

Alberta Innovates Summer Research Studentships (SRS) Guidelines

PURPOSE

Alberta Innovates Summer Research Studentships (SRS) provide funding to support students engaging in health/medical research and innovation during the summer months (May 5-August 8). The objectives of the SRS program are to:

- Increase awareness and interest in research & innovation (R&I) careers - particularly at the intersection of health and emerging technologies.
- Create opportunities for emerging talent to acquire experience and connections in Alberta's health R&I ecosystem.
- Increase the competitiveness of Alberta as a destination for R&I talent.
- Leverage partner relationships to advance Digital Health Innovation in Alberta.

As a condition of funding from Alberta Innovates, 40% of SRS awards must be directed to projects that align with one or more of three priority areas: Digital or Data Driven Health Research, Commercialization, and Health System Transformation as described below:

Digital or Data Driven Health Research: projects that recruit, train, or deploy talent to advance digital or data-enabled methods, tools, or technologies in health research. Areas of interest include: computer modelling or simulation for drug discovery or technology development; overcoming data access, collection, or data infrastructure challenges; approaches to preparing health data for machine learning applications; overcoming participant/patient recruitment, engagement, or retention challenges; predicting therapeutic outcomes or adverse effects; overcoming challenges with acceptance of digital health solutions; novel approaches to decentralized clinical trials design.

Commercialization: projects that recruit, train, or deploy talent to develop and commercialize an emerging health technology, preferably digital or data-enabled, with the potential to generate commercial economic returns (jobs, revenue, investment) for Alberta and cost-effective, beneficial health outcomes.



Health System Transformation: Projects that recruit, train, or deploy talent to enable the advancement of data and digitally enabled care models, including facilitating adoption, implementation, and/or scale across the continuum of care in Alberta. Key areas of interest include but are not limited to implementation studies in health care settings; policy development; approaches to citizen-centric care.

ELIGIBILITY

Successful SRS recipients will:

1. Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
2. Be registered in an undergraduate program at MacEwan as of the application deadline date (March 3, 2025).
3. Be in good academic standing.
4. Be able to work full-time for 14 weeks (May 5 to August 8) in research and development activities in an appropriate discipline.
5. Be able to attend the launch event (May 5) and the final event presentations (August 8)
6. Have an eligible Faculty supervisor (see below).
7. Have completed all requirements as per the MacEwan University SRS application form.
8. Be willing to share their contact and project information with Alberta Innovates.
9. Receive a total stipend of \$8,250 in bi-weekly installments for 14 weeks from May-August.

Eligible Supervisors will:

1. Hold Faculty positions that have research in their job descriptions.
2. Supervise no more than 2 SRS recipients per competition year.

10. HOW TO APPLY

1. **Read** the SRS program description and eligibility requirements
2. **Identify** an eligible **faculty supervisor**.
3. **Plan** your research project with your potential faculty supervisor.
4. **Complete** the MacEwan University SRS **Application Form**.

5. **Arrange** for a person who has supervised or taught you to write a **letter of reference** and have them send it via email to your proposed supervisor. Your proposed supervisor can write the letter if they have supervised you before.
6. **Obtain** official post-secondary transcripts (should include all pages and the legend).
7. **Send** your application package (MacEwan application form and official transcripts) as a **single PDF** to your proposed supervisor.
8. **Your proposed supervisor will submit the full application package** (your MacEwan application form, official transcripts, and letter of reference) to the MacEwan online application portal (PeopleSoft) by **11:59 pm of the application deadline, March 3, 2025**.

SELECTION OF SRS RECIPIENTS

- The SRS selection committee consists of faculty representatives from health innovation disciplines within MacEwan University. The committee is trained in unbiased adjudication.
- Recipients are selected based upon the following criteria:
 - Merit of the project proposal – 25%
 - Relevance of the Project – 25%
 - Student preparedness – 25%
 - Mentorship and research environment – 25%
- Applicants should be notified of outcomes within 6 weeks of the application deadline.
- All applicants will have their names and contact information shared with Alberta Innovates for the purposes of reporting.