

### 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 goal of the BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship Program is to provide Indigenous students with meaningful hands-on research experience in the area of cancer through work placements with research groups at post-secondary institutions across Canada. Although BioCanRx's mandate focuses on cancer immunotherapy and biotherapeutics, the BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship is open to any cancer related research including cancer research that integrates Indigenous traditional knowledge. An additional intent of this program is to promote and strengthen Indigenous students' participation in cancer research and careers by providing networking, mentorship, and research experience opportunities.

#### Types of projects fitting the BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship include:

- **Clinical, social or economic impact research.** This type of project aims to study and potential solutions to social, legal, ethical, economic or health-systems barriers relating to cancer and patient care.
- **Indigenous Knowledge.** This type of project incorporates Indigenous knowledge to study cancer, or to develop strategies to improve cancer care of Indigenous people.
- **Knowledge Translation.** This type of project includes the development, implementation and/or measurement of materials, processes or applications used to improve cancer-related knowledge to Indigenous individuals or to a broader population.
- **Laboratory-based research.** This type of project encompasses cancer research taking place in a laboratory setting.

You can find more information about BioCanRx's funded Research Program on our [website](#). Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of what projects are eligible. If you have questions about the fit of a project, supervisory eligibility or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Mahoney at [memahoney@biocanrx.com](mailto:memahoney@biocanrx.com).

### 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 research project in the lab of a PI engaged in cancer research 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/their career choice by completing the **End of Term Form** (sent

to the trainee towards the end of his/her/their 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 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.

- **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](mailto:memahoney@biocanrx.com)) for help facilitating this process with existing BioCanRx Network Investigators. We cannot guarantee any placement.

### Program Key Dates

February 26, 2021 – Applications deadline

Late March/Early April – Awardees notified

May 3, 2021 – Placement begins

August 31, 2021 – Placement ends

September 17, 2021 – End of term report deadline

### A note about the COVID-19 Pandemic:

COVID-19 continues to impact institutional policies surrounding research and access to facilities. Like in 2020, we are monitoring the situation, and are taking a flexible approach to summer studentships. The intention is for students to complete a traditional summer studentship (start date in May and end date in August); however, we will consider deferral options if required. Specifically, students and supervisors will have the option to defer the project to later in the school year, or defer for one full year (new start time May 2022). More information will be provided to successful applicants as required at the time of award.

### Eligibility

- Applicants must be working towards their undergraduate degree at a Canadian university/college, have completed at least two semesters, and be in good academic standing. 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 research at any Canadian Institution. BioCanRx supports multidisciplinary research in multiple disciplines. Contact Megan Mahoney ([memahoney@biocanrx.com](mailto:memahoney@biocanrx.com)) if you have any questions regarding fit to program.
- A supervisor can host an undergraduate student from a different institution other than their own.
- Supervisors may concurrently submit one Indigenous Summer Studentship Application and one Summer Studentship Program Application ([Program Details and Application Form found on the BioCanRx website](#)) (i.e., two applications total; one for each program.)

- Summer students cannot simultaneously receive funding from any of the tri-council research agencies (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC) while receiving a stipend from BioCanRx.

### Application Procedure

(Please refer to Application Form document [available on our website](#) for details)

- Student and proposed Supervisor/Principal Investigator (i.e., supervisor) co-complete the Application Form
- The student provides a brief summary of the proposed research project (co-developed with the supervisor).
- The student provides a summary of what they will be responsible for, and what will gain from the Summer Student experience (co-developed with the supervisor).
- The student provides a statement of interest.
- The student provides their curriculum vitae (no page limit) AND most recent undergraduate transcripts.
- The proposed supervisor provides a letter of support.
- The proposed supervisor describes specific, concrete practices that they have in place to ensure that Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion is intentionally and proactively supported in their training plan.

### Mentorship and Advice

BioCanRx is offering students who apply for this award with an opportunity to connect with a group of mentors that are here to answer any questions you have regarding the program and assist you with your application process. You can find a list and description of these mentors with their contact information [here](#). Alternatively, please contact Megan Mahoney at [memahoney@biocanrx.com](mailto:memahoney@biocanrx.com) if you wish for an introduction to a listed Mentor.

### Evaluation Criteria

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

1. Does the program align with the overall goals of the students' academic and/or professional goals?
2. Does the application align with the goals of the BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship?
3. Is the project scope realistic for the studentship timeline? Will it be a beneficial learning experience for the student candidate?
4. Is the student candidate of top quality, according to:
  - a. Investigator's letter of support
  - b. Student's academic background

Please note that Indigenous students will also automatically be considered for the Summer Student program (inclusive of non-Indigenous students), and do not need to apply twice.