

# 2024 Undergraduate Summer Studentship Awards Call for Applications

## Background

The Emergency Strategic Clinical Network Summer Studentship Award (ESCN-SSA) is designed to foster research interest in emergency medicine and related disciplines among students at the undergraduate level of study. It is the ESCN goal that this experience will stimulate an interest in acute care research or clinical practice in emergency medicine (i.e., nurse, physician, EMS, allied health professional) and related disciplines (e.g., public health, social sciences, etc.). The award offers \$8000 per student over 4 months between May and August 2024 (\$2000 per month).

This Summer Studentship Award competition will serve to build research capacity within various domains of emergency medicine (e.g., medicine, nursing, pediatric emergency medicine, health services delivery, social determinants of health, disaster planning, allied health professionals). Through the results of the proposed research projects conducted by the students, this competition will advance priorities of relevance to the ESCN mandate, particularly those related to the ESCN [Transformational Roadmap](#) or emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative will also improve the quality of emergency medicine care delivery within the Health Quality Council of Alberta's six domains of quality: appropriateness, accessibility, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, and acceptability. The ESCN Studentship Award is further intended to support equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in research by supporting consideration of EDI in all research projects, and supporting high quality research on EDI.

## Eligibility

- Studentship applicants must be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in an undergraduate program at an approved post-secondary academic institution;
- The area of proposed research must be related to emergency medicine;
- Candidates must be supervised or co-supervised by a faculty member at one of Alberta's academic institutions;
- Holders of other full-time, major studentship awards (e.g. CIHR, NSERC, etc.) are ineligible for ESCN Studentship awards;
- Each supervisor may have a maximum of two summer students sponsored by the competition. If there are sufficient applications, the number of awards will be limited to 1 per supervisor, and priority will be given to the highest rated applicant.
- Students previously funded by the ESCN summer studentship competition will not be eligible.



## Distinguishing Research from Quality Improvement:

Research is “an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation” (Tri-Council Panel on Research Ethics, 2014).

“Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, and performance reviews, or testing within normal educational requirements **when used exclusively for assessment, management or improvement purposes**, do not constitute research” (Tri-Council Panel on Research Ethics, 2014 – emphasis added).

Only research projects are eligible for funding through the ESCN Summer Studentship Program.

Panel on Research Ethics. (2014). Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Government of Canada.

## Relevant Topic Areas

Any proposed clinical, health services or population health research questions that have relevance to the ESCN, including those related to the ESCN Transformational Roadmap or emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, will be eligible. However, projects related to CIHR Pillar 1 (basic science) will not be considered.

## Funding

Each award will provide funding in the amount of \$2000/month for a maximum of 4 months (May – August 2024). The maximum amount of a single award is \$8000. The maximum amount of funds available for this competition is \$32,000 (4 summer studentship awards). Awards are non-renewable.

## Reporting

The ESCN-SSA awardees must submit an interim progress report to the ESCN Scientific Office describing the progress that was made during the first two months of the studentship training (or to the midpoint of the research training period if the length of the proposed studentship is less than 4 months).

Students will submit a final progress report by Sept 31, 2024. The final report will provide a summary of the research activities accomplished during the summer for the proposed research project(s).

## Knowledge Dissemination

Synopses of the research studies conducted by the award recipients will be shared with the ESCN Core Committee and may be published both in ESCN newsletters and on the ESCN website. Students are encouraged to publish their research results in relevant peer-reviewed journals.

## Timelines

**Oct 2023** - Call for ESCN Undergraduate Summer Studentship Applications

**Jan 31, 2024** - Applications Due

**May 1, 2024** - Award Start

## Program Policies

1. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
2. Any unused funds at the end of the award term must be returned to the ESCN Scientific Office for use towards future studentship research funding opportunities.
3. Failure to submit a final report will disqualify the applicant and supervisor from future ESCN funding.
4. Important changes to the proposed study are permitted due to HREB and recruitment delays; however, they must be reported to the ESCN Scientific Office in a timely fashion.
5. The funding must be used for student salary and may not be used to fund the research project/program.
6. Students must be actively engaged in the research as full-time summer students. They cannot be attending school or employed in another full-time position at the same time they receive the ESCN summer studentship award.
7. Awardees are required to notify the Scientific Office of the ESCN about any publications or presentations derived from the work supported by the ESCN summer studentship award.
8. Supervisors of students proposing to work with administrative data must have obtained the data prior to the student beginning their summer studentship.
9. It is expected that ESCN summer studentship awardees include the following statement under the Acknowledgements section of any publications:

“Research reported in this publication was supported by the Alberta Health Services Emergency Strategic Clinical Network (ESCN). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the ESCN Scientific Office or Alberta Health Services”.

## Commitment To Equity, Diversity, And Inclusion

The degree to which proposed projects promote Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will be considered in evaluation of all research project applications.

The following definitions are drawn from the Government of Canada: Canada Research Coordinating Committee. 2020. Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research. <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/edi-eng.aspx#6> Accessed October 2022.

“Equity is defined as the removal of systemic barriers and biases enabling all individuals to have equal opportunity to access and benefit from the program.

To achieve this, all individuals who participate in the research ecosystem must develop a strong understanding of the systemic barriers faced by individuals from underrepresented groups (e.g., women, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, racialized minorities, individuals from the LGBTQ2+ community) and put in place impactful measures to address these barriers.

Diversity is defined as differences in race, colour, place of origin, religion, immigrant and newcomer status, ethnic origin, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and age.

A diversity of perspectives and lived experiences is fundamental to achieving research and training excellence.

Inclusion is defined as the practice of ensuring that all individuals are valued and respected for their contributions and are equally supported.”

Ensuring that equity, inclusion and diversity are integrated into all aspects of research is fundamental to achieving research and training excellence.”

## Evaluation of Applications

A panel of reviewers who have no conflict of interest, and are qualified to review, will independently review each application and score them according to the following assessment criteria:

1. The quality of the research proposal;
2. Importance of the research question (i.e. Distinctive contribution to, and likely impact on, emergency care);
3. Consideration of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
4. Feasibility of the project.
5. The quality of the research environment, supervisory arrangements, likely quality of training programme(s) and student’s preparation for academic research.
6. Student academic record.

A total score (maximum of 30) per applicant will be calculated using the rubric below.

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Should a large volume of applications be received, each application may be reviewed by only a subset of the review panel (minimum of two reviewers). In this case, overall scores will be compared and discussed with the involvement of a third reviewer.

### Review Rubric

APPLICANT NAME:

REVIEWER:

CRITERIA	Sub Score
<b>Scientific Quality of Proposal</b>	
Links to existing literature in the field, strength of basis in theory, consideration of a broad range of possible outcomes, suitability of methods to answering the research question(s).	/5
<b>Importance of Research Question</b>	
Importance of the question for advancing knowledge with the potential to positively impact emergency care (important questions that are not relevant to emergency medicine should be scored as 0).	/5
<b>Feasibility</b>	
Feasibility and timeline of proposed project.	/5
<b>Academic Record of Applicant</b>	
Publications, awards/prizes, and academic experience (e.g. methods training, research assistantships, participation in conferences and academic workshops).	/5
<b>Training Environment</b>	
Quality of the institution for research, training and career development. Scientific/supervisory track record of the supervisor.	/5
<b>Consideration of Equity and Diversity within Research Proposal</b>	
The proposed research question and study design includes appropriate consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion.	/5
<b>Overall Score</b>	/30

Scoring: 5 = Exceptional, 4 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 2 = Fair, 1 = Poor, 0 = Not Fundable. A score of 0 in

any category is a recommendation to remove the application from the competition.

### How to apply for funding

- Complete the [application](#)
- Complete this [student CV and Supervisor CV](#)

Application must be sent electronically as a single PDF to the ESCN at [emergency.scn@ahs.ca](mailto:emergency.scn@ahs.ca) no later than Jan 31, 2024. Please indicate "2024 ESCN Studentship Application –Student Last Name" in your email subject line.

**Applications not submitted as a single PDF will be returned for resubmission.**

For more information contact:

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