



Parkinson Canada

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Issued By
Parkinson Canada

GRADUATE AWARD PROGRAM (August 2021– July 2023 Cycle)

Release Date:	November 23, 2020
Application Deadline (online receipt):	February 1, 2021 (11:59 pm EST)
Application Notice of Decision:	June 2021
Funding Start Date:	August 1, 2021
Duration of Award:	2 years

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BACKGROUND

Parkinson Canada is pleased to offer its graduate award program (the “Program”) as a strategic initiative to encourage promising young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's research and to invest in research training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's disease. Parkinson Canada wishes to encourage continued growth and revitalization in the fields of Parkinson's research in Canada by supporting talented young scientists and providing students with an opportunity to enter into the area of Parkinson's research during the early stages of their training. Parkinson Canada intends to provide awards in the amount of up to \$10,000 per year over a two-year term, to outstanding applicants who meet the eligibility criteria of the Program and who have been approved by its Scientific Advisory Council (the “Advisory Council”). As incentive and recognition for the award, it is encouraged that supervisors will also contribute to the award. Funds awarded under the Program are to be used to cover salaries for research training in Parkinson's-related areas.

Through this initiative, Parkinson Canada invites studentship applications (“Applications”) from applicants committed to conducting research in areas relevant to the cure, cause, prevention, improved treatment and/or understanding of Parkinson’s disease, related disorders including: Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and other Parkinson’s conditions. Parkinson Canada encourages applications from the fields of biomedicine, health services and systems research, population studies, and clinical research. This initiative is consistent with, and reflects, Parkinson Canada’s commitment to support innovation and renewal in the national Parkinson’s research field and to foster international leadership potential in this area.

The Program is available to only those students engaged in full-time research training in a graduate school. At the time of application, all candidates must be enrolled in graduate study program at the PhD level.

Note: The Graduate Student Award for the master’s level is not available.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Program offers awards for the support of projects with budgets of up to \$10,000 per year over a two-year term to exceptional applicants who have been approved for funding by the Advisory Council. Funds cannot be used to cover tuition costs. As incentive and recognition for the award, it is encouraged that supervisors will also contribute to the award.

PARKINSON CANADA/FONDS DE RECHERCHE DU QUÉBEC – SANTÉ ([FRQS](#)) PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

For candidates submitting applications to be considered for the Parkinson Canada/FRQS Partnership Program, funding amounts are \$25,000 per annum for Doctoral level candidates. Additionally, Doctoral candidates who are funded under this agreement are eligible for funding in their third year as per regular FRQS competitions. The amount of funding available for the third year is restricted to FRQS regular funding amounts (\$20,000 per year for 2021-2023 competitions). ***Candidates for the Parkinson Canada /FRSQ funding opportunity must submit applications to both FRSQ and to Parkinson Canada*** and must indicate that this has been done. Research supported under this Program must be carried out at a University or affiliated institutions including hospitals and research institutes, within the Province of Quebec.

ELIGIBILITY

Parkinson Canada wishes to support training excellence and development of the wide scope of Parkinson’s research in Canada. Applications will be accepted from applicants who meet the eligibility criteria established by Parkinson Canada (as summarized in this Request for Applications) and who propose to continue their training or conduct research with the following organizations (an “Approved Institution”):

- Canadian post-secondary institutions and their affiliated institutions, including hospitals and research institutes; or
- Other organizations, as determined by the Research Policy Committee of the National Board of Parkinson Canada in consultation with the Advisory Council, provided that the applicant’s research or research-related activities fall within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

Only those students engaged in full-time research training in a graduate school are eligible for support. At the time of application, all candidates must be enrolled in a graduate study program at the PhD level.

In the evaluation of the Application, Parkinson Canada's Advisory Council will typically consider academic record, Aptitudes and experience, Research Project and Training environment. Applicants will be given an opportunity to describe any career interruptions.

Under the terms of the Program, Applications will be accepted from Canadian citizens who propose to train at an Approved Institution located in Canada, and from international applicants proposing to train at an Approved Institution located in Canada who fulfill the criteria for a student visa.

LOCATION OF TRAINING & SUPERVISION

Awards granted under the Program shall be held in trust by the Approved Institution at which the proposed supervisor of the successful applicant (an "Approved Supervisor") holds a faculty appointment.

An Approved Supervisor should be an investigator actively directing research either in the field of Parkinson's disease or working in a highly relevant discipline and must be able to provide the successful applicant with a strong training environment. Other training locations may be considered by the Advisory Council, provided that the facility is an Approved Institution and the research or research-related activities conducted at such location falls within the mandate of Parkinson Canada.

REVIEW PROCESS

The evaluation of Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada will be completed by the Advisory Council through a peer review process. The Advisory Council is composed of prominent neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuropathologists and neuroscientists from across Canada. The peer review process is a cornerstone of Parkinson Canada's research program and provides for the highest quality of objective adjudication.

The Advisory Council is responsible for the evaluation of all Applications submitted to Parkinson Canada in response to this Request for Applications, to rate each of the Applications so that they may be ranked in order of priority and to recommend to Parkinson Canada the size of the award needed to support the research should the Application be approved.

External reviewers will be solicited for additional expertise as needed.

The Advisory Council anticipates that it will provide each applicant whose Application to participate in the Program has been declined with written notice of such decision and where possible, a brief written critique of the substance of their Application.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The principal consideration used to evaluate Applications is research excellence potential. A variety of additional criteria will also be considered by the Advisory Council in the evaluation process. Parkinson Canada has designed the application form around these criteria and gives the applicant and supervisor space to provide the appropriate information relating to each of the criteria listed. Each of the criteria listed below will be considered in assigning the overall ranking of the Application, weighting them as appropriate for each Application:

- **CANDIDATE:**
 - Academic record
 - Research experience
 - Letters of reference/support

- **SUPERVISOR/ENVIRONMENT:**
 - Supervisor's research track record
 - Training environment

- **PROJECT:**
 - Relevance to Parkinson's disease
 - Overall impression of project

In addition to the above criteria, all applications will also be reviewed with respect to the following:

- The adequacy of the proposed protection of humans, animals, or of the environment, to the extent that they may be adversely affected by the project proposed in the application. The Advisory Council will also examine the provisions for the protection of human subjects (if any) and the safety of the research environment.

Applications are reviewed on an individual basis and as such, candidates will be evaluated on the stage of their research experience.

Where a trainee and supervisor are submitting an application to the same competition, trainees submitting their own proposal (not identical to the proposal submitted by their supervisor) will be given priority ranking.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This Request for Applications made by Parkinson Canada is subject to the terms and conditions (the "Terms and Conditions") contained in Parkinson Canada's Research Program Application Guidelines (the "Guidelines"), which the applicant shall be deemed to have accepted upon submission to Parkinson Canada of an Application to participate in the Program. Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions may result, in addition to any other remedies Parkinson Canada may have at law, in termination of the Program and exclusion of the applicant from future grant and fellowship award competitions.

A successful applicant who has received an award under the Program may not transfer the award to another institution unless exceptionally approved by the chairs of the Research Policy Committee and Scientific Advisory Council (please see Guidelines).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND TERMS OF FUNDING

All successful applicants shall comply with the reporting obligations outlined in the Guidelines.

Parkinson Canada requires studentship recipients to submit Annual and Final Progress Reports. The advance of the portion of the award to be made in the second year of the term of the Program is conditional upon submission of an Annual Progress Report to Parkinson Canada in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council at the end the first year of the term of the Program.

The Progress report shall be submitted to research@parkinson.ca no later than **one year after the start of the award**. Progress report guidelines and instructions will be provided by Parkinson Canada in advance of the report deadline.

A Final Report detailing the results of the successful applicant's progress, in substance and form satisfactory to the Advisory Council, shall be submitted to research@parkinson.ca no later than three months after the termination of the two-year term of the Program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications are submitted digitally through the Parkinson Canada online application system located on the Parkinson Canada website at www.parkinsonresearch.ca no later than **February 1, 2021 (11:59 pm EST)**.

Applications for Graduate Student Awards include the following:

- Project Summary, stating in 200 words or less, the scientific or clinical question being asked, how you will address it, the expected outcome and the likely impact for Parkinson's disease.
- Project Narrative (**1 page**) including:
 - The hypothesis to be tested, the specific aims of the research and the approach that will be used to test them.
 - Describe the candidate's role in the project.
 - Justify the relevance to Parkinson's disease.
- Curriculum vitae (CV), including a summary of any postgraduate experience, listing of any honours and awards, listing of any publications where the applicant has participated as a co-author, first author, sole author, etc. (please specify), including the number of papers, number of book chapters, and number of abstracts, and whether these are published or in press. Include a listing of all current and pending funding support. Also include an explanation for any interruption in the applicant's academic career (4 page maximum);
- Academic Transcripts:
 - An up-to-date original or certified copy of transcript(s) of the applicant's academic record must be included. Transcripts must be issued by the Registrar's Office, scanned and uploaded. Transcripts printed from the candidate's personal university account are not considered to be official. Copies may be certified by the proposed supervisor, department head, or notary public. Foreign transcripts **MUST** be accompanied by a certified English or French interpretation and a clear explanation of the grading system.

- International candidates are encouraged to obtain official conversions of their grades to GPA by their institute.
- Three (3) letters of reference/support:
 - The supervisor's statement of support can be used as one letter.
 - Letters of reference should highlight the applicant's strengths as they relate to suitability/experience in research (e.g. originality, technical ability, demonstrated skills, judgment, critical skills etc.).
 - For international candidates, sponsors are encouraged to comment on the grades and/or class ranking of the candidate within the content of their letters.
- Signature of the supervisor (agreeing to supplement award if possible, and of an authorized signing official of the applicant's host institution.

In addition to the foregoing, the applicant should arrange for his or her proposed supervisor to prepare the following information:

- Letter of support from supervisor.
- Training environment form completed and submitted by proposed supervisor outlining the proposed training program, including details of time allocation, publications of supervisor and supervisory experience, as well as a statement from the prospective supervisor(s) describing the training environment and the collaborative milieu, including the responsibilities to be assumed, the teaching to be provided and the research project to be undertaken.
- Supervisor's CV (using the Parkinson Canada biographical form).

Relevant support materials are limited to literature references. Any information submitted in addition to this will not be forwarded with the application to the Scientific Advisory Council for review.

Applicants do not need to courier any documents to Parkinson Canada; however, we do ask that you keep the original signed documents which may be requested in the event that your application is successful in the competition.

Incomplete applications or applications received later than **February 1, 2021 (11:59 pm EST)** will not be considered **under any circumstances**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE REFER TO:

The Parkinson Canada Research Program Application Guidelines Manual available from the Parkinson Canada Web site at www.parkinson.ca.

OR CONTACT:

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