applicable)
- Electronic submission of application (pdf file)

Submit complete application electronically as ONE pdf to: mrdo@dal.ca by or before 4:30 pm, March 31st.

APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT INFORMATION				
Date		Banner ID		
Family Name		Given Name		Initials
Telephone number			Email address	
CITIZENSHIP				
<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Canadian permanent resident <input type="checkbox"/> International				
SELF-IDENTIFICATION - * Please refer Appendix "A" below for definitions				
<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous Atlantic Canadians <input type="checkbox"/> African Nova Scotian				
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)				
Degree	Institution	Department	MM/YY started	MM/YY awarded/expected
How many academic terms will you have completed towards your degree program when this award is held?				
What are your future academic career goals?				
ACADEMIC, RESEARCH AND OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE				
Position held and nature of work (begin with current) Full time/Part time	Organization & Department	Supervisor	Period (mm/yy - mm-yy)	

APPENDIX “A”

Indigenous Atlantic Canadians – (tiered system of priority shall be used to assess applications)
Priority will be given as follows:

1. First Nations Communities from the Atlantic Provinces

a. Mi'kmaq - individuals who are Mi'kmaq and were born and/or raised in Mi'kmaqi with a substantial connection to a Mi'kmaw community in Mi'kmaqi

b. Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) - individuals who are Maliseet and were born and/or raised in the Maliseet territory in New Brunswick with a substantial connection to a Maliseet community

2. Métis/ Innu/ Inuit from Atlantic Provinces. Students who identify as *Métis*, Innu, Inuit originating from the Atlantic Provinces.

3. Indigenous Students (First Nation, Inuit, Métis) born and raised outside of Atlantic Provinces.

African Nova Scotian – (tiered system of priority shall be used to assess applications) Priority will be given as follows:

1. Black/African Nova Scotians – born and/or raised in Nova Scotia with a substantial connection to the historically Black community

2. African Nova Scotians/Canadians – born and/or raised in Nova Scotia without connection to the historical Black community

3. African Canadians – born and/or raised outside of Nova Scotia.