

Overview

BioCanRx – Canada's Immunotherapy Network is a not-for-profit national organization funded by the Government of Canada. 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.

You can learn more about the Summer Studentship projects from previous years [here](#).

Specific Terms of the Award

- The BioCanRx Summer Studentship Award provides **\$9,000 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** where the student will be working on a full-time basis.
- 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 their career choice by completing the **End of Term Form** (sent to the trainee towards the end of 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 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 eligible BioCanRx researchers. Please note that although you do not have to apply with a BioCanRx researcher, preference will be given to those applying with BioCanRx researchers.

Program Key Dates

February 16, 2024 – Applications deadline

Late March/Early April – Awardees notified

Late April – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training

May 6, 2024 – Placement begins

August 30, 2024 – Placement ends

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 Sarah Ivanco 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 Summer Studentship Program Application and one Indigenous Summer Studentship 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.
- Past BioCanRx summer students are eligible to re-apply, but preference will be given to new students.

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. Some of these offerings include:

- Panel discussion with BioCanRx Investigators about the World of Academia
- How to Write a Scientific Abstract
- How to Visually Communicate your Research
- How to Orally Communicate your Research
- And many more!

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. BioCanRx is currently in the process of planning their next Summit for 2025, the 2024 summer student cohort will be invited to present at this upcoming Summit. Inclusive of this invitation, students will be supported for travel and accommodations, and conference registration fees will be waived.

Application Procedure

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

Your CV 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.

- **The student provides a statement of interest (maximum 300 words).**
 - What you hope to achieve from the Summer Studentship
 - How the Summer Studentship program is the best option for you to pursue your interests
- **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, Director of Scientific Affairs and Training Programs at memahoney@biocanrx.com.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by the HQP Adjudication 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

4. Does the program align with the overall goals of the students' academic and/or professional goals?