Department of Pathology Summer Research Studentship Guidelines*

Available Awards

- 2 Summer studentships

Value & Duration

Awards are for a period of 16 weeks (May to August). Stipends will be distributed monthly by the Department of Pathology, for an overall total minimum value of $9,000; where the Department will contribute $7000 and the supervising laboratory will provide $2000.

Objective

The Department of Pathology Summer Research Studentship (P-SRS) is intended to stimulate student interest in fundamental medical research and encourage the pursuit of graduate studies and/or careers in pathology and medicine. Awardees will receive financial support to conduct research under the guidance of a Department of Pathology faculty member, with preference for joint and primary appointed faculty.

Student eligibility (all awards)

- Registered (at the time you apply) as a full-time undergraduate student in a science program
- Available for full-time employment in scientific research activities for 16 continuous weeks during tenure of the award, i.e. May to August.
- Students will not be funded to work in the same research lab for more than 2 work terms
- Students will not be funded for more than two P-SRS awards, preference will be for students who have not held a previous P-SRS.

Host laboratory eligibility

- The supervisor must hold an active research grant (tri-council or other) through Dalhousie, the IWK Health Centre, or Nova Scotia Health to supervise students with a research award.
- Primary supervisor must have a primary appointment or joint appointment in the Department of Pathology. If applicable, co-supervisors can be from any Department at Dalhousie University or may hold a position at either the IWK Health Centre or Nova Scotia Health.

Application procedure (Dalhousie Students)

1. Submit your application as a single PDF package with the name of your potential supervisor(s) by the application deadline of March 1st of the year of the competition.

Application procedure (Non-Dalhousie Students)

1. Find a potential faculty supervisor (e.g. visit the Department of Pathology Faculty Website, see: https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/department-sites/pathology/our-people/our-faculty.html).
2. Complete the Department of Pathology Summer Research Studentship (P-SRS) Application Package, which should include:
   A) Application Package, collecting the following information
      i. project title
      ii. your preferred choice for supervisor
      iii. a description of your academic achievements (awards, other studentships or bursaries) and your contributions to research, e.g. any previous research experiences, conference abstracts, presentations and publications (if applicable).
      iv. a description of your future career goals, your relevant training/education and research experiences.
   B) a copy of your unofficial transcript(s)
   C) a research proposal: (MAXIMUM two page) (*12 pt Times Roman Text, 0.75 inch / 2 cm margins all around*) description of the research project. This description should include: 1) Background, 2) Research questions and hypothesis, 3) Specific Aims of the Research, 4) Experimental detail, including experiments, statistical tests/analyses, timeline and applicant's role in the research, 5) Expected outcomes and impact of the project.
   D) one academic reference letter, describing academic achievements/record as compared to other students of similar career stage (e.g. from a course coordinator or lecturer).
   E) a letter of support from the proposed supervisor, describing skills to be acquired, reiteration of the student's role in the research, as well as source of funding and other resources (lab space, collaborations, staff/trainees contributing to mentorship/training) that support the candidate during their summer research.
   F) Supervisor's curriculum vitae, (CIHR Bio sketch preferred)

Submit your application to the Department of Pathology, C/O Sripriya Panjalingam, Pathology Admin Coordinator (pathgrad@dal.ca) by the application deadline of March 1st of the year of the competition.

Selection Criteria (For Committee deliberations)

The following three selection criteria will be considered:

- academic excellence
- research potential and quality of the proposed research plan
- expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received

The criteria are assessed as follows:

Academic Excellence
Academic excellence will be based on the cumulative GPA achieved in science lecture courses during full-time equivalent study, Dean's List inclusion, academic competitive studentship/scholarships and bursaries, and the academic reference letter.

Research Potential and Quality of the Research Plan:
Research potential of a student varies depending on how well the student's research interests and skills match the lab. Therefore, research potential will be evaluated based on evaluations by the potential supervisor and/or academic reference in their support letter, as well as research outputs (abstracts, presentations and publications) and previous recognitions of research outputs in the form of research studentships and awards (e.g. best poster, best abstract, journal covers etc.). In addition, assessment on research potential can incorporate evaluation criteria as described for Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) CGS-M scholarships:

- quality and originality of contributions to research and development
- relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research
- judgment and ability to think critically
- ability to apply skills and knowledge
- initiative and autonomy
- research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with their academic experience

Expected Quality of the Training and Mentorship to be Received
Research projects are to meet the following criteria:

- the research is in the field of medical research and preferably is supported by peer-review funding
- the supervisor has clearly articulated skills to be acquired, and student's role in the research is clear.
- the student's research has potential to contribute directly to academic publication, conference abstract, or presentation that will directly acknowledge the student's contribution through co-authorship.

All projects that meet these criteria are equally considered to provide high quality mentorship and training.

EDIA Considerations. In alignment with CIHR and NSERC policy, equity-deserving status will not be a scoring criterion in consideration of P-SRSs. However, candidates will be given the opportunity to self-identify as a member of an Equity-Deserving Group* as a data gathering exercise to determine the diversity of our applicant pool. Should a bias in the applicant pool be identified, EDIA status of under-represented

groups who have self-identified will be considered in future competitions when evaluating equally qualified candidates for awards.

*Dalhousie University EDIA definitions: https://www.dal.ca/dept/hr/employment_equity/definitions-equity-deserving-groups.html

See Appended Scoring Matrix.

P-SRS Scoring Matrix Basic Research		
Criteria	**Score**	**Comments**
Academic Excellence		
Academic Performance (GPA)	out of 7	
*(**4** = GPA < 3.7; **5** = GPA >3.7<3.9; **7** = GPA 4.0 or greater)*		
Scholarship and Awards	out of 3	
*(**0** = absent; **2-3** = depending on # of awards or scholarships)*		
Subtotal (out of 10)	0	
Research Potential and Quality of the Research Plan		
Previous Research Experience	out of 2	
(0 = absent; 2 = if there is previous experience)		
Publications, Abstracts and Presentations	out of 3	
(0 = absent; 1-3 = depending on number and quality)		

Proposal Background and Experimental detail *(0= lack of detail 3= some detail; 5= complete description of design)*	out of 5	
Specific Aims and Hypothesis *(0= no aims or hypothesis; 3= some detail; 5= clearly defined)*	out of 5	
Subtotal (out of 15)	0	
Expected Quality of the Training and Mentorship to be Received		
Supervisor (CV) *(0= no detail on previous supervision and past research outputs; 2= Evidence of supervision but poor research output; 3= strong evidence of both supervision and research output)*	out of 3	
Funding *(0= no details of funding; 2= non-peer reviewed funding; 4= peer-reviewed funding)*	out of 4	
Applicant role *(0= not defined; 3 = role is defined but minimal role in project; 5 = involvement in multiple stages of project including presenting data)*	out of 5	
Expected output	out of 3	

(0= project is purely technical and data do not lead to abstract or publication; 3= clearly articulated path to an abstract/publication with student as middle author presentation)		
Subtotal (out of 15)	0	
Total Score (max =40)	0	