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Dalhousie University and Mitacs working together to foster growth and innovation

A longstanding partnership between Dalhousie University and Mitacs is helping to develop the next generation of researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders.

Mitacs is a not-for-profit organization that fosters growth and innovation in Canada by solving business challenges with research solutions from the best academic institutions at home and around the world. Working with 60 countries, 4,000 companies, and both federal and provincial governments, they build partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

Through a suite of programs, including [Globalink Research Awards](#), [Elevate](#), [Accelerate](#), and [Step](#), collaborations between industry, academia and government in Canada are able to be advanced, and international research networks between Canadian universities and the world are further developed.

Spotlight on programming: Globalink Research Awards and Accelerate

Globalink Research Awards: Unique opportunities for international collaboration

In the fall of 2019, Dalhousie and Mitacs signed an agreement to provide students with a unique opportunity for international collaboration.

For the period 2019-2022, the [Mitacs Globalink Research Awards](#) is providing \$6000 for 150 senior undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows (in any discipline) in Canada to conduct 12-24 week research projects at universities overseas. An opportunity is also available for 150 senior undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows from eligible countries to come and study at Dalhousie.

The funding provided by Mitacs covers research costs, student stipends, and travel/living expenses. Incoming and outgoing applicants must secure a Dalhousie faculty member as their home/host supervisor prior to applying.

Participating countries at time of writing include: Brazil, China, European Union (France, Germany, United Kingdom, Wallonie-Bruxelles), India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Singapore, Taiwan, Tunisia, and the United States.

Accelerate: Applying specialized expertise to business challenges

Accelerate connects companies with over 50 research-based universities in Canada through graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, who apply their specialized expertise to business challenges. Interns transfer their skills from theory to real-world application, while the companies gain a competitive advantage by accessing high-quality research expertise.

Marciel Gaier, the Chief Technology Officer of Graphite Innovation and Technologies Inc. and a Dalhousie alumnus (Faculty of Engineering), has firsthand experience on what this program is able to offer.

"With the support of Mitacs and Graphite Innovation and Technologies Inc., I have achieved success in creating a product that helps protect oceans and reduce the use of environmentally harmful materials. Not only that, but I was also able to expand and grow my business to a higher scale," says Gaier.

Facilitating relationships and building collaborative research projects:

Dalhousie has a dedicated staff member who helps make all of this possible. Kathleen Mifflin works alongside both the [Industry Liaison and Innovation team](#), and other Mitacs Business Development Specialists to facilitate relationships and build collaborative research projects between academia and industry/not-for-profits.

Kathleen also helps Dalhousie students and post-doctoral fellows access non-competitive funding for their research, and build their networks for their careers beyond graduation. Because the research projects are carried out in a collaborative manner between an industry partner and a student or post-doctoral fellow, benefits go beyond the academic context, and promote the kind of innovation that grows economies and job opportunities.

Any Dalhousie faculty member interested in learning more about Mitacs is asked to contact Kathleen Mifflin (mitacs@dal.ca).

Research Support Fund

At Dalhousie, the Research Support Fund (RSF) and Incremental Project Grant (IPG), which is a new stream of the RSF, help support the ongoing partnership between Dalhousie and Mitacs. Established in 2003, the RSF (formerly the Indirect Costs Program) helps Canadian universities and colleges, along with their affiliated health research institutes and research hospitals, with the indirect costs associated with federally-funded research.

In 2019-20, the RSF/IPG is providing \$9,335,818 to support the indirect costs of research at Dalhousie and affiliate hospitals.