

Emerging Cancer Scholar Award in Brain Tumour Research

Objective. The award aims to enable faculty members of the Calgary Brain Tumour Program to recruit and retain outstanding PhD/MSc students to train them to become leading brain tumour researchers.

The Calgary Brain Tumour Research Program is focused on the following strategic areas:

- Understanding the molecular drivers and causes of brain tumour initiation, progression, and treatment resistance in order to identify new targets for brain cancer;
- Identifying novel brain cancer treatment strategies for translation to clinical trials; and
- Developing the next generation of scientists and clinical fellows focused on brain cancer.

Eligibility:

Applications are open to:

- Prospective or current full-time PhD/MSc students at the University of Calgary, supervised by a current or prospective member of the Calgary Brain Tumour Program.
- Applicants must be accepted into a full-time MSc or PhD program at the University of Calgary under the supervision of a full member of the Calgary Brain Tumour Program

Additional Requirements:

- Award recipients and their supervisors must become members of the Calgary Brain Tumour Program and the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute, adhering to all membership guidelines.
- Applicants must not have previously received funding through a Calgary Brain Tumour Program Scholars Award.

Terms and Conditions.

The award aims to attract students who will be **highly competitive** for external awards on the basis of academic performance and research excellence. Students holding a Calgary Brain Tumour Emerging Cancer Scholar Award **are required to apply for all internal and external funding for which they are eligible**, including those from provincial and national agencies.

Eligibility Limitations: Students holding significant scholarships equal to or above the value of this award are ineligible to receive the Emerging Cancer Scholar Award in Brain Tumour Research.

Adjustments of Awards: Students with scholarships of lesser value will have their Emerging Cancer Scholar Award in Brain Tumour Research adjusted to ensure a combined total of 17,500 PhD students and \$15,000 MSc students.

Reporting: A final report detailing knowledge translation outputs and any external scholarship applications or awards will be required.

Citizenship: Unrestricted

Number of Awards. 1 award per year, subject to available funding and quality of applications

Duration. Two years

Value: The award guarantees an annual stipend of:

PhD Students: \$17,500/per year from Calgary Brain Tumour Program with the supervisor and/or co-supervisor providing additional funds to meet at least the minimum stipend.

MSc Students: \$15,000/per year from Calgary Brain Tumour Program with the supervisor and/or co-supervisor providing additional funds to meet at least the minimum stipend.

Supervisors agree to this financial partnership by applying to this competition.

Application Instructions:

This award application is administered by the Graduate Award Competition (GAC), available online, through your Student Centre. The form includes the following components:

1: The standard GAC application for students enrolled in CSM-based programs. Deadline is 11:59 PM on **January 2025**.

Please note that this deadline may be different if you are enrolled in a graduate program in another faculty. Please check with your program to find out your faculty's/ program's internal deadline for the GAC competition.

All components of the Standard GAC Award Application must be completed. These include:

- Eligibility statement
- References
- Transcripts: Transcripts will be added to your application after the deadline by your Graduate Program Administrator (GPA) based on the information provided in the application. You do not need to request transcripts.
- Other sections, Academic History; Awards; Research Abstract (250 words) and Proposal (thesis) (800 words); References cited in your research proposal (1000 words); Presentations and Contributions (1000 words); Leadership and Interpersonal Skills (800 words)

2: The GAC Harmonized Award attachment. Deadline TBA, submitted electronically through the Student Center via email to awardsgse@ucalgary.ca.

All components of the GAC Harmonized Award Attachment must be completed. These include:

- **An eligibility statement on how proposed research project aligns with the strategic goals of the supervisor's program, the Calgary Brain Tumour Program.** (max. 400 words)
 1. Understanding the molecular drivers and causes of brain tumour initiation, progression, and treatment resistance in order to identify new targets for brain cancer;
 2. Identifying novel brain cancer treatment strategies for translation to clinical trials; and
 3. Developing the next generation of scientists and clinical fellows focused on brain cancer.
- Training experience, expectations and personal considerations section (max. 800 words)
- Training environment statement (max. 500 words)
- Supervisor Common CV CIHR Biosketch or equivalent
- Certificate of completion of the CIHR Sex and Gender module (IGH Learning - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca))

Components 1 and 2 must be completed in full to ensure your application is valid.

Adjudication Process and Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will receive a primary score through the GAC review process. This is a multi-disciplinary group of reviewers who may not have the in-depth knowledge in all the projects submitted. Applicants must ensure that their project proposals can be understood by a non-specialist reviewer.

The top 50% of the applications reviewed by the GAC process will be re-reviewed by the Charbonneau Training Review Committee and adjudicated based on the following criteria:

The following criteria will be considered during the selection process:

- Quality of candidate, academic excellence, research experience, awards.
- Ability of supervisory environment to support research project.
- Competitiveness of Candidate for external awards.

Alignment to Calgary Brain Tumour strategic areas:

1. Understanding the molecular drivers and causes of brain tumour initiation, progression, and treatment resistance in order to identify new targets for brain cancer;
2. Identifying novel brain cancer treatment strategies for translation to clinical trials; and
3. Developing the next generation of scientists and clinical fellows focused on brain cancer.

Terms of the Award

Awarded recipients and their supervisors agree to the following obligations, which include but are not limited to:

- **Acknowledgment of Support:** Recipients must acknowledge the financial support provided by the Calgary Brain Tumour Program at the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute in all publications, presentations, communications, and marketing materials related to the funded research project.
- **Participation in Training Activities:** Awardees are required to participate in training activities, such as courses, workshops, and professional development opportunities organized by the Charbonneau Cancer Institute and the Calgary Brain Tumour Program.
- **Continued Application for External Funding:** To enhance the training capacity of the Charbonneau Cancer Institute and the Calgary Brain Tumour Program, all awardees must actively seek external funding opportunities. Successful external funding will allow the training funds to be allocated to additional trainees.
- **Notification of Awards:** Recipients must inform the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute of any awards received from external or internal agencies or programs during the term of their award.

Please contact Charbonneau Education with any questions at:

Email: charb.education@ucalgary.ca