**GRADUATE AND FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH AWARD IN
WOMEN'S HEALTH GRANT COMPETITION**

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important Dates

Application Deadline	Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 11PM PDT
Anticipated Notice of Decision	By Friday, August 30, 2024
Funding Start Date	September 1, 2024

Description

Women's health research is critically important as women continue to face barriers to healthcare, health, and well-being. For instance, most clinical guidelines for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment do not differentiate between men and women despite differences in how they present symptoms or respond to medications. The impact of this oversight is detrimental to women's health outcomes. The Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) is one of only three research institutes in Canada with an explicit focus on women's health. We seek to enable women's health researchers and trainees across British Columbia to reach their highest potential. We are passionate about the importance of women's health research, recognizing that when women are healthy, all of society benefits.

A key component of the WHRI's Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 is our *Strategic Framework for Trainees and Mentorship,* which aims to expand capacity for women's health research through initiatives that support the next generation of women's health scholars. To this end, in 2020, the WHRI launched the **Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in Women's Health**, a funding opportunity specific to our trainee community. This award is intended to provide salary support to WHRI-affiliated graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who are engaged in women's and/or newborn health research and who do not currently hold major competitive salary awards.

This competition is made possible thanks to dedicated funding provided by the BC Women's Health Foundation.

Funds Available

Three awards are available valued at $21,000 each for a one-year period: one award at the master's-level, one award at the doctoral-level and one award at the postdoctoral-level.

Applicant Eligibility

Only graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who are engaged in research relevant to women's and/or newborn health are eligible for this award.

Only applicants who do not hold major competitive salary awards (either internal or external awards) at the time of award acceptance (i.e., September 2024) will be considered for this award. Major salary awards include Tri-Council salary awards (CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC), Michael Smith Health Research BC Research Trainee awards, Foundation trainee salary awards, and internal university awards or other competitive fellowship or salary funding that covers the majority (i.e., greater than 50%) of the applicant's salary. For questions about eligibility, please contact Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

At the time of application:

- Applicants must be registered as full-time graduate students or post-doctoral fellows at a university in British Columbia. Applications from students or post-doctoral fellows who will be starting their training program between September 2024 to February 2025 are also eligible. Trainees who will be defending their thesis or completing their program by February 2025 are not eligible. Please note that international students who are registered as graduate students or post-doctoral fellows at a BC university are eligible to apply as long as they meet the other criteria. Also note that Clinical Fellows are eligible for the postdoctoral-level award if at least 50% of their fellowship is devoted to research. Those who are registered as full-time graduate students or post-doctoral fellows at a university in British Columbia but also hold a concurrent full-time paid role (for example, a faculty position) are not eligible to apply.

- Applicants must be a WHRI student/trainee member. There is no fee to become a member and any trainee engaged in women's health research at a BC-based university is eligible for membership. More information about WHRI membership benefits and application procedures can be found here: http://whri.org/become-a-member/

- The applicant's academic supervisor, or the Principal Investigator overseeing the research study that is the target of the application, must also be a member of the WHRI. Any researcher engaged in women's health research at a BC-based university is eligible for membership. If the applicant and/or supervisor would like to inquire about the supervisor's current WHRI membership status, please contact Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

- Applicants engaged in women's health research across all four pillars of health research (biomedical; clinical; health systems services; and social, cultural, environmental and population health), including global health, are eligible to apply.

Eligible Expenses

- Salary support for the trainee applicant.

- While it is expected that award funds will be used exclusively for salary support for the applicant, if strong justification is provided, approval may be given for award funds to be used for other expenses, including operating expenses associated with the conduct of the study, salary costs for research staff, statistician and data analyst service costs, and other research-related costs.

Project Time Period

The maximum time frame for the project is 12 months.

Communication Requirements

Grant recipients are required to acknowledge funding from the WHRI and the Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in Women's Health in any communication, presentation or publication arising from the research.

How to Apply

The application must include the following four documents:

1. **Proposal (3 pages maximum; note that references and the EDI statement are not included in the 3-page limit)**

   The proposal should include a description of the research and knowledge translation plan,

including:

   a. Project title

   b. Overall objective(s)

   c. Rationale for the study

   d. Study aims and hypothesis

   e. Study design, methodology, and analysis plan, including project team, collaborators, and their roles

   f. Anticipated results

   g. Knowledge Translation (KT) plan (1/2 page maximum) that includes (1) the KT goals of the project; (2) the Knowledge Users or target audience; (3) KT strategies (e.g. presentations to specific knowledge users, engagement of knowledge users within the project team, creation of a plain-language outputs of findings)

   h. Description of the research environment outlining the supports available to successfully facilitate the proposed research (e.g., access to data, operating funds, training opportunities, access to necessary equipment, etc) (1/2 page maximum).

   i. This award values equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in the research ecosystem, including on research teams and within research design and practices. Please outline the EDI-informed considerations that apply to the application. EDI-informed considerations may involve the research design, methodology (e.g., SGBA+ analysis), research respectfully involving and engaging Indigenous communities (TCPS 2 Chapter 9), the formation of the research team, research topic, and the application of the research. The statement on EDI (½ page maximum) is not counted within the 3-page limit of the proposal. Here are some resources on EDI in research that may be helpful: SSHRC Guide to Addressing EDI Considerations in Grant Applications, EDI in Action at CIHR, NSERC guide on integrating EDI in research, EDI in research at UBC, EDI at SFU. (A reminder that EDI considerations are not counted within the 3-page limit of the proposal).

   j. References (not counted within the 3-page limit of the proposal).

2. Applicant CV

A CV from the Applicant (i.e., graduate student or post-doctoral fellow) in Tri-Agency CV format. More information on this type of CV format, including detailed instructions and FAQs, can be found here: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53574.html

In alignment with CIHR, which has signed onto The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the evaluation criteria for this award will aim to be inclusive of a broad range of outputs during the masters or doctoral studies. More information on applicable outputs can be found here: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53584.html

3. Letter of Support from Applicant's Supervisor (1 page)

A one-page letter from the applicant's academic supervisor, which provides the following information:

   a. A brief assessment of the applicant

   b. A description of the supervisor's perspective on the importance of the proposed research for women's and/or newborn health.

   c. A statement from the supervisor verifying that the trainee applicant does not currently

hold a major competitive salary award (internal or external) as defined above.

    d. If applicable, a justification from the supervisor for any operational support requested (i.e., if the applicant is requesting that funds be used for costs other than trainee salary support).

4. Supervisor CV (CIHR Project Biosketch or Tri-Agency CV)
A CV from the Primary Supervisor of the applicant in either CIHR Project Biosketch or the new Tri-Agency CV format.

More information on the Common CV format is available here: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48437.html.

More information of the Tri-Agency CV format is available here: https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48437.html.

Please note that non-adherence to any of the application instructions above (i.e., exceeding the proposal page limit, submitting an applicant or supervisor CV in the wrong format, submitting a supervisor letter that exceeds the 1-page limit) will render the application ineligible.

Evaluation Criteria

General review criteria will include whether:

- The application meets the eligibility and formatting criteria.

- The quality of the applicant's academic and research track record.

- The quality of the research environment.

- The objectives of the research activities are clear and well justified.

- The research approach is appropriate and well justified.

- The project addresses an important need or gap in women's and/or newborn health research.

- The anticipated impact is important and consistent with gaps and priorities in women's and/or newborn health.

- The KT plan for findings is well constructed.

- There is evidence of knowledge, experience, and/or plans for incorporating EDI considerations into the proposed research.In alignment with CIHR, who has signed onto The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the evaluation criteria for this award aims to be inclusive of a broad range of outputs during graduate and Fellowship studies. These outputs include (https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53584.html):
    – Publications and citations
    – Reports and books
    – Prestigious awards
    – Number/size of grants
    – Knowledge mobilization outputs & activities
    – Influence on policy and practice
    – Public engagement (including public, patients, providers, policymakers/government, researchers, industry, mainstream and social media)

- Community-based participatory research
- Training & mentorship
- Volunteerism
- Guidelines, standards, software and tools
- Networks, collaborations and partnerships
- Datasets, code and infrastructure development
- Commercialized and open-access products

Submission Instructions

The application deadline is **Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 11pm PDT**. It must be submitted using the following link: https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=LLNDMRKFWEEM9YMY

Please submit your entire application as a single PDF. The application file name should be the last name of the trainee applicant (e.g., 'lastname.pdf'). **No late submissions will be considered for any reason.**

Questions about the application process can be sent to Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

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2024 Reviewer Scoring Guidelines

For each application, please write a brief paragraph on the strengths and weaknesses of the application which drove your overall score. These comments will be provided as feedback to the applicants.

Below you will find 5 areas in which you are asked to score the award application with the corresponding maximum score and some suggestions for criteria that could drive your score.

Evaluation Areas	Score
Quality of the Applicant: For all assessments of the applicant, please consider the norms of the research area and the applicant's career stage. When reviewing the applicant's track record, consider the relevance and impact of the applicant's contributions, including academic strengths, research experience, research skills, publishing record, presentations, awards and recognitions, and leadership in research and research-related activities. In alignment with The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), the evaluation criteria for this award aims to be inclusive of a broad range of outputs during graduate and Fellowship studies. https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/53584.html	40 points
Research Approach: When reviewing the applicant's research approach, consider the degree to which: • All of the required sections of the proposal are included and adequately described (Overall objectives; Study rationale; Hypothesis and aims; Study design, methodology and analysis plan; Anticipated results); The objectives are clear and well justified; • The study rationale is sound and the study design is scientifically rigorous; • The research strategy presents a well-reasoned overall approach, including theoretical framework (as appropriate), study design, data collection, measurement, and analysis plan to accomplish the stated objectives; • The project addresses an important need or gap in women's and/or newborn health research; • The anticipated impact is important and consistent with gaps and priorities in women's and/or newborn health; • The project is feasible; • The approach is aligned with the applicant's skills, experience, and/or training plans.	20 points

Knowledge Translation (KT) Plan: Are the KT goals reasonable and relevant given the project plan? Are the proposed KT strategies clear and likely to be effective? Does the KT plan appropriately engage with relevant research users and communities?	10 points
Quality of Research Environment + Support: Is it clear that there are supports and research infrastructure available to facilitate the proposed research and support the applicant (e.g., access to data, operating funds, training opportunities, access to necessary equipment, a collaborative research environment)? Does the proposed supervisor and/or supervisory environment have the research experience and qualifications, funding, and/or resources to support the applicant, relative to the applicant's career stage?	20 points
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations: In the section of the application devoted to EDI-considerations, does the applicant provide evidence of knowledge and/or plans for incorporating EDI considerations into the proposed research? This may involve one or more of the following: research design, methodology, research respectfully involving and engaging Indigenous communities (TCPS2 Chapter 9), formation of the research team, research topic, or application of the research.	10 points
Score Total	**100 points**