

NMIN Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicines Research

A Call for Proposals from Groups Underrepresented in Nanomedicine Research¹

2021 Competition Guide

Deadline: Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 5:00 pm in the applicant's time zone

NMIN's Priority Areas for the Development of HQP

The NanoMedicines Innovation Network's (NMIN) Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Program seeks to cultivate the next generation of nanomedicine scientists and entrepreneurs, and to train the skilled workforce required by the burgeoning Canadian nanomedicines ecosystem.

- *Priority Area 1:* Nanomedicine Research Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 2:* IP Creation and Commercialization Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 3:* Entrepreneurial and Leadership Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 4:* Communication and Knowledge Mobilization Skills and Experience
- *Priority Area 5:* Genetics, Ethical, Environmental, Economic, Legal and Social (GE³LS) Issues Awareness and Understanding

Program Overview

The goal of the 2021 NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicines Research* program is to strengthen the Network's ability to develop innovative nanomedicines and related technologies. Our researchers' diverse viewpoints and perspectives enrich the NMIN network. Therefore, we promote equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Network because our researchers' lived experiences contribute to solving the most critical problems facing society. NMIN hopes to foster interest in nanomedicines research and motivate undergraduate students in the Network to continue to pursue studies in nanomedicine sciences at the graduate level and in their future careers. We invite outstanding students from underrepresented groups and their Supervisors to apply to this Call for Proposals.

Applications will be reviewed using three criteria:

1. The research project is reasonable and scientifically appropriate for completion by an undergraduate student within the time allocated for the internship;
2. The undergraduate student expresses a clear and convincing rationale for their role in and contribution to the proposed nanomedicines-related research project; and,
3. The learning opportunity for the student, including the broader training environment and

¹ Underrepresented groups include, but are not limited to, women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minority/racialized groups and members of LGBTQ2+ communities. Source: Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan for 2019-2025: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Action-Plan_Plan-dAction_eng.asp

capacity-building goals, are clearly identified by the student and project supervisor in the application.

Preference is given to undergraduates who have not previously worked and are not currently working in the proposed supervisor's lab.

Available Awards

A total of six (6) award are available for up to three (3) months in duration.

Value and Duration of the Award

- The NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicines Research* provides a stipend of \$1,500 a month for a maximum of three months.
- Proposed projects must be between 8-12 weeks in length.
- Studentships may begin as early as 31 May 2021, and must be completed as of 31 March 2022, to accommodate co-op student schedules.

Applicant Eligibility

- Undergraduates enrolled in an undergraduate degree program (full-time or part-time) at a Canadian university eligible to hold Tri-Council funding.
- At the time of the award, applicants must have completed at least one year of undergraduate studies.
- Applicants may be supervised by any investigator named on a currently funded NMIN project during the proposed Studentship.

Conditions of Funding

- Supervisors are welcome to provide top-ups to the NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicine Research*.
- All conditions specified in the [CIHR Application Administration Guide](#) shall apply to applications funded through this Call for Applications.
- Any unspent funds must be reported to NMIN immediately on the official end date of the Studentship and returned within 60 days.
- The Award must be held at a Canadian university or research institute that is eligible to hold Tri-Council funding.
- The host institution must be an existing signatory to the NMIN *NCE Network Agreement*.
- Awardees cannot hold any other awards or co-op positions during the term of the NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicines Research*.
- NMIN will specify any additional conditions of funding in the award offer and/or funding letter.

Application Content

Supervisors and undergraduates are requested to jointly complete the NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicines Research* application package, which includes the following:

1. *Completed by the Supervisor:*
 - a. Supervisor details
 - b. Research Proposal (maximum 1 page excluding references, Arial, 11 pt)
 - c. Description of the learning opportunities to be provided to the trainee (maximum 1 page, Arial, 11 pt)
 - d. Description of how the NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in NanoMedicines Research* will contribute to the student's career development as a result of the training opportunity to be provided (maximum 1 page, Arial, 11 pt)
2. *Completed by the Undergraduate:*
 - a. Undergraduate details
 - b. Rationale/motivation underlying the student's interest in conducting this research, and the learning opportunities they will benefit from (maximum 1 page, Arial, 11 pt)

Application Submission

Please submit the application package electronically in PDF format to Leah Graystone, HQP and Events Coordinator, at leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca. Only electronic applications will be accepted.

Evaluation Process

- Applications will be screened by the NMIN Administrative Centre staff for completeness.
- Eligible applications will be subject to review by NMIN's HQP Program Advisory Committee (HPAC), which will recommend applications for final decision by NMIN's Research Management Committee (RMC).

Evaluation Criteria

1. The research project is reasonable and scientifically appropriate for completion by an undergraduate student;
2. The undergraduate student expresses a clear and convincing rationale for their role in and contribution to the proposed nanomedicines-related research project; and,
3. The learning opportunity for the student, including the broader training environment and capacity-building goals, are clearly identified by the student and project supervisor in the application.

Notification Process

Decisions will be communicated to undergraduates and their supervisors no later than May 28, 2021.

Branding, Attribution and Publications

- Awardees must acknowledge the assistance given by NMIN in any publication or presentation made during or resulting from the tenure of the Award, in accordance with the [NMIN Branding & Attribution Guidelines](#).
- NMIN shall be provided with a copy, at the time of submission, of all manuscripts and presentations submitted for publication that arise from the efforts of the awardee during the tenure of this Award.

Monitoring, Performance Measurement and Evaluation

NMIN is committed to demonstrating results to Canadians for the public funds it invests on their behalf. Therefore, processes for monitoring progress and appropriate use of funds, as well as for performance measurement and program evaluation are in place. To this end, funding recipients must:

- Contribute to the monitoring, review and evaluation of NMIN's programs, policies and processes by participating in networking activities including Research Conferences/Scientific Meetings, as well as participating in evaluation studies, surveys, workshops, audits and providing data and reports as required for the purpose of collecting information to assess progress and results;
- Encourage their associates, trainees and administration to participate in the monitoring, review and evaluation of NMIN's programs, policies and processes as required;
- Sign NMIN's *NCE Network Agreement* and comply with the Agreement's provisions.

Intellectual Property and Commercialization

- Awardees and their host institutions must be signatories to the NMIN *NCE Network Agreement*.
- NMIN requires that it be informed of any commercial exploitation arising from activities supported through the Award in accordance with the terms and conditions of the *NCE Network Agreement*

Contact Information

For further information or assistance in completing the application, contact:
Leah Graystone, HQP and Events Coordinator at leahgraystone@nanomedicines.ca, or
289-567-0434