

## Robson DNA Science Centre Rising Star Graduate Student Scholarship

**Objective.** The award aims to enable faculty members of the Robson DNA Science Centre (RDSC) to recruit and retain outstanding PhD students to carry out innovative fundamental science and/or translational research training through the offer of highly competitive scholarships.

**Eligibility.** Principal Investigator-sponsored applications are solicited from prospective or already enrolled trainees who have met (or will meet) admission requirements for a University of Calgary graduate program. At the time of application, doctoral students must be pre-candidacy exam ( $\leq 2$  years in the program), while masters students must be  $\leq 1$  year into their program. For trainees yet to commence their studies, and who are external to the University of Calgary prior to their enrollment in a graduate program, the award is contingent on acceptance into a full-time graduate program at the University of Calgary under the supervision of a full member of RDSC. *Please note:*

- *RDSC principal investigators can only supervise one new full-time student with an RDSC Rising Star Graduate Student Scholarship in a given two year period of support.*
- *In the second year of an existing student's RDSC Rising Star Graduate Student Scholarship, the principal investigator may sponsor an application for a new student whose award can commence the following year.*
- *Principal investigators may sponsor one new application as primary supervisor, even if they are listed as the co-supervisor on an existing student with a RDSC Rising Star Graduate Student Scholarship.*
- Applicants with awards equal to or greater than the value of the RDSC Rising Star Graduate Student award are ineligible for the award.

**Graduate award applicants must have the following qualifications.** Acceptance into a full-time MSc or PhD program at the University of Calgary under the supervision of a full member of the Robson DNA Science Centre.

### Other Terms and Conditions.

- The purpose of this award is to attract students who will be **highly competitive** for external awards on the basis of academic performance and research excellence.
- Students holding an RDSC Rising Star Graduate Student award **are required to apply for all internal and external funding for which they are eligible**, including those from provincial and national agencies.
- The RDSC component of the award may be pro-rated by the amount obtained from other sources.
- Renewal of an RDSC Rising Star Graduate Student Scholarship for Year 2 is contingent upon internal review of applications, annual review of progress (including participation in RDSC and Charbonneau academic activities), and a short letter of support from the supervisor.

**Eligibility based on Citizenship:** Unrestricted, although under conditions of strong application pressure preference may be given to Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents who are eligible for Canadian Tri-Council graduate studentship awards.

**Number of Awards.** Up to 3 per year, subject to available funding

**Duration.** Two years maximum, subject to annual review at end of Year 1, prior to renewal

**Value:**

**PhD Students:** \$17,500 from RDSC funds with the supervisor and/or co-supervisor providing equal matching funds of \$16,500 to provide the trainee a total \$35,000 in support.

**MSc Students:** \$15,000 from RDSC funds with the supervisor and/or co-supervisor providing equal matching funds of \$15,000 to provide the trainee a total \$30,000 in support.

**Application process.** Applicants must provide the following information in a single PDF file:

1. A statement describing how the proposed graduate research project aligns with the strategic goals of the supervisor's program, the RDSC, the Charbonneau Cancer Institute, and UC.
2. Academic history (degrees, grades, courses) and excellence awards
3. Previous research experience, presentations, and publications
4. Two references, one of which must be from the sponsoring RDSC supervisor (and co-supervisor, if applicable), who state(s) their commitment to covering the stipend matching funds for 2 years.

**Award Process.** The Education Committee of the Charbonneau Institute will administer the selection process. The Education Committee will be responsible for circulating calls for applications and notifying successful and unsuccessful applicants. **It is expected that supervisors of current award holders will serve as reviewers in future competitions.**

The Education Committee Chair will be responsible for reporting to the Charbonneau Advisory Board on an annual basis regarding awardees, external funding awarded and finances.

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 RDSC strategic research priorities as outlined [here](#) and including (but not necessarily limited to):
  1. Environmental Exposures Causing Cancer and Aging
  2. Therapies for Rare Cancers
  3. Fundamental Mechanisms of DNA repair and Cellular Aging
  4. Real-world Informatics and Systems of Oncology