



Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network

Call for 2021 ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship Program

Background

The Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network is a national research network funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Our mandate is focused on *initiating, supporting, and sustaining innovative and collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) research in Canada*. The network is committed to a patient-centred research program from discovery to implementation science, with the ultimate goal of finding the cause(s) and possible treatments for ME, thereby reducing the impact of ME on the health of Canadians.

The ICanCME Research Network is announcing a call for applications for **ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarships**.

Objective

The purpose of the **ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship Program** is to support the work of promising graduate students who are conducting Myalgic Encephalomyelitis research as part of their masters or doctoral research project.

Funds Available and Duration

Five (5) scholarships of up to a **maximum of \$20,000 per award** are available to support graduate students to pursue their program of study at the MSc or PhD level. Awards **must** be co-funded with a requirement of 1:1 matched funds from the academic supervisor.

The award is for 24 months and is non-renewable.

- **Start Date:** September 1, 2021
- **End Date:** August 31, 2023.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, the applicant must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or a holder of a student visa.
- Be a full-time MSc or PhD student registered at a recognized Canadian university in September 2021.
- Be a full-time student at the master's or doctoral level and undertaking studies that includes research that leads to the completion of a dissertation or scholarly publication.
- Respect the internal deadline to apply for admission to their intended program of study. Contact the Faculty of Graduate Studies (or its equivalent) at the selected Canadian institution(s) for more detailed information.



- Not have previously been awarded an ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship.
- Arrange for their academic supervisor to provide a letter (1) demonstrating his/her capacity to provide guidance and resources and (2) confirming the mandatory matching funds for a duration of two years.
- Identify, with the help of the applicant's supervisor, a mentor from another institution (a letter from this mentor is requested to complete the application package). It is also mandatory that this mentor is, or will become, a member of the ICanCME Research Network.
- Arrange for **two** referees familiar with the applicant to each provide a reference letter describing the applicant's qualities, scientific curiosity, autonomy, research aptitudes, and communication skills.
- Applicants receiving an external bursary or scholarship from a granting agency (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, etc.) or from a foundation are NOT ELIGIBLE if the value of the graduate funding from external sources exceeds \$20,000 annually.
- Applicants receiving an external bursary or scholarship from a granting agency or a foundation less than \$20,000 annually are eligible to apply for a ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship. The scholarship award will complement external graduate funds allowing awardees to receive up to \$20,000 annually. If the scholarship award is less than \$10,000, then the requirement for matching funds from the academic supervisor will be waived.

How to Apply

Applicants are expected to complete the application form (Font 12 pt, margins 2 cm) and submit the following documents:

- Application form
- Attachments: (1) Outline of Proposed Research and (2) Bibliography)
- Transcript from all courses completed at the time of application
- Verification/confirmation of enrolment*
- Curriculum Vitae

* Verification/confirmation of enrolment is not required by the submission deadline date of the application.

The applicant is to ensure that letters of support are submitted directly by:

- Academic supervisor (n=1)
- Designated mentor (n=1) confirming his/her role
- Referees (n=2)

Application Deadline: Applications are to be submitted by email to the National Network Coordinator, Iona Worden-Driscoll (info@icancme.ca), by no later than **11: 59 pm Atlantic Daylight Time, Wednesday, June 15th, 2021**. The letters of support are to be sent directly to info@icancme.ca by no later than **11: 59 pm Atlantic Daylight Time, Wednesday, June 15th, 2021**.

Application Instructions: Please indicate the applicant's last name and type of application in the email subject line (e.g., LastName_SoT_Scholarship). Applicants may submit the application and required documents in either English or French.



The ICanCME Research Network recommends consulting with your academic supervisor to complete this application.

Application Form – ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship Program

Applicant Information	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
Institution:	Program/Degree:
Year of study:	
How did you hear about the ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship program?	
Primary Academic Supervisor Information (mandatory)	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
	Institution:
Faculty/Department:	Position:
Secondary Academic Supervisor Information (if applicable)	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
	Institution:
Faculty/Department:	Position:
Mentor Information (mandatory)	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
	Institution:
Faculty/Department:	Position:

Application Title

The title should describe the research to be carried out during your training. It should not contain a company or trade name. Spell out scientific symbols and acronyms.

Field of Research

Please provide 5 to 10 keywords describing your research project, experimental design and/or methodology.

Sex and Gender Considerations (maximum of 500 characters including spaces)

Please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal or explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research projects.

Start Date of Program of Study

Indicate the date you enrolled in the program for which you are seeking support.

Host Institution

Indicate the institution at which you intend to hold the ME Stars of Tomorrow scholarship.

Mentorship (maximum of 300 characters including spaces)

Provide details on why your mentor has been selected as well as a mentorship plan describing the nature and type of interactions.

Research Summary (maximum of 750 characters including spaces)

Provide a brief summary of your current or proposed Myalgic Encephalomyelitis research in language that the public can understand. This plain-language summary may be made available to the public if your application is successful.

Outline of Proposed Research (Attachment - Maximum of one page; font 12 pt; margins 2 cm)

Provide an outline of proposed research and include a detailed description of the proposed research project for the period during which the applicant will hold the award. Be as specific as possible. Provide background information to position the research within the context of current knowledge in the field. State the objectives and hypothesis, and outline the experimental or theoretical approach to be taken (citing literature pertinent to the proposal), and the methods and procedures to be used. State the significance of the research to the field of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis science.

If the applicant has not yet decided on a specific project, then still provide a detailed description of a proposed research project. The applicant may change research direction or activities during the course of the award.

Bibliography and citations (Attachment - Maximum of one page; font 12 pt; margins 2 cm)

Provide a bibliography that includes citations for all works referenced in the research proposal. These citations should be in a format used by the primary discipline of the proposed research. The applicant must ensure that all citations are clear and complete, to allow reviewers to easily locate the sources.

Funding from Other Sources

Have you applied for graduate funding from other sources? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following table:

Funding opportunity <i>For each funding opportunity applied to, please identify the name of the competition below.</i>	Amount <i>Please note the value of the opportunity.</i>	Status of the submission <i>Please check the applicable box.</i>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>



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Expectations of Successful Applicants

- Successful applicants and their academic supervisor(s) will be notified in July 2021. Successful applicants must confirm acceptance of the award within one week of receiving notice.
- The recipients of the scholarship will be entitled to use the term "ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholar" to indicate the successful awarding of the scholarship.
- As needed, funds will be transferred, in two equal annual instalments, to the successful applicant's host institution via their academic supervisor. Awardees will be required to submit a progress report prior to the release of the second instalment. The academic supervisor will arrange for the award of the external scholarship through the host institution's faculty of graduate studies (or equivalent) in the form of a monthly stipend amount for the duration of the scholarship funding.
- Applicants and award holders must comply with the policies and guidelines set out in the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) and in any other documents related to scholarship applications and awards.
- Awardees, academic supervisors, and mentors will become a part of the ICanCME Research Network and be invited to participate in additional activities.

Awardees agree to:

- Participate in evaluative activities of the ICanCME Research Network.
- Acknowledge the ICanCME Research Network and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in project-related outputs, including but not limited to: publications, presentations, and creative outputs. For example, "[Your name] is supported by the ICanCME Research Network."
- Submit a progress report (maximum 1 page) by August 31, 2022 and a summary report (maximum 4 pages) within two months of the end of the two-year term of funding. The reports will describe the master's or doctoral project undertaken throughout the degree program, outcomes, knowledge-sharing activities, and a list of complete and forthcoming project deliverables (e.g., theses, peer-reviewed publications, community reports, etc.). The reports will be posted on the ICanCME Research Network website.

Signature

All details in this application are true and are as accurate as possible. I accept the terms and conditions applied to any award received through this application.

Applicant name:
Signature:
Date:

Contact: Questions regarding this call may be directed to,
Ms. Iona Worden-Driscoll, National Network Coordinator
Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Research
Network
email: info@icancme.ca