

Overview

BioCanRx has a mission to foster a network that will accelerate Canada's most promising biologically based cancer therapies into clinical trials. The Network is committed to growing the Canadian cancer biotherapeutics sector. The objective of the BioCanRx Summer Studentship Award program is to provide undergraduate and college students with the opportunity to obtain meaningful hands-on experience in cancer biotherapeutics research through work placements in the laboratories of BioCanRx investigators. An additional intent is to prepare undergraduate students, with a demonstrated interest in cancer research, for post-graduate training in cancer biotherapeutics research.

Specific Terms of the Award

- The BioCanRx Summer Studentship Award provides **\$6,000 CAD in salary support** for an undergraduate or college student to work on a cancer biotherapeutics research project in the lab of a BioCanRx-funded PI over a **14-week work term**.
- Acceptance of the BioCanRx Summer Studentship Award is conditional upon a commitment from the supervisor and the student co-applicant that the student will complete a 14-week work term.
- The value of the Award is paid out to the Supervisor's institution.
- At the conclusion of the placement, the student will be expected to submit a short report on the experience and its impact on his/her career choice by completing the **End of Term Form** (sent to the trainee towards the end of his/her work term). In the event that the award has to be terminated in advance of the award end date (e.g.; student left the undergraduate program), the student will be expected to complete the **Terminating Award Form** (sent to trainee on request by the BioCanRx principal investigator) and any remaining BioCanRx funds will have to be returned. Supervisors will be eligible for future awards only after BioCanRx has approved the trainee's final report.
- Research projects must clearly fall within the [BioCanRx mandate](#) and be collaborative in nature.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS:** At the time of the application, students must have found a supervisor with whom they wish to work *and* have made arrangements with the proposed supervisor to co-apply to this award. If you are interested in working with a specific researcher, contact them as soon as possible. Please contact Megan Mahoney (memahoney@biocanrx.com) for help facilitating this process with existing BioCanRx network investigators. We cannot guarantee any placement with a network investigator. Please follow this link to obtain a list of BioCanRx researchers.

Program Key Dates

The schedule of this program will be:

January 6, 2020 – Applications open

February 28, 2020 – Applications deadline

Late March – Awardees notified

May 1, 2020 – Placement begins

August 28, 2020 – Placement ends

September 16, 2020 – End of term report deadline

Eligibility

- Applicants must be working towards their undergraduate degree at a Canadian university/college and have completed at least two semesters. Awardees cannot be enrolled in a graduate program at any point while holding this award.
- Candidates' proposed supervisors for the studentship placement must be working in the area of cancer immunotherapy at a BioCanRx Institution (“Network Member”) and in the lab of a current or founding BioCanRx Network Investigators (BioCanRx PIs) found [here](#). BioCanRx supports multidisciplinary research in multiple disciplines. Contact Megan Mahoney if you have any questions regarding fit to program.
 - Please note that exceptions will be made if the proposed researcher is not a BioCanRx Network Investigator. If you wish to work with a non-BioCanRx Network Investigator, please contact Megan Mahoney, Manager of HQP Training Programs at memahoney@biocanrx.com **prior to the application deadline for approval to determine fit to program.**
- A supervisor can host an undergraduate student from a different institution other than their own.
- Supervisors may only submit one application. A BioCanRx PI may only train one recipient of a Summer Studentship Award at any one time. Note that additional applications from a supervisor will be considered based on BioCanRx Equity, Diversity and Inclusion activities. Please contact BioCanRx to discuss any additional applications you may be considering.
- Summer students cannot simultaneously receive funding from any of the tri-council research agencies (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC) while receiving a stipend from BioCanRx.
- Past BioCanRx summer students are eligible to re-apply, but preference will be given to new students.

Application Procedure

- **Student and proposed Supervisor Complete the Application Form (separate document)**
- **Attach your curriculum vitae (no page limit) AND most recent undergraduate transcripts.**

Should be prepared by the trainee. NOTE: Please include details on degree being pursued, University attended, any research experience, awards/scholarships held, and any publications or scientific abstracts published/presented. The original transcript is not required - a legible copy or e-mail print-out is acceptable, so long as it shows every grade received from all undergraduate courses taken.
- **Provide a support letter from your proposed supervisor.** NOTE: this letter should be confidential and sent directly by your supervisor to BioCanRx by email. All letters should be signed either electronically or by hand. **All documents should be converted to .pdf files.** All correspondence, **including application submission**, should be addressed to Megan Mahoney, Manager of HQP Training Programs at memahoney@biocanrx.com.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the HQP Development Committee, according to the following criteria:

1. Does the proposed research project align with BioCanRx's mandate and is it collaborative in nature?
2. Is the project scope realistic for the studentship timeline? Will it be a beneficial learning experience for the student candidate?
3. Is the student candidate of top quality, according to:
 - a. Investigator's letter of support
 - b. Student's academic background