

2022 Indigenous Summer Studentship Program Details

Overview

BioCanRx – Canada's Immunotherapy Network is a not-for-profit national organization funded by the Government of Canada. We have 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 through innovative research projects and a robust training program.

The goal of the BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship Program is to provide Indigenous undergraduate university or college students with meaningful hands-on research or policy experience in the area of cancer. This is accomplished through internships with research groups at post-secondary institutions across Canada or with partnering organization, Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. Although BioCanRx's mandate focuses on cancer immunotherapy and biotherapeutics, the **BioCanRx Indigenous Summer Studentship is open to any cancer-related research or policy-related work including that with an Indigenous-oriented framework, such as Indigenous traditional knowledge.** An additional intent of this program is to promote and strengthen Indigenous students' participation in cancer research and policy and careers by providing networking, mentorship, and hands-on, practical experience opportunities.

Within this call for applications, there are two streams for which you can apply:

1. Open Research and Policy Stream

Placement with a professor working at a Canadian University in the following areas:

- Clinical, social or economic impact research or policy
- Indigenous Knowledge
- Knowledge Translation
- Laboratory-based research

2. Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) Stream

An internship working with CPAC fitted to the student's interest and where CPAC believes they would fit best.

Each stream has a specific application process, more information about the details of each stream can be found below in the "Information about the Summer Studentship" section.

Information about the Summer Studentship

The content below contains important information for both the Open Research and Policy Stream and CPAC Stream including key dates, student eligibility, terms of the award, and other resources. For stream-specific information including supervisor eligibility and application process please see below.

Key Dates

November 30, 2021 Indspire-hosted informational webinar (English Only, [found on BioCanRx's website](#))

February 18, 2022 – Applications deadline

Late March/Early April 2022 – Awardees notified

Late April 2022 – Investigator Equity Diversity and Inclusivity training (as required)

May 2, 2022 – Placement begins

August 29, 2022 – Placement ends

September 16, 2022 – End of term report deadline

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

Specific Terms of the Award

- The BioCanRx Summer Studentship Award provides **\$9,000 CAD in salary support (+ additional travel and housing related expenses on a case-by-case basis)** over a **14-week work term where the student will be working full time**.
- 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 (Open Research and Policy Stream) or via CPAC directly (CPAC stream).
- At the conclusion of the placement, the student will be expected to submit a short report on the experience and its impact on their career choice by completing the **End of Term Form** (sent to the student towards the end of their work term). The purpose of the End of Term Form is to provide BioCanRx with a high-level summary of the students' work, describe the student's academic or career plans, and provide BioCanRx with their opinion and feedback of the program.
- 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.

How your data and findings will be used

Please note that as part of this program, students and supervisors are *not* expected to share raw data, or any confidential information pertaining to the study results or stakeholder engagements with BioCanRx. BioCanRx does not retain any intellectual property or ownership over research or policy outputs. Only high-level summaries of research findings will be asked for as part of the End of Term Report. Additionally, students will be invited to present their work at the annual scientific conference – the Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy (details below).

Other opportunities available to Summer Students

In addition to working on a project over the summer, students will be invited to participate in BioCanRx webinars and other training activities – both virtual and in-person. Additionally, pending the successful completion of their summer studentship and submission of an abstract, students are invited to present a poster at BioCanRx's annual Summit for Cancer Immunotherapy – Summit4CI taking place November 18-22, 2022 in Montreal, Quebec. Inclusive of this invitation, students will be supported for travel and accommodations, and conference registration fees will be waived.

Mentorship and Advice



Rivers to Success: Indigenous Student Mentorship - BioCanRx is partnering with [Indspire](#) to provide mentorship to not only students who receive this award, but to those wishing to apply to the Summer Studentship program. Indspire's Rivers to Success program provides students with one-on-one and group guidance and mentorship from Indigenous peers and role models who have “been there, done that” – and who can help you stay grounded as you prepare to take your next steps on your personal path to success. Indspire is a highly recognized and well respected Indigenous-led organization: its Rivers to Success Mentorship Program is well-established. You can learn more about the program [here](#). BioCanRx is very pleased to collaborate with Indspire, as we strongly encourage mentorship – not only specific to this program, but as a means of broader guidance and support as you progress through your undergraduate or college education. If you are interested in participating in the Rivers to Success program before you apply to BioCanRx's Summer Studentship program, please contact rivers@indspire.ca.

Program Advisors: Additionally, you can also reach out to our Program Advisors – students and supervisors who work in research or health policy that are knowledgeable about BioCanRx and the Summer Studentship program. You can find a list and bio of these mentors with their contact information [here](#). Alternatively, please contact Sarah Ivanco at sivanco@biocanrx.com if you'd like an introduction to a listed Program Advisor.



A note about the COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 continues to impact institutional policies surrounding research and access to facilities. Like in 2020 and 2021, 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. More information will be provided to successful applicants as required at the time of award.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the Indigenous Summer Student Working group 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 Indigenous Summer Studentship?
3. Is the project scope realistic for the studentship timeline? Will it be a beneficial learning experience for the student candidate?

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

Information on Details for Each Stream

1. Open Research and Policy Stream

If you apply via the Open Research and Policy Stream, you are **applying with a supervisor** working at a Canadian University working in any of the following areas:

- **Clinical, social or economic impact research or policy.** This type of project aims to study the potential solutions to social, legal, ethical, economic or health-systems barriers relating to cancer and patient access to treatment and 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 would like help finding a supervisor, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Ivanco at sivanco@biocanrx.com.

Supervisor Eligibility

- Candidates' proposed supervisors for the Open Research and Policy Stream studentship placement must be working in cancer research or policy at any Canadian Institution. BioCanRx supports multidisciplinary research in multiple disciplines. Contact Sarah Ivanco (sivanco@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 (open to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students). Program Details and Application Form found on the [BioCanRx website](#) - i.e., two applications total; one for each program.)

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS APPLYING VIA THE OPEN RESEARCH AND POLICY STREAM: 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 Sarah Ivanco (sivanco@biocanrx.com) for help facilitating this process with existing BioCanRx Network Investigators. We cannot guarantee any placement. You can find a list of BioCanRx funded investigators [here](#). Please

note that this is just a starting point. As stated above, your supervisor can be any investigator as long as they are doing cancer research or policy work at a Canadian Institution.

Application Procedure

(Please refer to Application Form – Open Research and Policy Stream document for details found on our [website](#))

- Student and proposed Supervisor/Principal Investigator (i.e., supervisor) co-complete the Application Form
- The student provides a 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 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.

2. Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) Stream

As part of the Summer Studentship Program, BioCanRx is pleased to partner with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) to offer one position within the organization. As the steward of the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, CPAC strives to facilitate collaboration across Canada to accelerate work that improves the effectiveness and efficiency of cancer control across Canada. [Learn more about CPAC here.](#)

Working at CPAC as part of the Summer Student Internship program, the student will have the opportunity to collaborate across the organization to explore an area of mutual interest, including but not limited to:

- The unique and distinct cancer needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis;
- Cultural safety within the cancer system;
- Cancer prevention, including education about risks;
- Cancer screening;
- Cancer treatment, including the use of Traditional Knowledge
- Palliative and end-of-life needs and policies

The exact details of the project carried out by the student will be determined upon the start of the studentship, based upon current opportunities within CPAC and their alignment with student interest. Please note that the application process for this placement is slightly different from the Open Research and Policy Stream application process and is noted in the instructions outlined below and in the application form.

If you are interested in the CPAC stream, want more information, or want to set up an introductory call please reach out to Joshua Tobias at Joshua.Tobias@partnershipagainstcancer.ca

Application Procedure

1. Students will reach out to Joshua Tobias from CPAC to have an introductory call to discuss field of interest and where they would fit best at CPAC.
2. Students will then receive a letter of support from CPAC to include in their application.
3. Students must then complete the Application Form and statement of interest to be emailed to the student.
4. The student must also provide their curriculum vitae (no page limit) AND most recent undergraduate transcripts which will be requested by CPAC.