



The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences is pleased to announce the

**2026 Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarships  
in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences**

Research Fellowship in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Graduate Scholarship: PhD, Vision Sciences, Faculty of Medicine  
Graduate Scholarship, MSc in Vision Sciences, Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Health Professions  
Graduate Scholarship, Concurrent Masters and Ophthalmology Residency  
Undergraduate Studentship

## Introduction

The Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences is pleased to announce the 2026 Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarships in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

This collection of scholarships was initiated in 2015 and comprises five separate funding opportunities including:

1. Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Research Fellowship in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
2. Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Graduate Scholarship: PhD, Vision Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
3. Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Graduate Scholarship: MSc, Vision Sciences, Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Health Professions
4. Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Graduate Scholarship: Concurrent Masters and Ophthalmology Residency Program [Tuition Recovery Scholarship]
5. Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Undergraduate Studentship

The Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarships in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences are enabled by a visionary endowment to the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences from the estate of the late Peggy St. George.

The Trainee Scholarships have been established to honour the lives of Ms. St. George's stepparents, the late Dr. R. Evatt and Mrs. Rita Mathers. Dr. R. Evatt Mathers was an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, born in Halifax in 1874. He was educated at Dalhousie and New York Universities and practiced in Halifax from 1900-1947. Dr. Mathers was affiliated with the Dalhousie Medical School throughout his professional career, including lecturing in ophthalmology. He died in 1957, while Mrs. Rita Mathers died in 1982.

## Review Process and Evaluation

All scholarship awards will be made on a competitive basis. Applications for award categories 1 to 3 (listed above) will be peer-reviewed and ranked by an external review committee, independent of input from the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. Applications for the Residency and Undergraduate Scholarships (awards 4 and 5) will be reviewed by a committee comprised of members from the Residency Training Committee and the Research Committee of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.

The external review committee will evaluate each application with the goal of enabling capable students to have maximum involvement in research that will be conducted in a productive and supportive environment. Criteria for evaluation will include, but not be limited to:

1. Quality of the proposed research (scope of the research experience and its intellectual components).
2. Relevance and scientific contribution of the proposed research (i.e., the extent to which the project demonstrates clinical relevance and/or contributes to knowledge advancement in any area related to ophthalmology and visual sciences).
3. Potential contributions of the fellow/student to the research. The scholarships are not meant to support a technical position.
4. Quality of the research environment (e.g., research and supervisory track record of the proposed supervisor, availability of research funding, etc.).
5. Quality of the fellow/student (research experience, skills, compatibility with the proposed research).

## Research Fellowship Scholarship

**Deadline: March 29, 2026**

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### Eligibility

Applicants are eligible to apply for only one Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarship per competition.

Applicants must be medical graduates pursuing a full- time Research Fellowship or PhD graduates pursuing Postdoctoral Fellowship training in visual sciences. Postdoctoral supervisors must hold an appointment with the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at Dalhousie University. Candidates must demonstrate their interest and potential to contribute to academic medicine at Dalhousie Medical School and its affiliated teaching hospitals and to ongoing research programs in the Faculty of Medicine.

### Terms and Conditions

The Research Fellowship Scholarship will be offered for one year. This award may not be combined with any other fellowship awards or scholarships. Fellowship awards are based on the recommendation review committee and based on successful evaluation of the application and funding availability. A final report at the end of the funding period is required.

The Research Fellowship Scholarship will commence between July 1 and September 1, following the application deadline. Under exceptional circumstances, requests for a start date deferral will be considered.

The Fellow is expected to devote full-time effort to their proposed research activities. If supported by the Head of the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences on the basis of contributing significantly to the Fellow's overall training program and structured appropriately to the satisfaction of the Department's Research Committee, the Fellow may participate, to a limited extent (maximum of 20%), in teaching and/or patient care directly related to Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.

### Stipend

A maximum of one Research Fellowship Scholarship of up to \$70,000 per year will be granted. This award may not be combined with any other fellowship awards or scholarships.

The fund will reimburse the Fellow up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year to help cover research-related expenses. Research-related expenses must be purchased and reimbursed during the award period. Travel expenses for presenting at scientific meetings are an eligible expense and limited to \$4,000 per year. The fellow must meet the following criteria in order to be reimbursed for travel expenses:

- The fellow must have an abstract accepted and be the first and presenting author at a recognized national or international meeting.
- The fellow wishing to apply for travel reimbursement will contact the Research Manager with the abstract of the presentation, and notification of abstract acceptance prior to the meeting.
- After travel is complete, original receipts and credit card statements for proof of payment must be submitted to the Research Manager for reimbursement of funds.
- Funds are for expenses of the fellow only.
- Fellows will be permitted a per diem of \$54/day for meals.
- Travel and submission of expenses must occur prior to 6 months post completion of the award period.

### Application Process

Please consult the Application Checklist and ensure that all application materials are included. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Electronic copies of the application need to be received by the deadline indicated above.

## Ph.D. Vision Science Scholarship

**Deadline: March 29, 2026**

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### Eligibility

Applicants are eligible to apply for only one Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarship per competition.

Within six months of the application deadline, the applicant must be a full-time student at Dalhousie University, registered as a PhD student in an appropriate vision sciences discipline, and have a faculty supervisor (normally at Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, however, supervisors in other faculties will be considered). The proposed research must be conducted at Dalhousie University.

### Terms and Conditions

The Graduate Scholarship will be offered for a period of one year and is competitively renewable for a second year. This award may be combined with a maximum of one other award or scholarship. Continued support for a second year of funding is subject to recommendation by the external review committee based on successful evaluation of progress and funding availability. Renewals will be considered on a competitive basis with new scholarship submissions. It is the responsibility of the student to submit a detailed progress report and letter of support by the application deadline. A final report at the end of the funding period is required.

The Graduate Scholarship will commence on September 1, following the application deadline. Under exceptional circumstances, requests for a start date deferral will be considered.

The recipient of the Graduate Scholarship is expected to devote full-time to their proposed research activities.

### Stipend

A maximum of one PhD Vision Science Scholarship of \$40,000 per year will be granted with the possibility of a competitive renewal for one

additional year.

Renewals will be considered on a competitive basis with new applications. This award may be combined with a maximum of 1 other award or scholarship. Ph.D. students must maintain registration and good standing in their graduate program to receive full funding. The fund will reimburse the student up to a maximum of \$4,000 per year to cover travel expenses for presenting at scientific meetings. The student must meet the following criteria in order to be reimbursed for travel expenses:

- The student must have an abstract accepted and be the first and presenting author at a recognized national or international meeting.
- The student wishing to apply for travel reimbursement will contact the Research Manager with the abstract of the presentation, and notification of abstract acceptance prior to the meeting.
- After travel is complete, original receipts and credit card statements for proof of payment must be submitted to the Research Manager for reimbursement of funds.
- Funds are for expenses of the student only.
- Students will be permitted a per diem of \$54/day for meals.
- Travel and submission of expenses must occur prior to 6 months post completion of the award period.

### Application Process

Please consult the Application Checklist and ensure that all application materials are included. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Electronic copies of the application need to be received by the deadline indicated above.

## **MSc Vision Science Scholarship**

**Deadline: March 29, 2026**

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### **Eligibility**

Applicants are eligible to apply for only one Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarship per competition.

Within six months of the application deadline, the applicant must be a full-time student at Dalhousie University, registered as a MSc student in an appropriate vision sciences discipline or Clinical Vision Sciences program, and have a faculty supervisor (normally at Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, however, supervisors in other faculties will be considered). The proposed research must be conducted at Dalhousie University.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The Graduate Scholarship will be offered for a period of one year and is competitively renewable for a second year. This award may be combined with a maximum of one other award or scholarship. Continued support for the second year is subject to recommendation by the external review committee based on successful evaluation of progress and funding availability. Renewals will be considered on a competitive basis with new scholarship submissions. It is the responsibility of the student to submit a renewal application, detailed progress report and letter of support by the application deadline. A final report at the end of the funding period is required.

The Graduate Scholarship will commence on September 1, following the application deadline. Under exceptional circumstances, requests for a start date deferral will be considered.

The recipient of the Graduate Scholarship is expected to devote full time to their proposed research activities.

### **Stipend**

A maximum of one MSc Vision Science Scholarship

of \$27,000 per year will be granted with the possibility of competitive renewal for one additional year. Renewals will be considered on a competitive basis with new applications. This award may be combined with a maximum of 1 other award or scholarship. MSc students must maintain registration and good standing in their graduate program to receive full funding. The fund will reimburse the student up to a maximum of \$4,000 per year to cover travel expenses for presenting at scientific meetings. The student must meet the following criteria in order to be reimbursed for travel expenses:

- The student must have an abstract accepted and be the first and presenting author at a recognized national or international meeting
- The student wishing to apply for travel reimbursement will contact the Research Manager with the abstract of the presentation, and notification of abstract acceptance prior to the meeting.
- After travel is complete, original receipts and credit card statements for proof of payment must be submitted to the Research Manager for reimbursement of funds.
- Funds are for expenses of the student only.
- Students will be permitted a per diem of \$54/day for meals.
- Travel and submission of expenses must occur prior to 6 months post completion of the award period.

### **Application Process**

Please consult the Application Checklist and ensure that all application materials are included. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Electronic copies of the application need to be received by the deadline indicated above.

## **Concurrent Masters/Ophthalmology Residency Scholarship**

**Deadline: March 29, 2026**

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### **Eligibility**

Applicants are eligible to apply for only one Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarship per competition.

The applicant must be a full-time Resident in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine and registered as a Masters program student in a recognized institution and have a faculty supervisor (normally at Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, however, supervisors in other faculties will be considered).

### **Terms and Conditions**

The Graduate Scholarship Tuition Funding

Recovery Program will be offered annually for a maximum of 3 years based on a competitive annual renewal application.

### **Stipend**

Tuition recovery funding will be provided to a maximum of \$7,500 per year for a maximum of 3 years. A progress report is expected after each year of funding.

### **Application Process**

Please consult the Application Checklist and ensure that all application materials are included. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Electronic copies of the application need to be received by the deadline indicated above.

## **Undergraduate Studentship**

### **Deadline: March 29, 2026**

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#### **Eligibility**

Applicants are eligible to apply for only one Dr. R. Evatt and Rita Mathers Trainee Scholarship per competition.

Within six months of the application deadline, the applicant must be a full-time student at Dalhousie University registered as an undergraduate program student and have a faculty supervisor (normally at Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, however, supervisors in other faculties will be considered). The proposed research must be conducted at Dalhousie University. Doctor of Medicine students are not eligible to apply for this Studentship.

#### **Terms and Conditions**

The recipient of the Undergraduate Studentship is expected to devote full time to their proposed research activities during the summer months (12 week period).

This award may be combined with a maximum of one other award or scholarship. Start date delays for the Undergraduate Studentship will not be considered.

#### **Stipend**

A maximum of one Undergraduate Studentship of \$8,500 per year will be granted. There are no renewals for this Studentship.

#### **Application Process**

The components of the application are guided by the Application Checklist. Please ensure that all application materials are included as incomplete applications will not be considered. Electronic copies of the application need to be received by the deadline indicated above.

### Application Checklist

Please include a copy of this form with your application.

Applicant's Name:

Supervisor's Name:

#### All applications must include items 1-8:

1. ☐ Application Checklist
2. ☐ Completed Common Application Form
3. ☐ Research Proposal
4. ☐ Lay Summary
5. ☐ Copy of academic transcripts
6. ☐ Letter of support from proposed supervisor submitted directly from the referee to Leah Wood at [ophthalmology.research@dal.ca](mailto:ophthalmology.research@dal.ca).
7. ☐ Applicant CV  
Fellowship Applicants: CIHR Project Biosketch Common CV format  
PhD, Masters, and Undergrad Applicants: 2-page maximum CV
8. ☐ Supervisor CV: CIHR Project Biosketch Common CV format

#### Fellowship applications must also include:

- ☐ Letter from applicant describing their expectations of what will be gained through this training experience and how this training will support and encourage their expected contributions to ongoing research undertaken in the Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University.
- ☐ One additional letter of reference. This must be a confidential letter submitted directly from the referee to Leah Wood electronically at [ophthalmology.research@dal.ca](mailto:ophthalmology.research@dal.ca).

#### Renewal applications must also include:

- ☐ Research Progress Report

#### Electronic Submission

Please include all applicable application items in one PDF document and submit the application to:

[ophthalmology.research@dal.ca](mailto:ophthalmology.research@dal.ca)

\*Please note that electronic signatures will be accepted on all documents

**DR. R. EVATT AND RITA MATHERS TRAINEE SCHOLARSHIPS  
IN OPHTHALMOLOGY & VISUAL SCIENCES  
COMMON APPLICATION FORM**

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**Please indicate the scholarship to which you are submitting an application:**

- ☐ Fellowship
- ☐ PhD Vision Science Faculty of Medicine
- ☐ MSc Vision Science Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Health Professions
- ☐ Concurrent Masters and Ophthalmology Residency
- ☐ Undergraduate

**Is this a RENEWAL application?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Personal Identification:**

Last Name:  
Given Name(s):  
Current Mailing Address:  
Phone Number:  
Email address:

**Citizenship Status**

- ☐ Canadian ☐ Canadian Permanent Resident ☐ International

**Title of Proposed Research** [one line only].

**Location of Proposed Research**

[if not Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, affiliation to it must be clearly explained]

**Supervisor Information**

Name:  
Department:  
Email address:  
Telephone:

**Signatures**

Print Applicant's Name

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Supervisor's Name

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Department Head's Name

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **Application Components Required for All Applications**

(Including Renewal Applications)

### **1. Research Proposal**

The Research Proposal should be developed collaboratively by the applicant and the proposed faculty supervisor. The Research Proposal is a scientific description of the current state of knowledge relating to the research work to be done by the student, including:

- Title of area of research work
- Hypothesis to be tested or series of questions addressed
- Rationale
- Experimental design or methods
- Role of the student/fellow in the research work
- Timeline for the completion of the project

The Research Proposal is to be a maximum of 3 pages, including figures (if applicable). References are not included in the 3-page limit.

#### **Concurrent Masters and Residency in Ophthalmology in a non-thesis based program only:**

In lieu of a research proposal, please provide a maximum of 3 pages outlining your learning objectives for the master's program and how this program will contribute to your personal, educational and professional goals.

### **2. Lay Summary**

Maximum 200 words summarizing in non-scientific terms an abstract summarizing the area of research and a description of why the work is important to furthering the knowledge in the area.

This summary should be written in lay language and may be used by the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine and Dalhousie External Relations in promotional materials and communications. Such information is of significant interest to donors and provides them with a background on the research activities that their financial contributions are supporting or can support in the future.

#### **Concurrent Masters and Residency in Ophthalmology in a non-thesis based program only:**

In lieu of a lay summary, please provide a personal statement (maximum of 200 words) outlining the reasons why you are pursuing this master's program.

### **3. FELLOWSHIP APPLICANTS ONLY: Proposed division of time for research, clinical, and teaching duties. Maximum of 20% non-research.**

### **4. Please specify other scholarships or awards for which you have applied (if applicable).**

## Research Progress Report

(For Renewal Applications Only)

### 1. Research Update

The Research Update should be developed collaboratively by the applicant and the proposed faculty supervisor. Please include the following sections:

- a. **Briefly describe both the research purpose and the underlying need for this research (4-5 sentences):** Include sufficient detail for readers to get acquainted with the project without having to refer to your proposal.
- b. **State your hypothesis(es).**

### 2. List the objective(s) of the research project, as described in your approved Mathers Scholarship Application.

Please list objectives, rather than include them within a paragraph.

### 3. Provide a table showing the timeline and milestones for the entire project.

### 4. Describe progress made since the last Mathers application (1-page maximum)

Please provide a narrative of your activities and accomplishments during this reporting period only, being as clear and concise as possible. Organize this section by the objectives you listed above, using separate paragraphs for each objective. Include samples collected, data analysis completed, any significant equipment purchased, etc.

If no progress was achieved on a particular objective during this reporting period, state why and, if applicable, describe how you plan to address the objective in the future.

### 5. Describe preliminary results (1-page maximum not including tables and figures)

Please describe any preliminary results for this project, including tables and figures where appropriate. If no preliminary results are available, state why (e.g., "The first period of data collection has only recently been completed and data analysis has not yet begun.").

### 6. Describe any concerns you may have about your project's progress (0.5-page maximum)

Indicate if any problems have arisen which have hindered, or may hinder, progress towards accomplishing objectives. Please summarize the problem, tell us how it is being addressed, and describe the impact of the problem on the scientific integrity and timeline of the project.

If no problems were encountered during this reporting period, provide a clear statement to that effect. Accurate descriptions of project concerns, or lack thereof, will be taken into account when considering Mathers Scholarship Renewal Applications.

### 7. Poster and oral presentations at scientific conferences or seminars

Please tell us about any significant scientific presentations related to this project. Please list presentations, rather than include them within a paragraph.

### 8. Future Plans (0.5-page maximum)

Tell us what you expect to do during the next year to move your project towards successful completion.