

McCaig Summer Studentship Award

Terms of Reference

Policies regarding the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health Summer Studentship Awards funded by the McCaig Education Committee of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary.

Updated January 2024

1. Overview

The McCaig Summer Studentship Award is a result of an initiative by the McCaig Education Committee.

2. Purpose of the Award

This competitive internal award is intended to provide stipend support to one (1) undergraduate student pursuing a summer research position, encouraging trainees to explore research as a potential field of study.

3. Eligibility

- a. To be eligible for an McCaig Summer Studentship, candidates must be supervised by a full member of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health whose research falls within the mandate of the McCaig Institute.
- b. The student applicant must also meet one of the following criteria:
 - registered in a University of Calgary undergraduate degree program in a medical or health-related field;
 - registered in an undergraduate degree program outside the University of Calgary, and desiring to engage in research during the summer at the University of Calgary; .have completed or are currently in the last term of their undergraduate degree and have applied or will apply either to medical school or to a graduate program commencing in the coming fall.
- c. McCaig Summer Studentship funding is not available to medical students who have already begun their medical training.
- d. Applicants may have more than one supervisor/or research project for their summer studentship. In this case, applicants are required to provide the McCaig Institute with descriptions of all projects the student will be involved in.

4. Financial Support

- a. The McCaig Summer Studentship Award provides a monthly stipend of \$1,875 for a total of \$7,500.
- b. The term of support is for up to 16 weeks.
- c. Payments are made monthly and will be prorated based on the student's term.
- d. In the instance where an awardee is successful in obtaining a major award (e.g., AIHS, NSERC), an internal award (e.g. PURE, USRP) or a combination of several awards that are greater than or equal to the McCaig Summer Studentship Award stipend level, the trainee is expected to decline the McCaig Summer Studentship Award, unless approved by the McCaig Education Committee as an exception.
- e. The McCaig Summer Studentship Award may only be used for salary support and not for travel, relocation or other purposes. Health benefits are not part of the award and are not provided by the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health.

5. Procedures

- a. The McCaig Summer Studentship Award will be administered annually to fund one (1) applicant.
- b. The research that is being supported must be compatible with the strategic plan of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health.
- c. Application Submission Deadlines: The selection and notification of successful applicant will be accomplished within one month of the application deadline. Applications are made through the University of Calgary's centralized summer studentship system.
- d. Term of Support: The successful applicant to the McCaig Summer Studentship Award will be provided with support for a up to 16-week term (4 months). Research must commence no later than in the month of May.
- e. Evaluation Criteria: In selecting the awardee, the McCaig Summer Studentship Review Committee will use the following evaluation criteria:
 - Academic excellence of the candidate
 - Including, but not limited to, GPA, productivity and letters of reference
 - Significance, impact and quality of the project
 - Project fits with the goals and scope of the McCaig Institute
 - Approach (approaches and methods appropriate to deliver the proposed outputs and achieve proposed contribution(s), identification of challenges and appropriate mitigation strategies, appropriate timelines)
 - Well defined outcomes
 - Supervisor's research and training environment
 - Publications, grant support, number of trainees supervised, etc.
 - Resources available

- Evidence of other applications
 - Trainees who have applied to other awards will be looked upon favourably

In selecting an awardee, the Review Committee should place considerable emphasis on the quality of the applicant and the collaborative nature and quality of the research project. The description of the team's research project is one of the main criteria for evaluating an application. Research proposals that are **feasible, focused** and identify well-defined **outcomes** will be strongly considered. The Review Committee will have discretion to balance the type of research projects that are funded (i.e., discovery phase, based on preliminary data, etc.).

6. Obligations of Award Holders

Awardees agree to certain obligations that include, but are not limited to:

- Advising the McCaig Institute of additional awards received during the term of the McCaig Summer Studentship;
- Presenting in presentation or poster format at the McCaig Institute Summer Student Research Symposium;
- Attendance at the Summer Student Research Symposium day with the award sponsor;
- Submission of a final report outlining the research project and outcomes in layman terms to the McCaig Education Committee;
- Timely submission of reports and other documentation, as required;
- Acknowledgement of the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health in publications, presentations, communications and marketing materials associated with the supported research project;
- Provision of biographical sketches to be used for reporting and publicity purposes upon request.