



Robson Centre Emerging Cancer Scholar Award for DNA Science

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 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 (≤ 2 years in the program), while masters students must be ≤ 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 a Robson Centre Emerging Cancer Scholars award **are required to apply for all internal and external funding for which they are eligible**, including those from provincial and national agencies.
- Students already holding significant scholarships at or above this award are ineligible to hold the Robson Centre Emerging Cancer Scholar Award.
- Students holding scholarships at a lesser amount than this award will have the Robson Centre Emerging Cancer Scholar Award adjusted for a combined total of 17,500 PhD and \$15,000 MSc
- Renewal of a Robson Centre Emerging Cancer Scholars Award 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 additional funds to reach at least the minimum stipend.

MSc Students: \$15,000 from RDSC funds with the supervisor and/or co-supervisor providing additional funds to reach 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 describing their project and how it supports the RDSC research priorities, including but not limited to:** (max. 400 words)
 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
- 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 \(cihr-irsc.gc.ca\)](http://IGH.Learning-CIHR(cihr-irsc.gc.ca)))

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

Application Deadlines

The **GAC application** deadline is 11:59 PM on **TBA**, for students enrolled in CSM-based programs. The **GAC Harmonized Award Attachment** is due by **TBA**

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 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

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 Robson DNA Science Centre 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 Robson DNA Science Centre.
- **Continued Application for External Funding:** To enhance the training capacity of the Charbonneau Cancer Institute and the Robson Centre, all awardees must actively seek external funding opportunities. Successful external funding will allow the Robson training funds to be allocated to additional trainees.
- **Notification of Awards:** Recipients must inform the Arnie Charbonneau Cancer Institute and the Robson DNA Science Centre 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