

2025 CAMH Graduate Award

Background

The CAMH Graduate Award is dedicated towards finding innovative solutions to major challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness. The CAMH Graduate Award reflects an investment in graduate trainees: highly qualified personnel working towards clinical discovery are vital for the innovation and growth of mental health research in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. The objective of this competition is to provide graduate trainees with a comprehensive training program in the fields of mental health and/or substance use health, with practical training in research techniques.

This program is open to applicants who are completing a full-time Masters or PhD program. Applicants can be external or internal to CAMH.

Award Guidelines

The CAMH Graduate Award will provide stipend support for graduate trainees at CAMH, who are completing graduate level research and training in mental health and/or substance use health, with practical training in research techniques. Research trainees are expected to make independent contributions to knowledge during their award. These may be in the form of a contribution to an existing project, or through the development of an original project. Projects will be assessed and awarded under the research themes below:

1. Basic and pre-clinical neuroscience
2. Brain and/or behavior interventions (including technology-based interventions)
3. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
4. Community-based research
5. Health policy or health services research
6. Implementation science
7. Social and epidemiological research
8. Translation of clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatment) into clinical treatment

Current Graduate Award Opportunities

1-year Masters Awards of \$27,500 and 1-year Doctoral Awards of \$40,000 are available across two funding streams (conditional on availability of funds) with specific eligibility criteria. Please see below and Appendix A for descriptions of each funding stream.

- **BRIDGES (Building Research and Innovation through Diversity, Growth, Equity and Sustainability) Graduate Award:** This award is open to trainees who self-identify as Black, First Nations, Métis and Inuit, or from other racialized groups. CAMH is dedicated to fostering a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment for trainees.
- **Koerner Graduate Award:** This award is open to all eligible applicants, but a minimum number are dedicated to an applicant who self-identifies as member from underrepresented groups: First Nations, Inuit and Métis; racialized persons, women, 2SLGBTQ+, and/or persons with disabilities, in alignment with CAMH, Government of Canada, and Tri-Agency priorities to address systemic racism, sexism, and discrimination in Canadian institutions through an intersectional lens, tackle systemic barriers that limit the full participation of all talented individuals, and increase equitable and inclusive participation in the research system. It reflects the commitment of CAMH to foster a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment for trainees.

Supervisors are responsible for checking the academic institution's requirements for graduate student funding to ensure compliance with all applicable rules (e.g., base amounts and top-up policies).

Applications will be evaluated by a team of independent researchers, based on CIHR standards of excellence. The final selection of awards will be made by the separate committees overseeing each funding stream.

Eligibility Criteria

- This award is intended to support candidates who are seeking **full-time** graduate studies under the primary supervision of a CAMH Scientist.
- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Associate Scientist, Staff Scientist, Senior Staff Scientist, Scientist, or Senior Scientist. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the [CAMH staff directory](#). Please contact internal.funding@camh.ca to clarify eligibility if your potential supervisor's scientific appointment type is not listed here.
- There is no limit to the number of applicants per supervisor applying for any CAMH Graduate Award. However, **only one award may be held under each supervisor**, determined by the highest ranked applicant.
- Applicants may only apply to **one** CAMH Graduate Award funding stream per cycle. However, ROSS and/or the selection committee(s) may consider an application under a different funding stream based on eligibility, project alignment, and availability of funds.
- Applicants must be completing a Masters or PhD and/or joint professional program at the time they start the award. An eligible graduate program must include a significant research component that leads to the completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, scholarly publication, etc. that is merit/expert-reviewed at the institutional level as a requirement for completion of the program. Joint programs with a professional degree (for example, MD/PhD) as well as clinically oriented programs of study, including clinical psychology, are eligible if they have a significant autonomous research component as described above. Master's programs that are based on course work are not eligible since they do not include a significant research component.
- CAMH Employees are ineligible to receive remuneration from a training award and their employment role concurrently. Interested applicants who are currently employed by CAMH under a position other than a trainee must contact ResearchHR@camh.ca and internal.funding@camh.ca in advance of the deadline to confirm eligibility.
- Applicants cannot hold multiple internal CAMH Graduate Awards at the same time.
- Applicants with external funding support (80% or more of the award value from any source) that overlaps the period of the CAMH Graduate Award are not eligible to apply (i.e., external funding that continues past December 31, 2025).
- Applicants must apply to at least one external agency for stipend support in the time period between April 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024. If there are particular circumstances that prevent this, please first consult with internal.funding@camh.ca. You will be asked to provide proof should you be successful in receiving an award.
- Current CAMH Graduate Award recipients are not eligible to apply. Trainees may receive a maximum of one CAMH Graduate Award.
- The CAMH Graduate Awards welcomes applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit, racialized and 2SLGBTQ+ communities, women, people with disabilities (including people

who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges), and those not listed who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

Conditions of Award

- All Koerner Graduate Awards are to commence during the period of July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.
- The award must be accepted within 20 working days of the notice of award or the award offer will be cancelled.
- Proof of external funding application will be required to accept the award.
- If the applicant is successful in obtaining a Research Award offer from an external agency within 20 days, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the CAMH Graduate Research Award for other candidates. In situations where the value of the external award is less than the CAMH Graduate Research Award, a top-up may be provided. The availability and amount of the top-up will depend on funding availability.
 - Some types of external funding support are excluded from this condition and do not need to be disclosed to CAMH: faculty/departmental awards from an academic institution, Ontario Graduate Scholarships, or external Research Awards valued under \$5,000 CAD.
- Applicants must be within the CAMH institutional standards for stipend support. Applicants cannot exceed the institutional standard through multiple sources of support.
- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the one-year period of the award.
- Applicants will not be able to start their award at CAMH if their supervisor has any incomplete/outstanding trainee progress reports. CAMH will work with the supervisor to complete reporting and the applicant can start the Research Award.

Instructions

1. Notice of Intent

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) online using the following form:

<https://form.jotform.com/242344527386259> by **November 22, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST)**. The NOI must identify the supervisor(s), include a brief description of the proposed project (250 words), identify CAMH Graduate Award research themes and strategic priority areas, answer self-identification* and project representation questions, and provide 3-5 project area and methodology keywords. Information from the NOI will assist the Grants & Awards team with assessing eligibility and matching applications to academic experts in the review process. Late NOIs will not be accepted.

*Information collected will be confidential, cannot be accessed by reviewers, and will not be linked to personnel data. Data regarding the applicant pool will be reported only to the Graduate Award selection committee and a small number of ROSS staff members for the purposes of program administration, process improvement, and reporting requirements.

2. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)

A RAAF must be submitted via the [eRA Portal](#) by **January 12, 2025 by 5:00pm (EST)**. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research Portal](#). If you are applying as an external applicant, please reach out to internal.funding@camh.ca for instructions on how to create an account for the eRA Portal.

3. Full Application

Applicants must submit their application online using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **January 19, 2025, by 5:00pm (EST)**. Late applications will not be accepted. A link to the online form will be provided following NOI submission and confirmation of eligibility.

a) Project Information:

- **Project Title – Limit of 640 characters, including spaces.**
- **Lay Title – Limit of 200 characters, including spaces.** Provide a title for the project that is in a language clear to the general public.
- **Lay Abstract – Limit of 2,000 characters, including spaces.** Describe the project in a way that is accessible to a lay audience.

b) Training Plan – Limit of 7,000 characters, including spaces.

Applicants are to:

- Describe their professional, academic and extracurricular experiences/achievements and how it will contribute to their training success.
- Describe how the training they expect to acquire will contribute to their productivity and to the research goals they hope to achieve.
- Describe how their expected training strives to foster impacts within and beyond the research environment and will contribute to the Canadian research ecosystem during and beyond the tenure of the award.
- Indicate why they decided upon the proposed training location and what they expect to learn from the training experience.
- If registered in a joint doctoral program (e.g. MD/PhD) or a clinically-oriented doctoral program, they must provide a description of how their program contains a significant research component.

c) Research Project Summary – Limit of 4,000 characters, including spaces, references included.

The research project summary should clearly describe the applicant's role on the project; should be written in general scientific language, which is an important skill to acquire for future success in the research environment as applications can be reviewed by multi-disciplinary committees; should be specific, focused, and include feasible research questions and objectives, and provide a clear description of the proposed methodology. The summary should reflect the relevance of your project to the goals of the CAMH Graduate Award. Please use the following headings:

- **Background** – summarize the stage of knowledge relevant to the proposal.
- **Hypotheses/research questions** – state these clearly and concisely.
- **Methods** – give essential details of methods; describe the data to be collected and the method of data analysis proposed. Clearly define the population.
- **Impact** – state how the project will advance knowledge if completed as planned.
- **Relevance to the goals of the CAMH Graduate Award** – demonstrate your proposed project's alignment with the research themes and strategic priorities of the CAMH Graduate Award.
- **Role on proposed project** – address how the proposed research will support your training goals.
- **Timetable** – include a timetable for the work in your description

d) Publications List (max. 2 pages)

This section allows the applicant to include supplemental information for each entry made under the “Publications” section of their CCV, that is:

- For each multi-authored publication, define their role in the publication and indicate their percent contribution to the team effort.
- Only include publications that have been accepted or are in press. Do not include publications in preparation or submitted, unless available in a recognized scientific public archive (e.g., preprints).
- Applicants are also invited to comment on environmental factors that affected their capacity to publish.

e) Special Circumstances (if applicable)

Applicants are encouraged to explain any personal circumstances (including when gender, race, diversity, ability, sexuality, health disparities, educational access, etc.) have played a role in shaping their path to allow for a fair assessment of their research productivity. All information about interruptions to their academic career and choice of nominating institution should be included, which may include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, childrearing, illness, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma and loss, pandemic impact or health-related family responsibilities) or the Research Proposal (which may include additional training taken outside of a degree-granting program, relevant work experience, co-ops and internships, etc.).

- Include the start and end dates; the impact areas; and the reason(s) for or a brief explanation of the absence. However, applicants are not required to justify circumstances when noting considerations related to personal identity considerations. Should an applicant choose to include this information, it will be reviewed by selection committee members.
- Part-time studies must be outlined in this section. If you have been enrolled part-time during your PhD studies, specify which semesters. The information must be reflected in the transcripts.
- If you are registered in a joint program (e.g., MD/PhD), provide a timeline of your undergraduate/graduate versus doctoral program studies, broken down by semester. This calculation must be consistent with the transcripts provided.

4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) – uploaded as PDF attachment.

The applicant must provide a [CIHR Biosketch CV](#) (completed via the [Canadian Common CV](#) interface) or [NIH Biosketch](#).

5. Letters of Reference – max 1 page each, using 12-point font. Two referees must provide an assessment of the applicant. These assessments should come from people under whom you have trained and/or who have had a good opportunity to assess your potential for research. Applicants should refer their selected sponsors to CIHR’s [Information for Sponsors](#) web page for useful tips.

- Two letters of reference must be submitted by 5 p.m. on the application due date.
- Reference letters from the candidate’s Supervisor or Co-Supervisor will **not** be accepted.
- Letters must be submitted by email from the referee’s email to internal.funding@camh.ca. The

Reference Letter must be on institutional letterhead and signed by the referee.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that letters of reference are sent by the submission deadline.

6. Academic Documentation

- a) **Transcripts:** applicants must provide up-to-date official transcripts of their complete academic record (this includes all undergraduate and graduate studies, completed or ongoing). Transcripts must be scanned and uploaded with the application, and include a copy of the legend.
- b) **Proof of registration:** applicants must upload a letter from the University registrar indicating they are registered in an eligible graduate program, or equivalent proof of registration. If the applicant is not yet registered at the time of application, this letter is required prior to acceptance of the award.

7. Submitting the Application

The application must be submitted online (link to be provided following NOI submission) **by January 19, 2025**. If you have any questions regarding the application guidelines or submission process, please contact internal.funding@camh.ca.

Note: Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process. The reviewing committee consists of academic experts but not necessarily specialists in the applicant's specific subject area.

DEADLINES AT A GLANCE
Notice of Intent: November 22, 2024
RAAF: January 12, 2025
Full Application: January 19, 2025
Notice of Award: June 2025

Appendix A - CAMH Graduate Award Funding Streams

BRIDGES (Building Research and Innovation through Diversity, Growth, Equity and Sustainability) Graduate Award

The Northbridge General Insurance Corporation in collaboration with CAMH will provide support for graduate trainees from underrepresented groups pursuing basic and clinical research to better identify, diagnose, prevent and treat mental illnesses. To be eligible for this opportunity, applicants must self-identify with at least one of the following groups:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- Black
- Racialized persons

Note: In relation to these criteria, eligibility will be determined using the response(s) provided in the Notice of Intent. Given that this funding opportunity is only open to specific populations, selecting "I prefer not to answer" to the question relating to these criteria will prevent your candidacy from being considered.

Koerner Graduate Award

The Michael and Sonja Koerner Foundation in collaboration with CAMH will provide support for graduate trainees pursuing basic and clinical research to better identify, diagnose, prevent and treat mental illnesses. This award is open to all eligible applicants, but a minimum number will be dedicated to applicants who self-identify with at least one of the following groups:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- Racialized persons
- Women
- 2SLGBTQ+
- People with disabilities (including people who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges)

Note: In relation to these criteria, eligibility will be determined using the response(s) provided in the Notice of Intent. Given that this funding opportunity is only open to specific populations, selecting "I prefer not to answer" to the question relating to these criteria will prevent your candidacy from being considered.