

CCS Research Training Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

ELIGIBILITY:

- 1. If I am in the last year or last two years of my (Master's / Doctoral) program, am I eligible? Can I still apply if I am halfway through (1-2 years into) my current program? I am in Year 1 / Year 2 / Year 3 / Year 4 of my program, am I still eligible?***

If you are enrolled in an eligible Canadian institution in a program, you are eligible, regardless of what year of the program you are in. CCS and its partners are looking to prioritize funding the majority of an applicant's training, but you are still eligible to apply if you are enrolled in a program. There is no numerical penalty assigned to senior students or shorter stipends. Review decisions are complex, and reviewers take many factors into consideration – see the rating scales on our website.

- 2. I am transitioning or fast-tracking to a PhD program. Which award should I apply for?***

Please apply for the award level in which you will be enrolled when the award starts. For instance, apply for the PhD award if you will be in a PhD program in September 2023. You must also have proof of conditional acceptance into the program by the time the panels convene (late June).

- 3. I hold, or used to hold, another award (such as a Vanier or CIHR CGS-D). Am I eligible?***

If you currently hold another award that is equal to 40% or more of the Research Training Award (such as CIHR or Vanier), you are ineligible for the Research Training Award. If you have held an award previously but do not hold one now, you are eligible.

- 4. Are international students eligible?***

Not for this round, no. This round of Research Training Awards were co-developed by Black, Indigenous, racialized and white trainees, researchers, patients and caregivers and during award creation the focus was on removing barriers for some of these groups. Eligibility is also limited due to administrative capacity, to give every application a full and complete review. We anticipate this Award will recur, and other groups may be eligible in future rounds of the award.

- 5. I hold a work permit as an international Postdoctoral fellow. Am I eligible?***

If you are an international student, you are not eligible to apply for this award at this time. Please see the answer to #4 above.

RESEARCH:

- 1. Is my research relevant?***

We recognize that health and wellness are broad concepts and that cancer is interrelated to many aspects of health and healthcare. We also recognize and honour Indigenous ways of knowing and the

great benefits of diverse thinking. We support cancer-related research broadly - the ultimate goal of the research should look to benefit the cancer ecosystem; but this can be inclusive of many different areas of research, such as health equity, Indigenous health, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and quality of life after cancer treatment. If you are unsure if your research may qualify as cancer-related for this competition, please ask us.

2. *I work in basic science / biomedical research. Is patient engagement relevant for my application?*

Yes. Research shows that all areas of science, including basic biomedical science, benefit from engagement of stakeholders – patients, caregivers, other people with lived experience, or people affected by the research. CCS requires or recommends the meaningful engagement of patients or other stakeholders in all of our funding opportunities. Please [see our website](#) for resources on engaging patients and stakeholders.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

1. *Can a statement of support be provided by a healthcare professional / professor / government member?*

No. Academic, research, and clinical communities are not eligible. Community refers to the group of people that you may identify with and share beliefs, characteristics, or other attributes with. Community is strongly recognized in some cultures such as Indigenous, Black, and other ethnicities/races. Note that not all applicants will have strong ties to community. If you do not identify with community, consider a statement of support from someone with lived experience.

2. *How do I pick the best community member /patient / caregiver for my statement of support?*

Only you can answer that. You know who can best speak to your connection to community (if applicable) and your potential impact in cancer research. Remember that this is not an academic reference. This is an opportunity for someone outside of academia to describe you, as a person, and your potential. Who can describe the great potential that you have?

3. *Can the statement of support from a community member come from community volunteering, such as at a local church, or does it have to be cancer-related?*

Yes, the statement can come from someone connected to community service and not cancer related. See above for more on the definition of community for this award.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

1. *I'm a postdoctoral fellow and work independently. Does a mentorship plan still apply?*

Yes – scientific progress overall is collaborative, and doing science alone, in a vacuum, limits our ability to find solutions to problems or apply the creativity that collaboration brings. Everyone needs to develop skills and gain exposure to knowledge in multiple areas. This may include various areas of science, business, entrepreneurship, soft skills, cultural or lived experience. We urge you to think about

the many ways you may benefit from mentorship in these and other areas, and to design your mentorship plan (as mentee) accordingly.

2. *What counts as cross-disciplinary (enough) training?*

We encourage a broad definition of training- something outside of your immediate area of cancer research. Consider health sciences, social sciences, data science, natural sciences, engineering, and other areas of training or learning. What would support your growth and innovation? Be creative in the training opportunity: trainee exchanges, co-supervision of trainees, internships, reciprocal laboratory visits, workshops, courses, webinars, community-based or collaborative learning, and other innovative ways to train and learn are encouraged.

GENERAL:

1. *What else can you tell me about the Research Training Awards?*

Please [read the RFA](#).

2. *Who receives the award – the supervisor or the student?*

The award is to be made to the trainee – it is the trainee who applies and receives the award.

3. *How many (Master's / PhD / Postdoctoral Fellow) Awards are being given?*

We have elected not to publish a number, because the number of awards that we are able to fund has been increasing as funding becomes available from CCS and partners. We will elect to balance awards across levels and fund the maximum allowable by the funding envelope. The current funding envelope is approximately \$5M.

4. *Can I defer my award if I go on parental leave?*

Yes. Please see our [parental leave policy here](#).

5. *Will there be another round of Research Training Awards next year / later?*

Yes. We anticipate that Research Training Awards will be recurring, and we intend to learn from each round. Future rounds may have different requirements or eligibility. Future rounds are subject to available funding.