**Graduate Studentship Application Instructions**

The Northern Centre is one of the [BC SUPPORT Units](http://bcsupportunit.ca/) four regional centres. Its goal is to build capacity and provide support for collaborative research in the area served by Northern Health that focuses on a common goal of increased access to high quality health care and improved patient outcomes. The Northern Centre operates as a partnership between Northern Health (NH) and the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and aligns with the existing NH-UNBC partnered goals and objectives.

Patient-oriented research is defined as research that is done in partnership with patients, answers research questions that matter to patients, and aims to improve health care. The term [patient](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/44000.html) is overarching and is inclusive of individuals with personal experience of a health issue and informal caregivers, including family and friends.

**Description**

The Graduate Studentship Program supports individuals who are enrolled in a full-time thesis-based Masters or PhD program at the University of Northern BC (UNBC) and are interested in undertaking patient-oriented research.

The objectives of the studentship are to:

* Support and train thesis-based graduate students in the principles and practice of patient-oriented research;
* Provide patient-oriented training activities to develop capacity through an interdisciplinary approach that fosters collaboration between research partners (e.g., applicants, thesis supervisors, clinicians, patient partners, a health system knowledge user, and community team members);
* Create opportunities for research partners to work together, from conceptualization of the research question through to dissemination and implementation of results; and
* Demonstrate the impact of the studentship for graduate students and their research.

**Funds Available and Duration**

The competition will provide funding for up to one $10,000 (MSc/MA) and one $15,000 (PhD) one-year studentship. The one- year award period begins April 1, 2020 with a total of $25,000 available for this competition. Please note that no extensions will be granted for this term.

**Key Competition Dates**

**Competition launch:** November 2019

**Deadline for application submission:**  February 12, 2020

**Notification of competition results:** March 2020

**Funding term**: April 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021

**Applicant Eligibility**

* Applicants must be enrolled in, or accepted to, a graduate program at UNBC and be undertaking or planning to undertake health-related thesis research.
* Applicants must be in a full-time, regular (not on-leave) graduate program (MSc or PhD) during the 1-year award period.
* Applicant must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.8
* Applicant’s supervisor(s) must be an established researcher who has agreed to be their supervisor and who accepts the conditions of the award outlined below.
* International students are eligible for this studentship

**Studentship Conditions and Responsibilities**

**Submitting an application implies that both the applicant and their supervisor accept the following conditions:**

* **Protected time:** Be enrolled full time at UNBC in a thesis-based Masters or PhD program.
* **Letter of Agreement:** Sign a letter of agreement, along with their supervisor, accepting the Conditions and Responsibilities of the award before the award will be given.
* **Acknowledge the Northern Centre:** Acknowledge the BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre’s support during any formal presentation (e.g., poster, oral paper), publication, or thesis resulting from the studentship.
* **Training:** Participate in CIHR’s National Curriculum for Patient Oriented Research training modules during the term of the studentship.
* **Presentation:** Present a summary of his/her research activities at one of the Northern Centre’s knowledge sharing events
* **Final Report:** Provide a brief summary of the activities and accomplishments achieved during the Studentship within 6 weeks of the end of the funding year.

**Application Components**

**A complete application should include:**

1. Studentship Award Application Form
2. Applicant Statement (0.5 page): Describe why you are interested in pursuing a studentship in patient-oriented research
3. Patient-Oriented Research Project Plan (2 pages): Provide an overview of your patient-oriented research plan. This includes a background on the topic, specific project aims, and the proposed partnership engagement and methodology.
4. Knowledge Translation Plan (0.5 page): Describe how you will share, implement, and/or create impact with your proposed project
5. A copy of the applicant’s current CV
6. A copy of the applicant’s current transcript
7. A copy of the proposed primary supervisor(s) current CV
8. Supervisor Letter of Support (1 page):
   1. Describe the applicant’s suitability for this studentship
   2. Describe how the applicant will benefit from the studentship and training in patient-oriented research
   3. Demonstrate commitment to support the applicant's patient-oriented research project (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.)

***PLEASE NOTE:***

Applications must use a minimum of 12 point size Arial (regular), single spaced, and 1-inch margins for all submitted material.

Patient Oriented research resources to help with the Application can be found on the [BC SUPPORT Unit Resources Page](https://bcsupportunit.ca/resources).

**Application Submission**

Inquiries can be addressed to Rachael Wells, Co-lead, BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre at [rachael.wells@unbc.ca](mailto:rachael.wells@unbc.ca).

Please email completed application packages to the UNBC Health Research Institute at [hri@unbc.ca](mailto:hri@unbc.ca)

no later than 11:55pm on February 12, 2020.

**Selection Process**

The BC SUPPORT Unit Northern Centre Awards Adjudication Committee will follow a formal selection process and will evaluate each of the submissions on the quality and potential of the following four areas:

1. The quality and potential of the candidate is assessed in the applicant’s CV and Transcript.
2. Quality and clarity of the proposed patient oriented research project plan.
3. Research environment is assessed on how the applicant is supported by their supervisor and expects to engage with the Northern Centre for patient-oriented research training.
4. Knowledge Translation plan is assessed on how the applicant expects to share, implement, and/or create impact with your proposed project.

Rating system: The four evaluation criteria categories (candidate, research plan, research environment, and impact) will have equal weight (25%) in scoring.

**Application Checklist**

**Please check that each of the following items are completed:**

Studentship Award Application Form

Applicant statement (0.5 page)

Patient Oriented Project Plan (2 page maximum)

Knowledge Translation Plan (0.5 page)

Applicant’s current CV and Transcript

Primary supervisor’s CV

Letter from Primary Supervisor (1 page)