

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

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Important Dates

Application Deadline	Friday, May 22, 2026, 11PM PDT
Anticipated Notice of Decision	Mid to late July 2026
Funding Start Date	August 1, 2026 or start of program

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.

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

Six awards are available for a one-year period: two awards at the master's-level (valued at \$30,000 each), two awards at the doctoral-level (valued at \$40,000 each) and two awards at the postdoctoral-level (valued at \$65,000 each). In alignment with the WHRI's [2025-2028 Strategic Plan](#) and our goal to address foundational (basic science) knowledge gaps in women's health, for this year's competition, three of the six awards (one at the master's, doctoral and postdoctoral level), will support trainees in the basic/discovery/foundational sciences (i.e., biomedical, life sciences such as cell biology, genetics, biochemistry, physiology) whose proposed project relates to women's and/or newborn health.

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., August 2026) 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 or clinical agency (e.g., BC Cancer) in British Columbia as of September 2026. Trainees with a May 2027 planned graduation are not eligible. Please note that international students who are registered as graduate students or post-doctoral fellows at a BC university or clinical agency 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 or clinical agency in British Columbia but also hold a concurrent paid role (for example, a faculty position) greater than or equal to 50% of their time 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 and/or newborn 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.
- For applicants who receive a WHRI Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in Women's Health and, during the subsequent 12 months after WHRI award acceptance, are successful in obtaining another major salary award (see definition of 'major salary award' above under 'applicant eligibility'), the following must be done:
 - WHRI must be informed immediately about the receipt of the other major salary award.
 - The applicant must choose either the WHRI award or the other salary award (i.e. cannot hold both awards simultaneously).
 - Alternatively, the applicant can defer the start of the other salary award until after 12 months of the WHRI award acceptance.
- For applicants who receive a WHRI Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in Women's Health and, during the subsequent 12 months after WHRI award acceptance, are successful in obtaining another salary award that covers less than 50% of the applicant's salary (i.e., does not fit the definition of 'major salary award' above under 'applicant eligibility'), the following must be done:
 - WHRI must be informed immediately about the receipt of the other salary award.
 - The applicant can receive a reduced amount for the WHRI award whereby the combined amount of the reduced WHRI award and the other salary award equal the initial amount of the WHRI award.
 - Alternatively, the applicant can defer the start of the other salary award until after 12 months of the WHRI award acceptance.

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 three 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. (For proposals in the basic/discovery/foundational sciences, indicate how the research may relate, now or in the future, to women's health conditions)
- 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).

Format: Proposals must be written in Arial font (regular) minimum 11pt. Single-spaced text with 2 cm margins on letter size (8½ x 11" (21.2 x 27.5 cm) and saved as a pdf.

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>. Please see the Tri-Agency CV template included as an appendix (on page 6), which lists a summary table that should be included and the components that are **REQUIRED** to be included in the "most significant contributions and experiences" section of the template for the purposes of this competition (i.e. description of peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and awards). Note that the length of the applicant CV must not exceed five pages.

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 with a statement verifying that the trainee applicant does not currently hold a major competitive salary award (internal or external) as defined above.
- b. A description of the supervisor's perspective on the importance of the proposed research for women's and/or newborn health.
- c. Brief description of the supervisor's experience, qualifications, funding, and/or resources to support the applicant's project
- 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)

PLEASE NOTE: Non-adherence to any of the application instructions above (which include but are not limited to, exceeding the proposal page limit, submitting an applicant CV in the wrong format, submitting a supervisor letter that exceeds the 1-page limit, either the applicant or their supervisor not holding a WHRI membership at the time of submission, etc.) will render the application ineligible. If an application is found to be non-adherent with any of the application instructions, and thus deemed ineligible, applicants will be informed shortly after the submission deadline that their application will not be moving forward in the competition.

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

The scoring guidelines for this competition have been included as an appendix (see pages 7 and 8) for reference.

Submission Instructions

The application deadline is **Friday, May 22, 2026 at 11pm PDT**. It must be submitted using the following link: <https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=CMX4CKK778FA938R>

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).

Tri-agency CV

NAME: Click or tap here to enter text.				
POSITION TITLE: Click or tap here to enter text.				
EDUCATION/TRAINING <i>(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.)</i>				
Institution and Location	Degree (if applicable)	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	Field of Study
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Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
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Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Personal statement (max 1 page)

Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Most significant contributions and experiences

Required:

-Total # of peer reviewed publications

-Provide citations for up to 5 of the most significant peer reviewed publications, with an explanation of the applicant's contribution and the importance of the research for each publication

-Total # of local presentations, # of national presentations, # of international presentations

-Provide citations for up to 5 of the most significant presentations, with an explanation of the conference/meeting and the importance of the research for each presentation

-Total # of awards

-List up to 5 of the awards, with a description of their importance

3. Supervisory and mentorship activities

Click or tap here to enter text.

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Women's Health Grant Competition**

2026 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
<p>Quality of the Applicant:</p> <p>For all assessments of the applicant, please consider the norms of the research area and the applicant's career stage.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p>	40 points
<p>Research Approach:</p> <p>When reviewing the applicant's research approach, consider the degree to which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



<p>Knowledge Translation (KT) Plan:</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>10 points</p>
<p>Quality of Research Environment + Support:</p> <p>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)?</p> <p>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?</p>	<p>20 points</p>
<p>Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Considerations:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>10 points</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Score Total</p>	<p>100 points</p>