



**Brain Canada**  
**Rising Stars Trainee Awards**  
2026 Request for Applications (RFA)

**About Brain Canada Foundation**

Brain Canada Foundation (Brain Canada) is a national registered charity that enables and supports excellent, innovative, paradigm-changing brain research in Canada. For more than 25 years, Brain Canada has made the case for the brain as a single, complex system with commonalities across the range of neurological disorders, mental illnesses and addictions, and brain and spinal cord injuries. Looking at the brain as one system has underscored the need for increased collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and to ensure that Canada has a robust pipeline of talent to remain at the forefront in the field of brain research. Brain Canada's vision is to understand the brain, in health and illness, to improve lives, and achieve societal impact.

The Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF) is an innovative arrangement between the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, and Brain Canada Foundation, designed to increase support of brain research on behalf of Canadians, and maximize the impact and efficiency of those investments. The Fund supports the very best Canadian neuroscience, fostering collaborative research and accelerating the pace of discovery, in order to improve the health and quality of life of those who suffer from brain disorders.

[www.braincanada.ca](http://www.braincanada.ca)

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## Rationale

Supporting the next generation of researchers in Canada is needed to ensure the success of the Canadian brain research ecosystem. Trainees are the learners of today and the leaders of tomorrow, but the increasing competitiveness of the Canadian research environment and the limited financial support from granting agencies and institutions can make it difficult to attain the resources needed to excel.

In response to the need voiced by the academic community, the *Brain Canada Rising Stars Trainee Awards* aim to recognize the excellent research being conducted at Canadian institutions by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and medical residents in all fields spanning neuroscience research. With the goal of helping trainees launch their academic careers and pursue their professional goals, the *Rising Stars Trainee Awards* aim to broaden the funding opportunities available to trainees.

## General Information

### 2026 Trainee Award Opportunities

Award Name	Anticipated Number of Awards (up to)	Amount per Award (CAD)
STIPEND AWARDS (click <a href="#">here</a> for more details)		
Rising Stars Awards in ALS Research	Six (6)	\$10,000
Rising Stars Award in Mental Health Research, in memory of Vivian Distler	Seven (7)	\$10,000
Rising Stars Award in Brain Cancer Research	Two (2)	\$10,000
Rising Stars Award in Aging and Neurodegeneration	Four (4)	\$10,000
<i>Top-up for stipend awards: Sex and/or gender considerations in brain research</i>	<i>Nine (9)</i>	<i>\$2,000</i>
TRAVEL AWARDS (click <a href="#">here</a> for more details)		
Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship	Six (6)	Up to \$2,500

Funding for this program has been made possible by the Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF), an innovative arrangement between the Government of Canada (through Health Canada), and Brain Canada Foundation, and our donors and partners.

Please note that *Rising Stars Trainee Award* opportunities are subject to change from year to year.

### Eligibility

- A trainee is defined as a full-time graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellow, or medical resident conducting neuroscience research at a Canadian institution.
- Previous recipients of a *Rising Stars Trainee Award* are not eligible to apply.
- Trainees can only apply to **one** of the 2026 Trainee Award Opportunities available, if eligible.
- Multiple trainees from the same supervisor can apply.
- Individuals who hold an independent academic or research position are not eligible to apply.

Additional eligibility criteria are included within the specific funding opportunities.

## Timeline

Launch of Request for Applications	May 14, 2026
<b>Deadline for Receipt of Applications</b>	<b>June 26, 2026 at 17:00 ET</b>
Notification of Award	October 2026
Award Start Date	January 1, 2027

## How to Apply

Applications are to be submitted through Brain Canada’s electronic grant management system, SmartSimple ([https://braincanada.smartsimple.ca/s\\_Login.jsp](https://braincanada.smartsimple.ca/s_Login.jsp)), by 17:00 ET on June 26, 2026. Applicants will be required to create a SmartSimple account, if they do not already have one, and the *2026 Rising Stars Trainee Awards* application form(s) can be accessed through the “Funding Programs” section on their homepage. **Applicants who are using SmartSimple for the first time are strongly encouraged to create their accounts and start an application as soon as possible so that they can contact [programs@braincanada.ca](mailto:programs@braincanada.ca) well in advance of the application deadline should they require assistance.**

All applications will need to be formatted using 12-point Times New Roman or 11.5-point Arial font, single-spaced, on a letter-size page with 1" minimum margins. Use of a condensed font and spacing is not permitted. Other fonts and font sizes are acceptable for text in tables, charts, figures, graphs and legends only, as long as it remains legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Applications received in any other format, exceeding the page limits, incomplete, or late, will be rejected. **It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure their submission adheres to these requirements, and those specified under the “Application Procedures” below, and that it is received by the deadline. There will be no appeal to late submissions.**

Please consult [Appendix A](#) for Frequently Asked Questions about the Rising Stars program.

## Review Process

Brain Canada will manage the review process. Brain Canada will conduct an administrative check on all applications submitted by the deadline to apply. Eligible applications will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers based on the respective criteria for assessment for the [stipend awards](#) and [travel awards](#). Brain Canada will keep all materials submitted for this funding opportunity confidential and only share them with reviewers who have signed confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements. Conflicts of interest will be taken into consideration when assigning the reviewers.

Based on reviewer scores, Brain Canada will fund the highest-ranking applications received for each 2026 Trainee Award. Brain Canada will not entertain appeals against the assessment and recommendation of the Review Panel.

Please note that the number of awards granted for each Trainee Award Opportunity will ultimately depend on the number of applications received to each stream and the results of the review process. Brain Canada will provide all applicants with a Notice of Decision in October 2026. Awardees will be contacted alongside their supervisors using the information provided in the application form.

## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Evidence clearly shows that increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in research environments enhances excellence, innovation, and creativity. Brain Canada is committed to excellence through equity

and encourages applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to this funding opportunity, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented groups.

### Contact Information

For more information, or if you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Brain Canada at [programs@braincanada.ca](mailto:programs@braincanada.ca). We invite you to consult the Frequently Asked Questions in [Appendix A](#) for answers to common questions about the Rising Stars program.

## Detailed 2026 Trainee Award Opportunities

### STIPEND AWARDS

#### Eligibility

1. The Applicant must be a full-time graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellow or medical resident enrolled at a Canadian institution during the entire duration of the award (January 1 - December 31, 2027) and conducting the proposed research project during this time.
2. The Applicant and the supervisor must adhere to the studentship and fellowship policies at their institution. It is the responsibility of the Applicant and the supervisor to ensure that the total stipend received meets the institutional funding standard.
3. Applicants are not eligible to apply if, by the application deadline of June 26, 2026, they hold one or more major fellowship or studentship award(s) (i.e., any internal or external reviewed award) valued at \$25,000 per year or more that overlap with the *Rising Stars Trainee Award* period of January 1 - December 31, 2027.

### Stipend Award Opportunities

#### *Rising Stars Awards in ALS Research*

These awards are made possible with support from Linda Auger Morissette and Friends in honour of Pierre Auger Morissette; Naomi Azrieli, François Blanc and Family in memory of Madeleine Blanc; Allan Kliger, Aviva Rajsky & Family who lovingly power the Olivier Goy Rising Star Trainee Award in ALS Research; and Wendy Clarke.

- **Specific award eligibility:** Eligible trainees must be conducting research in the field of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000 CAD per award for one year, non-renewable.
- **Anticipated number of awards:** Up to six (6) awards.

#### *Rising Stars Award in Mental Health Research, in memory of Vivian Distler*

These awards are made possible with support from Naomi Azrieli, O.C.; and the Jackman Foundation.

- **Specific award eligibility:** Eligible trainees must be conducting research on the neuroscience of mental illnesses and disorders. More specifically, they must be examining the fundamental mechanisms of mental illnesses and disorders in such a way that will enhance our knowledge on the nature, onset, and/or progression. Mental illness and disorders include, but are not limited to, substance use disorders, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, and schizophrenia.
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000 CAD per award for one year, non-renewable.
- **Anticipated number of awards:** Up to seven (7) awards.

### [Rising Stars Award in Brain Cancer Research](#)

These awards are made possible with support from the Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation.

- **Specific award eligibility:** Eligible trainees must be conducting brain-related research in the field of brain cancer, with a focus on glioblastoma.
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000 CAD per award for one year, non-renewable.
- **Anticipated number of awards:** Up to two (2) awards.

### [Rising Stars Award in Aging and Neurodegeneration](#)

These awards are made possible with support from the Reciprocity Foundation; The Mireille and Murray Steinberg Family Foundation; and Jane McCulloch.

- **Specific award eligibility:** Eligible trainees must be conducting research in the field of Parkinson's disease (PD). In alignment with the [One Brain](#) approach, which emphasizes how breakthroughs in one area can unlock insights across other conditions, trainees are encouraged to focus on *aging-related mechanisms and factors* that influence the risk, onset, and/or progression of PD (e.g., neuroinflammation, metabolism, comorbidities, etc.), including mechanisms and factors implicated in other neurological diseases that may provide insight into neurodegeneration.
- **Amount of award:** \$10,000 CAD per award for one year, non-renewable.
- **Anticipated number of awards:** Up to four (4) awards.

### [Top-up for Sex and/or Gender Considerations in Brain Research](#)

Brain Canada recognizes the need for and importance of including sex (i.e. biological) and gender (i.e. socio-cultural) considerations in research that span the range of basic, translational and clinical approaches. Trainees applying for any of the above Stipend Awards whose research considers sex- and/or gender-related factors and intersections will have the opportunity to receive top-up funding to provide further support and recognition for their efforts in this area. Applicants are encouraged to consult the [Brain Canada SGBA+ and EDI Action Plan 2022-25](#) and refer to CIHR's guide on [How to integrate sex and gender into research](#).

- **Specific top-up eligibility:** Applicants will be asked to indicate whether their research project incorporates sex and/or gender-related factors and intersections and, if so, must provide a brief explanation to be considered for the top-up (see [Applications Procedures](#) for more details).
- **Amount of top-up:** \$2,000 CAD per top-up for one year, non-renewable.
- **Anticipated number of top-ups:** Up to nine (9) top-ups.

### [Criteria for Assessment](#)

Reviewers will adjudicate applications based on the following criteria. The weighting of each will differ between applications submitted from M.Sc. students, Ph.D. students, and postdoctoral fellows or medical residents, as outlined below. In the event of a tie in overall rating between applications, the *Quality of Research* score will be used to determine rank order.

### **Training Environment of the Trainee**

- The degree to which the trainee's research and academic training environment (e.g., resources, programs, technologies, equipment, opportunities for professional development, support from supervisor, advisory committee, etc.) can be leveraged to ensure their successful involvement in the research project.

*Weighting: Increased emphasis on training environment for MSc- and PhD-level trainees – i.e., 40% for MSc students, 30% for PhD students, and 20% for postdoctoral fellows and medical residents.*

## Quality of Research

- Scientific soundness of the research proposal, including the clarity of the rationale, hypothesis, methodology and expected outcomes;
- Importance and potential for impact of the research.

*Weighting: Increased emphasis on quality of research proposal for more senior-level trainees – i.e., 30% for MSc students, 40% for PhD students, and 50% for postdoctoral fellows and medical residents.*

## Track Record and Potential of the Trainee (30%)

- The overall progression and continuity of the trainee’s scientific and academic achievements, including consideration of their academic history, scholarships/fellowships, honours and awards, publications, poster and oral presentations, etc.

*Weighting: Increased emphasis on scientific and academic achievements for more senior-level trainees – i.e., 10% for MSc students, 15% for PhD students, and 20% for postdoctoral fellows and medical residents.*

- Consideration of the trainee’s other achievements and experiences including community engagement, leadership opportunities, extracurricular activities, completed or ongoing trainings, lived experience, etc.

*Weighting: Increased emphasis on other achievements and experiences for MSc- and PhD-level trainees – i.e., 20% for MSc students, 15% for PhD students, and 10% for postdoctoral fellows and medical residents.*

## Application Procedures for Stipend Awards

The Applicant must complete the following components under the “Stipend Award” tab in their 2026 *Rising Stars Trainee Awards* application in SmartSimple:

- 1. Provide a brief explanation of how the project meets the specific award eligibility for the opportunity for which you are applying (maximum 150 words).**
  - Please note that this will be used by Brain Canada to confirm the eligibility of the application during the administrative check and will not be considered by reviewers during the review process.
- 2. Research project title**
- 3. A lay summary of the project (maximum 300 words).** Please note that the lay summary must be suitable for a public audience and will be made available on Brain Canada’s [Project Directory](#), if awarded.
- 4. A two-page description of the project (excluding figures and references), including:**
  - A summary of the research project, rationale, hypothesis, methodology and expected outcomes.
  - A statement describing the importance of the research and its impact.

*A maximum of one additional page can be used to include figures and references.*
- 5. If applicable, a description of how the research project considers sex- and/ or gender-related factors and intersections (maximum 300 words).**
- 6. Curriculum vitae (CV)**
  - A two-page CV listing academic history (degrees obtained, professional history), awards and honours (including the award name, amount, start and end dates), presentations, and publications.
- 7. Personal statement (maximum 300 words)**
  - Please describe your achievements and experiences (lived, academic and/or community) as they relate to your academic and professional career. Relevant factors include, but are not limited to, a description of extracurricular activities (e.g., community engagement, leadership experience, volunteer work, etc.), completed or ongoing trainings, etc. This

section should focus on information that goes above and beyond what is included in your CV.

**8. Description of training environment (maximum 500 words)**

- Please describe your research and academic training environment (e.g., resources, programs, technologies, equipment, opportunities for professional development, support from supervisor, advisory committee, etc.) and how it will enable the success of your involvement in the research project.

**9. A signed one-page letter of support from your supervisor, including:**

- Confirmation that the Applicant will be registered as a full-time graduate student or postdoctoral fellow for the entire award duration (January 1 - December 31, 2027) and conducting the proposed research project during this time.
- Relevance of Applicant's research to the field of research in question and why it should be considered for this award.
- Description of the Applicant's research and training environment.
- The strengths and accomplishments of the Applicant.

*In the case of co-supervision, please note that only one one-page letter of support, which can be co-signed, will be accepted.*

## TRAVEL AWARDS

### Eligibility

- The Applicant must be a full-time graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.) or postdoctoral fellow enrolled at a Canadian institution at the time of conference/symposium or training course attendance. *Please note that medical residents, even if they are completing a concurrent degree as a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow, are not eligible to apply for this award.*
- **\*Travel awards are only open to eligible trainees who are supervised by the Principal Investigator that received a Brain Canada-funded grant and holds the status of an early-career researcher (consult table below for more details) at the time of the deadline to submit Full Applications. \***

Start date of first independent research position	Status
On or before December 31, 2022	Eligibility window extended to 84 months <sup>†</sup>
After December 31, 2022	Standard 60-month eligibility window <sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Leaves of absence (e.g., maternity and parental leave, sick leave, etc.) will be excluded when calculating the five-year window.

- The trainee must be completing research that is related to and/or builds on their supervisor's previously awarded Brain Canada-funded grant.

Please note that the eligibility criteria for the travel awards may change in future iterations of the Rising Stars program.

### Travel Award Opportunities

#### *Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship*

The Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship was created in memory of neuroscientist Dr. Hubert van Tol and is funded by the generous support of the Seger-van Tol family and Brain Canada. [Click here](#) to view past recipients of the Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship.

- **Amount of award:** Up to \$2,500 CAD per award, non-renewable.
  - Please note that costs related to enhancing accessibility during a trainee's travel to a conference/symposium or training course are considered eligible. These include but are not limited to costs required for barrier-free accommodations, the travel of a companion, rental of common assistive devices or equipment (e.g., cane, speech-generating device, etc.), and additional costs for accessible seating and/or travel (e.g., taxi, car rental) accommodations. Applicants are asked to discern the need for such costs based on their self-identification as a person with a disability.
    - The [Accessible Canada Act](#) defines disability as "any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society."
  - **Recipients will be asked to submit receipts for expenses incurred as part of their attendance to an international conference/symposium or training course prior to**

**receiving the award funds.** Only expenses for which a receipt is provided will be reimbursed. Please note that, while food and beverage are eligible expenses, Brain Canada will only reimburse costs for non-alcoholic beverages.

- **Anticipated number of awards:** Up to six (6) awards.
  - Brain Canada will aim to award fellowships to the top-ranked applicants in each trainee status category (i.e., M.Sc. student, Ph.D. student and postdoctoral fellow). Given that the weighting of the criteria for assessment differs by trainee status category, fellowships will be awarded to the next highest-ranking applicants in another category should there be insufficient applications in the fundable range for the trainee status category in question.
- **Specific award criteria:**
  - The conference/symposium or training course must take place between May 1, 2026 and April 30, 2027.
  - The scope of the conference/symposium or training course must be directly linked to the trainee's research.
  - *For training course attendance:* The course must allow the Applicant to acquire specialized expertise, training or education that would otherwise not be offered as part of their academic curriculum and credit allocation or be offered within their research lab as a part of their standard training.

### Criteria for Assessment

Reviewers will adjudicate applications based on the following criteria. The weighting of criterion marked with an asterisk (\*) will differ between applications submitted from M.Sc. students, Ph.D. students, and postdoctoral fellows, as outlined below. In the event of a tie in overall rating between applications, the *Value and Benefit of Attendance* score will be used to determine rank order.

#### Value and Benefit of Attendance (35%)

- The degree to which attending the conference/symposium or training course is beneficial and valuable, and will have a positive impact on the trainee's research, training and/or career.

#### Relevance of Attending the Conference/Symposium or Training Course (35%)

- Quality of the abstract and justification of attending the conference/symposium or training course in relation to the topic of research, and the appropriateness of budget proposed.

#### Track Record and Potential of the Trainee (30%)\*

- The progression and continuity of the trainee's scientific and academic achievements, including consideration of their academic history, scholarships/fellowships, honours and awards, publications, poster and oral presentations, etc.  
*Weighting: Increase in weighting on scientific and academic achievements for more senior-level trainees – i.e., 10% for MSc students, 15% for PhD students, and 20% for postdoctoral fellows.*
- Consideration of the trainee's other achievements and experiences including community engagement, leadership opportunities, extracurricular activities, completed or ongoing trainings, lived experience, etc.  
*Weighting: Increase in weighting for other achievements and experiences for MSc- and PhD-level trainees – i.e., 20% for MSc students, 15% for PhD students, and 10% for postdoctoral fellows.*

### Application Procedures for Travel Awards

The Applicant must complete the following components under the "Travel Award" tab in their 2026 *Rising Stars Trainee Awards* application in SmartSimple:

**1. Using the template provided on SmartSimple, the Applicant and their supervisor will be asked to confirm:**

- The title of the Brain Canada-funded grant.
- How the Applicant's research is related to and/or builds on their supervisor's Brain Canada-funded grant.
- The supervisor's status as an early-career researcher (including start date of first independent research position and length of any leaves of absence) at the time of the Full Application deadline.

*Please note that this will be used by Brain Canada to confirm the eligibility of the application during an administrative check and will not be considered by reviewers during the review process.*

**2. A one-page summary of the international conference/symposium or training course, including:**

- A description of the conference/symposium or training course (including its name, date and location);
- The value of attending the conference/symposium or training course (how will it benefit the Applicant's research and/or career?);
- The importance of the research that will be presented, if attending a conference/symposium.

**3. Budget**

- A budget detailing a breakdown and total of the actual or anticipated expenses (conference/symposium or training course fees, etc.) in CAD.

**4. Title of trainee's research project.**

**5. Abstract (maximum 500 words)**

- Provide an abstract summarizing your research project that is related to your supervisor's grant from Brain Canada.
- *For conference/symposium attendance:* The written abstract should be the same as the abstract submitted to the conference you would like to attend. If the abstract submission for the conference you would like to attend is not open by the Full Application deadline, please include the abstract you intend to present at the conference in your submission to the Rising Stars program.

**6. Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

- A two-page CV listing academic history (degrees obtained, professional history), awards and honours (including the award name, amount, start and end dates), presentations, and publications.

**7. Personal Statement (maximum 300 words)**

- Please describe your achievements and experiences (lived, academic and/or community) as they relate to your academic and professional career. Relevant factors include, but are not limited to, a description of extracurricular activities (e.g., community engagement, leadership experience, volunteer work, etc.), completed or ongoing trainings, etc. This section should focus on information that goes above and beyond what is included in your CV.

**8. A signed one-page letter of support from your supervisor, including:**

- Relevance of conference/symposium or training course to the Applicant's research.
- The strengths and accomplishments of the Applicant.

*In the case of co-supervision, please note that only one one-page letter of support, which can be co-signed, will be accepted.*

## Appendix A – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Who is eligible to apply to the Rising Stars Trainee Awards program?**

Eligible applicants are full-time graduate students (M.Sc. or Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, or medical residents\* who are enrolled at a Canadian institution and conducting neuroscience research.

*\*Please note that medical residents are only eligible to apply for stipend awards and not travel awards.*

In addition, applicants are invited to consult the respective specific award eligibility criteria for the [stipend awards](#) and [travel awards](#).

### **Are there any citizenship or residency restrictions?**

No. There are no citizenship or residency restrictions; applicants are eligible to apply, provided they are enrolled at a Canadian institution and meet all other eligibility criteria.

### **Can I apply to more than one award type?**

No. Applicants must apply to either a stipend or travel award. If applying to a stipend award, they must only apply to one of the available stipend award opportunities.

### **What formatting requirements should I follow?**

All applications will need to be formatted using 12-point Times New Roman or 11.5-point Arial font, single-spaced, on a letter-size page with 1" minimum margins. Use of a condensed font and spacing is not permitted. Other fonts and font sizes are acceptable for text in tables, charts, figures, graphs and legends only, as long as it remains legible when the page is viewed at 100%. Applications received in any other format, exceeding the page limits, incomplete, or late, will be rejected.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring these requirements as well as the specified word count, page number limits, etc. pertaining to each application section are respected.

### **Can the letter of support come from anyone other than my supervisor (e.g., member of advisory committee, a mentor, etc.)?**

No. Since the letter of support requires confirmation of details pertaining to your research, the letter of support must come from the supervisor in charge of supervising the research related to your Rising Stars application.

### **I am creating a new SmartSimple account, but I am unable to find my institution when searching the “Institution Name / Nom de l'établissement” field. How should I proceed?**

Please contact Brain Canada at [programs@braincanada.ca](mailto:programs@braincanada.ca) as soon as possible with confirmation of the:

1. Email address you would like associated with your SmartSimple account; and
2. Name of your institution.

Once received, Brain Canada will create an account on your behalf and will provide you with instructions on how to access your account.

### **The SmartSimple application page keeps reloading when I open it from the “Funding Programs” page, what should I do?**

Please wait for SmartSimple to finish loading until the page titled “2026 Rising Stars Trainee Awards” (displayed in bright blue) becomes accessible, this may take a couple of seconds or minutes. The first page will disappear once the application form has fully loaded.

**My application has the wrong institution listed and I cannot change it. How can I fix this?**

Please contact Brain Canada at [programs@braincanada.ca](mailto:programs@braincanada.ca) as soon as possible with confirmation of the:

1. Email address associated with your SmartSimple account; and
2. Name of your institution.

Once received, Brain Canada will update the institution on your application and notify you once it has been completed.

**I have completed the fields in the “Applicant Information” tab, how do I access the application form for the award I am applying to?**

At the bottom of the “Application Information” tab, you will find a section titled “2026 Rising Stars Trainee Awards Opportunities”. Select the award you wish to apply to by clicking the relevant checkbox, click “Save Draft,” and then, depending on your selected award type, access the “Travel Awards” or “Stipend Awards” tab at the top of the page. The required application fields will be located within the selected tab.

**How do I ensure to complete the “Submission Upload” section correctly before submitting my application?**

To finalize your application and for it to be considered complete, you must:

- Access the “Preview/ Print” tab
- Click on the blue “Download” Application PDF button
- Save the **final version** of your application
- Upload the saved PDF to the “Submission Upload” field on your application form
- Click on “Save Draft”
- Then “Submit Application”

**When will I be notified of whether my application will be awarded?**

Notice of Decisions to all applicants will take place in October 2026, no later than October 31, 2026.