

NMIN Undergraduate Studentship in Nanomedicines Research

2023-24 Competition Guide

Deadline: 15 September 2023 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. To support the realization of these impacts, NMIN has five (5) Priority Areas for the HQP Program:

- *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 Goal: To foster interest in nanomedicines research, enable undergraduate students belonging to equity deserving groups to participate in the Network, and motivate them to continue to pursue studies in nanomedicine sciences at the graduate level and in their future careers.

Program Overview

The 2023-24 NMIN *Undergraduate Studentship in Nanomedicines Research* program works to strengthen equity deserving undergraduate students' ability to develop innovative nanomedicines and related technologies.

Applications will be reviewed against 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 capacity-building goals, are clearly identified by the student and project supervisor in the application.

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

NMIN Undergraduate Studentship in Nanomedicine Research – Equity deserving Groups in Nanomedicine Research: NMIN's researchers' diverse viewpoints and perspectives enrich the NMIN network. Therefore, NMIN promotes equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Network because its researchers' lived experiences contribute to solving the most critical problems

facing society. Five (5) NMIN Undergraduate Studentships are available for equity deserving groups in nanomedicine research, and NMIN invites outstanding students from equity deserving groups and their supervisors to apply to this Call for Proposals.

Equity deserving groups include, but are not limited to, women, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of visible minority/racialized groups and members of LGBTQ2+ communities¹.

Available Awards

A total of five (5) awards are available for up to four (4) months in duration for undergraduate students from equity deserving groups in nanomedicine research.

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 four months.
- Proposed projects must be between 8-16 weeks in length.
- Studentships may begin as early as 1 January 2024, and must be completed as of 31 December 2024, to accommodate co-op student schedules.

Applicant Eligibility

- Equity deserving undergraduates enrolled in an undergraduate degree program (full-time or part-time) at a Canadian university.
- 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 Nanomedicines Research*.
- All conditions specified in the [CIHR Application Administration Guide](#) shall apply to applications funded through this Call for Applications.
- Should NMIN NCE funds be held in an account at the Network Member Institution after 31 March 2024, it will be each Institution's responsibility to report on the use of the NCE funds directly to the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) through the provision of an SOA 300, and to ensure that each NMIN NCE account is fully expended by 31 March 2025.
 - Should there be any unspent NMIN NCE residual funding as of 31 March 2025, those funds must be returned directly to NSERC.
- The recipient must be an Undergraduate student for the duration of the award term.
- The Award must be held at a Canadian university or research institute that is eligible to hold Tri-Council funding.

¹ 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

- The host institution must be an existing signatory to the NMIN *NCE Network Agreement*.
- The Supervisor 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*, nor can they be enrolled in a term that has programmatic course requirements (including undergraduate thesis requirements unless directly complementary to this award) to ensure that the research requirements of the Studentship can be met.
- NMIN will specify any additional conditions of funding in the award and/or funding letter.

Application Content

Supervisors and equity deserving 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 one page excluding references, in 11pt Arial)
 - c. Description of the learning opportunities to be provided to the trainee (maximum 1 page, in 11pt Arial)
 - 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, in 11pt Arial)
2. *Completed by the Undergraduate:*
 - a. Undergraduate details
 - b. Rationale/motivation underlying the student's interest in conducting nanomedicine research, and the learning opportunities they will benefit from (maximum 1 page, in 11pt Arial)

Application Submission

Please submit the application package electronically in PDF format to Divya Rao, HQP Program and Network Events Manager, at divyarao@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; [33.3%]
2. The undergraduate student expresses a clear and convincing rationale for their role in and contribution to the proposed nanomedicines-related research project; [33.3%] 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. [33.3%]

Notification Process

Decisions will be communicated to undergraduates and supervisors no later than December 2023.

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:

- Sign NMIN's *NCE Network Agreement* and comply with the Agreement's provisions.
- Attend the 2024 NMIN Research Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, 24-27 January 2024 and participate in evaluation studies, surveys, workshops, and audits.
- Contribute to the content of NMIN reporting associated with this award.

Intellectual Property and Commercialization

- Awardees, supervisors, 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*
- Intellectual property arising from NMIN's investments in this project (in whole or in part) **must acknowledge NMIN as a supporting organization and be disclosed simultaneously to NMIN and the Host Institution** as per the terms set out in **Section 3.2.5 Disclosure and Commercialization of Network-Supported Intellectual Property (NSIP)** and **Section 3.6 (b) Other Obligations** in the NMIN NCE Network Agreement.

Contact Information

For further information or assistance in completing the application, contact:
Divya Rao, HQP Program and Network Events Manager, at divyarao@nanomedicines.ca.