

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

NRV SCN Summer Studentship Award 2024 Application Form

Background & Objectives

The Neurosciences, Rehabilitation, and Vision (NRV) Strategic Clinical Network™ (SCN) Scientific Office of Alberta Health Services (AHS) supports and provides training and mentorship opportunities to increase capacity in NRV-related research across Alberta. An efficient strategy to increase research capacity involves engagement of undergraduate students from a variety of health-related disciplines in research projects at early stages in their academic training.

The NRV SCN Summer Studentship Awards Program is designed to provide funding support to undergraduate students to participate and develop research skills applied to an area in neurosciences, rehabilitation, or vision research relevant to the NRV SCN strategic goals. This capacity-building initiative will support trainees towards the generation of evidence to drive decision-making, ongoing health care system improvement and sustainability.

Funding

Two (2) NRV SCN Summer Studentship Awards will be offered, providing a stipend of **\$1500/month** for each successful student awardee for a maximum of 4 months during the summer (May – August 2024). The **total maximum amount of a single award is \$6000**. Awards are non-renewable. Two awards are available in 2024.

Eligibility

When considering applicants, the review process will consider the following criteria:

- Studentship applicants must be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in an undergraduate program at an approved post-secondary academic institution. Students need not be enrolled in an Alberta institution to be eligible; however, the summer research activities must be completed in Alberta.
- The area of proposed research must be related to neurosciences, rehabilitation or vision.
- The proposed research must directly advance the Transformational Roadmap of the NRV SCN.
- Candidates must be supervised or co-supervised by a faculty member at one of Alberta's academic institutions. Supervisors must clearly demonstrate a rich environment for student training and links with the NRV SCN.
- Holders of other full-time, major studentship awards (e.g. CIHR, NSERC, AIHS, etc.) are ineligible for NRV SCN Summer Studentship Award.

Relevant Topic Areas

Any proposed clinical, health services or population health research questions that have relevance to the NRV SCN Transformational Roadmap will be eligible.

Evaluation Criteria

A panel of researchers from the NRV SCN (members of the Scientific Advisory Committee), and academic partners will review all applications based upon pre-defined quality assessment criteria. Proposals will be reviewed by all members of the review panel, or a subset of reviewers, depending on application volume (at least two panel members will review each application).

Applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria (Appendix A):

- The scientific quality of the research project.

- Appropriateness and relevance to scope of NRV SCN, including how the work is aligned with one of the strategic priorities of the NRV SCN.
- The training environment in which the student will carry out their research project
- The student's academic record
- Special accomplishments or attributes relevant to the competition
- Ensuring parity between a student supporting a research program distinct from the NRV SCN and a student supporting a research program directly under the NRV SCN

Timelines

Nov 1, 2023	Call for NRV SCN Summer Studentship Award Applications
January 31, 2024	Applications Due
Mar 1, 2024	Notification of Awards

Required Application Documents

The following documents are required in a complete application for the NRV SCN Summer Studentship Award, **in a single pdf**:

- 1) Completed Application Form
- 2) Applicant's CV (2-page maximum)
- 3) Supervisor's CV (2-page maximum)
- 4) Official Transcripts (all years of completed undergraduate work)
- 5) Supervisor's letter of support
- 6) Acknowledgement of the SCN Funding Competition Demographic Diversity Survey

Reporting

- The NRV SCN Summer Studentship Award recipients must submit a final report 30 days after completion of the award. This report will include a description of the research activities performed, summary of the findings, and planned dissemination activities (e.g. presentations, manuscripts etc.), if applicable.
- Reports will be shared with AHS (Research Priorities and Implementation office). The report should also inform how the results of the Summer Studentship research work inform future grants and research projects of value to the NRV SCN.
- NRV SCN Summer Studentship Award recipients will be invited to present the results of their summer project to the NRV SCN Core Committee. This will provide an opportunity for dissemination of findings and identify potential future work around the NRV SCN strategic goals and other programs of funding.

Knowledge Dissemination

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

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 NRV SCN 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 funding.
4. Important changes to the proposed study proposal are permitted due to HREB/CHREB and recruitment delays; however, they must be reported to the NRV SCN 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 NRV SCN summer studentship award.
7. Awardees are required to notify the Scientific Office of the NRV SCN about any publications or presentations derived from the work supported by the NRV SCN summer studentship award.
8. It is expected that NRV SCN summer studentship awardees include the following statement under the Acknowledgements section of the publication:

“Research reported in this publication was supported by the Alberta Health Services Neurosciences, Rehabilitation & Vision (NRV) Strategic Clinical Network™ (SCN). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the views of the NRV SCN Scientific Office or Alberta Health Services”.

Application Process

The Scientific Office of the NRV SCN will receive applications for the 2024 competition using the provided application form. Completed applications will be emailed in a single PDF form to:

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