

Brain Canada Rising Stars Trainee Awards 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 two decades, 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 is an innovative agreement between the Government of Canada, through Health Canada, and Brain Canada, designed to encourage Canadians to increase their support of brain research, 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 Canadians who suffer from brain disorders.

www.braincanada.ca

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Rationale

Supporting the next generation of brain 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 major 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 (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, and residents in all fields spanning neuroscience research. For details on the available award opportunities for this year's program, please consult the [2022 Trainee Awards Opportunities](#) section.

General Information

Eligibility

- A trainee is defined as a graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellow, or resident conducting neuroscience research at a Canadian institution.
- Trainees can apply to all 2022 Trainee Award Opportunities available if eligible. However, should they be selected to receive funding for more than one award, they will be required to accept only one.
- Multiple trainees from the same supervisor can apply.

Additional eligibility criteria may be included in specific funding opportunities.

Timeline

Launch of Request for Applications	April 21, 2022
Deadline for Receipt of Applications	June 2, 2022 at 16:00 ET
Notification of Award	August 2022
2022 Award Start Date	September 1, 2022

How to Apply

Please click [here](#) to download the Registration Form. Registration forms are to be submitted as the first page of each application package. Applicants submitting an application to more than one award must append their Registration Form to each application.

All applications will need to be formatted using 11-point Arial or Georgia font, single-spaced, on a letter-size page with 1" minimum margins. Applications should be sent by email to Melissa Russo, Program Manager, at programs@braincanada.ca.

Review Process

Brain Canada will manage the review process. Eligible applications submitted by the deadline to apply will be reviewed by at least two external reviewers with expertise in the relevant field(s) of research. Brain Canada will take any conflicts of interest into consideration when assigning the reviewers.

Based on the reviewer scores, Brain Canada will fund the strongest applications received for each specific 2022 Trainee Award. Brain Canada will not entertain appeals against the assessment and recommendation of the Review Panel.

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. Funded applications will be retained for comparison of intended and actual outcomes, as part of the evaluation of the Canada Brain Research Fund.

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.

2022 Trainee Award Opportunities

Shireen and Edna Marcus Excellence Award

The Shireen and Edna Marcus Excellence Award is open to full-time graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows and residents engaged in autism research at a Canadian institution.

This award is funded by the generous support of the Shireen & Edna Marcus Foundation, which has committed to supporting trainees since 2019. The Shireen and Edna Marcus Fund will support Canadian institutions and registered charities conducting, engaged in, or assisting research in autism.

The objective of the Excellence Award is to support graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, and residents who demonstrate a high standard of achievement and encourage academic development by providing salary support. The Awardees will be selected on a competitive basis by a review committee established by Brain Canada. All else equal, priority will be given to trainees who have not received Tri-Council funding.

Purpose: To provide financial support to promising graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and/or residents conducting research in autism.

Amount of award: \$4,500 per award for one year, non-renewable.

Number of awards: Up to 1 award.

Specific Award Eligibility

1. The Applicant must be a full-time graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellow or resident enrolled at a Canadian institution at the time of Notification of Award and conducting research in the field of autism.
2. Past recipients of the Shireen and Edna Marcus Excellence Award are not eligible to apply.
3. The Applicant and their supervisor must adhere to the studentship and fellowship policies at their institution. It is the responsibility of the Applicant and their supervisor to ensure that the total stipend received meets the institutional funding standard.

Application Procedures - The Applicant must submit the following in a single PDF document:

1. **Submission of the completed Registration Form (template found [here](#)) as the first page of your application.**
2. **A lay summary of the Applicant's research project (maximum 300 words).**
3. **A two-page description of project, including:**
 - A summary of the research project, rationale, hypothesis, methodology and expected outcomes.
 - A statement describing the importance of the research and its impact.
4. **Details of any stipend or salary awards that have been received or will be received by the Applicant throughout the duration of this award (September 2022 - August 2023).**
5. **All undergraduate and graduate transcripts – unofficial transcripts are acceptable.**

6. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- A two-page CV listing academic history (degrees obtained, professional history), awards and honours, and publications.
 - For publications in press, attach a copy of the letter of acceptance (email is acceptable).
 - For publications submitted, indicate the journal name and attach a copy of an email from the journal indicating receipt of the manuscript.

7. A one-page letter of support from your supervisor, including:

- Acknowledgement of the Applicant's submission.
- Relevance of trainee's research to the field of autism and why it should be considered for this award.
- The strengths and accomplishments of the Applicant.



Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship

The Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship was created in memory of neuroscientist Dr. Hubert van Tol. It is open to all graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.) and postdoctoral fellows conducting research in the field of neuroscience at a Canadian institution. The travel fellowship is funded by the generous support of the Seger-van Tol family and Brain Canada. The student or fellow will be selected on a competitive basis by an expert committee established by Brain Canada. The committee will award the fellowship based upon the criteria outlined below. [Click here](#) to view past recipients of the Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship.

Funding for this award 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 the Seger-van Tol family.

Purpose: To allow graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.) and postdoctoral fellows to attend a major international conference/symposium or training course.

Amount of award: \$5,000 per one award, non-renewable.

Number of awards: Up to 4 awards.

Specific Award 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 Notification of Award. *Please note that residents are not eligible to apply for this award.*

Award criteria—international conference/symposium

1. The Applicant must be conducting research in the field of neuroscience;
2. The meeting must be a major international symposium or conference in the neuroscience field;
3. The Applicant must have submitted an abstract to the meeting;
4. The meeting must take place between April 01, 2022 - March 31, 2023.

Award criteria—training course

1. The Applicant must be conducting research in the field of neuroscience;
2. The training course must be directly relevant to their research;
3. 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;
4. The course must take place between April 01, 2022 - March 31, 2023.

Application procedures - The Applicant must submit the following in a [single PDF document](#):

1. **Submission of the completed Registration Form (template found [here](#)) as the first page of your application.**



- 2. A one-page summary of the international conference/symposium or training course, including:**
 - a description of the conference/symposium or training course;
 - 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. Submitted abstract**
- 4. Proof of abstract submission and conference/symposium registration or proof of course registration**
- 5. Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
 - A two-page CV listing academic history (degrees obtained, professional history), awards and honours, and publications.
- 6. Budget**
 - A budget detailing actual or anticipated expenses (conference/training course fees, etc.) in CAD.
- 7. A one-page letter of support from your supervisor, including:**
 - Acknowledgment of Applicant's submission.
 - Relevance of conference/symposium or training course to the Applicant's research.



Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids (CCIC) Neuroscience Fellowship in Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research

The *Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids (CCIC) Neuroscience Fellowship in Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research* is open to graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, and residents attending a Canadian institution and conducting research in the field of cannabis and/or cannabinoids.

The CCIC is a federally registered Canadian non-profit organization of basic and clinical researchers, health care professionals and educators that promotes research and evidence-based education concerning the endocannabinoid system, the therapeutic applications of cannabinoids, the potential harms associated with cannabis use and the health and societal impacts of non-medical cannabis use. Their mission is to advance and promote evidence-based research and education in the field of cannabis/cannabinoid research. To learn more about the Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids, including information about their annual conference and how to become a member, visit <https://ccic.net/>.

For the first time ever, Brain Canada and CCIC are joining forces to promote capacity-building in this important field of research. Funding for this award 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 the CCIC.

Purpose: To provide financial support to graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, or residents conducting neuroscience research at a Canadian institution in the field of cannabis/cannabinoid research.

Amount of award: \$10,000 per award for one year, non-renewable.

Number of awards: Up to 2 awards.

Specific Award Eligibility

1. The Applicant must be a full-time graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellow or resident enrolled at a Canadian institution at the time of Notification of Award and conducting research in the cannabis/cannabinoid field.
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.

Application procedures - The Applicant must submit the following in a single PDF document:

1. **Submission of the completed Registration Form (template found [here](#)) as the first page of your application.**
2. **A lay summary of the Applicant's research project (maximum 300 words).**



3. A two-page description of project, including:

- A summary of research project, rationale, hypothesis, methodology and expected outcomes.
- A statement describing the importance of the research and its impact.

4. Details of any stipend or salary awards that have been received or will be received by the Applicant throughout the duration of this award (September 2022 - August 2023).

5. All undergraduate and graduate transcripts – unofficial transcripts are acceptable.

6. Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- A two-page CV listing academic history (degrees obtained, professional history), awards and honours, and publications.
 - For publications in press, attach a copy of the letter of acceptance (email is acceptable).
 - For publications submitted, indicate the journal name and attach a copy of an email from the journal indicating receipt of the manuscript.

7. A one-page letter of support from your supervisor, including:

- Acknowledgement of the Applicant's submission.
- Relevance of trainee's research to the field of cannabis/cannabinoids and why it should be considered for this award.
- The strengths and accomplishments of the Applicant.



Dr. Matthew Galati Brain Changer Award

Brain Canada and the Brain Changes Initiative are poised to present the *Dr. Matthew Galati Brain Changer Award*. Open to graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, and residents attending a Canadian institution, this award will support trainees conducting clinical implementation research in the field of acquired (i.e., traumatic and non-traumatic) brain injury.

The Brain Changes Initiative is a not-for-profit organization that funds ground-breaking research to improve the standard of care for traumatic brain injury (TBI) recovery and provides awareness, advocacy and support for TBI survivors through education, events and programs. To learn more about Brain Changes Initiative, visit <https://www.brainchanges.org/>.

Funding for this award 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 the Brain Changes Initiative.

Purpose: To provide financial support to graduate students (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellows, or residents conducting clinical implementation research at a Canadian institution in the field of acquired brain injury.

Amount of award: \$10,000 per award for one year, non-renewable.

Number of awards: Up to 2 awards.

Specific Award Eligibility

1. The Applicant must be a full-time graduate student (M.Sc., Ph.D.), postdoctoral fellow or resident enrolled at a Canadian institution at the time of Notification of Award and conducting research in acquired brain injury.
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.

Application procedures - The Applicant must submit the following in a single PDF document:

1. **Submission of the completed Registration Form (template found [here](#)) as the first page of your application.**
2. **A lay summary of the Applicant's research project (maximum 300 words).**
3. **A two-page description of project, including:**
 - a. A summary of research project, rationale, hypothesis, methodology and expected outcomes.
 - b. A statement describing the importance of the research and its impact.
4. **Details of any stipend or salary awards that have been received or will be received by the Applicant throughout the duration of this award (September 2022 - August 2023).**
5. **All undergraduate and graduate transcripts – unofficial transcripts are acceptable.**
6. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**



- a. A two-page CV listing academic history (degrees obtained, professional history), awards and honours, and publications.
 - i. For publications in press, attach a copy of the letter of acceptance (email is acceptable).
 - ii. For publications submitted, indicate the journal name and attach a copy of an email from the journal indicating receipt of the manuscript.
- 7. A one-page letter of support from your supervisor, including:**
- Acknowledgement of the Applicant's submission.
 - Relevance of trainee's research to the field of acquired brain injury and why it should be considered for this award.
 - The strengths and accomplishments of the Applicant.