

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

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important Dates

Application Deadline	Monday, September 21 st , 2020, 11PM PDT
Anticipated Notice of Decision	By Friday, October 30 th , 2020
Funding Start Date	November 2 nd , 2020

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 may 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.

This year, the WHRI launched its *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, the WHRI is launching 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 postdoctoral fellows who are engaged in women's and/or newborn health research and who do not currently hold major competitive salary awards.

Funds Available

One graduate-level award and one postdoctoral-level award valued at \$12,500 each, for a one-year period.

Applicant Eligibility

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who are engaged in research relevant to women's and/or newborn health are eligible for The Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in Women's Health.

Preference will be given to applicants who do not currently hold major competitive salary awards (either internal or external salary awards) at the time of award acceptance (i.e., October 2020). Major salary awards include Tri-Council salary awards (CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC), MSFHR postdoc fellowship awards, and other competitive fellowship or salary funding that covers the majority of the applicant's salary costs.

At the time of application:

- Applicants must be registered as full-time graduate students or postdoctoral fellows at a university in British Columbia. Please note that international students who are registered as graduate students or postdoctoral fellows at a BC University are 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 university in BC is eligible for membership. Please click here to learn more about WHRI membership benefits and application procedures: <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. Again, any researcher engaged in women's health research at a university in BC is eligible for membership.
- 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, etc.

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 should include the following four documents:

1. Proposal (3 pages maximum; references 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
- f. Anticipated results
- g. Relevance to the health of women and/or newborns
- h. Knowledge Translation (KT) plan (1/2 page) 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); and (4) Project team, collaborators, and roles.
- i. 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).
- j. References (not counted within the 3-page limit)

2. Applicant CV

A CV from the Applicant (i.e., graduate student or postdoc fellow) in NIH Biographical Sketch (Fellowship) Application format. More information on this type of CV format, including detailed instructions and samples, can be found here: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>

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

A one-page letter from the applicant's 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 as defined above.
- d. If applicable, a justification from the supervisor for any operational support requested (i.e., if the applicant is requesting that award funds be used for costs other than trainee salary support).

4. Supervisor CV (CIHR Project Biosketch)

A CCV from the Primary Supervisor of the applicant in CIHR Project Biosketch format. More information on the Common CV format is available here: <https://ccv-cvc.ca/>

Evaluation Criteria

General review criteria will include whether:

- The research focus is relevant to women's and/or newborn health
- The application meets the eligibility criteria
- The objectives of the research activities are clear and well justified
- The research approach is appropriate and well justified
- The KT plan for findings is well constructed
- The proposed activities can be achieved within the funding period (i.e., feasibility)

Submission Instructions

The application deadline is **September 21st, 2020 at 11pm PDT**. Please submit your entire application as a single PDF via email to Dr. Kathryn Dewar, Senior Research Manager at WHRI (kdewar@cw.bc.ca). The application file name should be the last name of the trainee applicant (e.g., 'lastname.pdf').

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