



## **UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Awards Guidelines**

### **Award Description:**

The UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Awards are intended to support highly qualified undergraduate students from all disciplines and faculties who are interested in completing a research project that is relevant to the field of healthy aging. The award supports the student's salary while they complete the research project over the summer (May to August, 2024) under the supervision of an Investigator of the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging.

### **Duration and Value of award:**

The duration of the award is 8 to 16 consecutive weeks of full-time work (35 hours/week) to be completed between May 1 to August 31, 2024. The award amount is consistent with the BC minimum wage (currently \$16.75/hour) for a total of \$586.25/week. It is up to the student and the supervisor to decide on the length of the work term, which may depend on the particular program the student is enrolled in. The amount of the award will be reimbursed to the faculty supervisor's account at the end of the work tenure. A maximum of 4 awards are available for 2024.

Note, Supervisors will be required to fund benefits such as the Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance and Workers Compensation Board. These benefits amount to approximately 7.5% of the salary.

### **Eligibility:**

Investigators and applicants may only be listed on **ONE** application submitted for a 2024 UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Award. Applicants must have identified a research supervisor prior to applying for the award. It is up to the applicant to contact and identify potential supervisors. The faculty supervisor must provide whatever space, supplies or resources the applicant requires to complete the project. Applicants and supervisors are able to apply to both the UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Award and the UBC Faculty of Medicine Summer Student Research Award, however one student may not hold both awards.

In addition, students must be:

- An undergraduate student from any faculty and discipline, including undergraduate professional degree programs (e.g. MD, DMD, BScN). Students who are currently in their final year of their undergraduate degree are eligible to apply
- Enrolled at a recognized university. This award is open to non-UBC students who meet the eligibility criteria
- Conducting a research project at UBC under the direct supervision of a faculty member who is an Investigator of the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging
- Conducting a research project that has direct relevance to the field of aging and aligns with at least one of the four research themes of the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging



(geroscience, society to cell, age-associated diseases, and prevention & intervention). Please see the [website](#) for more information on the focus areas.

- A Canadian citizen, permanent resident, foreign national or international student **based in Canada** with a current Social Insurance Number from Service Canada. *Due to governmental restriction, students must be living/working within Canada to receive funding*

### Other Awards and Funding:

Recipients of the UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Award are NOT eligible to hold another summer student award (e.g. NSERC USRA, UBC Faculty of Medicine Summer student Research Award, BC Children’s Hospital Summer Studentship Award, etc.) during the same funding period (May- August, 2023). Receiving top-up funding from an Investigator-held grant or award is not considered an external funding award. No restrictions are placed on this.

### Application Requirements:

Students must submit:

1. A completed [UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Award application form](#) available on the [website](#).
2. Transcripts from all post-secondary studies must be submitted. Note that students do not have to submit official transcripts, downloads from student-self serve/online portals will be accepted. However, students selected for an award may be asked to provide official transcripts before a formal offer of award is made.
3. A signed letter of support from the proposed supervisor indicating their commitment to supervise the applicant during the award tenure. The supervisor should also comment on the resources, environment and support that will be offered to the student during their work term. Letters of support should be submitted by the applicant as part of the application package.

### Submission Procedure:

Applications must be submitted before January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by 4:00 pm PT. Applicants should compile all components of the application into one PDF and email it to Kim Schmidt, kim.schmidt@ubc.ca. Late applications will not be accepted. **A complete application package includes: (1) the completed UBC Healthy Aging Summer Student Research Award application form, (2) all transcripts, and (3) the signed letter of support from the student’s faculty supervisor.**

### Review Criteria:

All eligible applications will be individually reviewed by a review committee. This multi-disciplinary group will include representation from each of the research themes of the Edwin S.H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging. Applicants will be assigned a final rank and funding will be allocated to top-ranked applicants.



Applications will be evaluated based on the scholarly/academic merit of the student, the scientific merit of the research project, and the potential benefit the student will obtain from the experience. Specifically, applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Academic achievement (grades) - 25%
- Scholarly achievement and leadership, including awards, recognitions, and positions, taking into account the applicant's current degree program, year of study, and contextual factors that may have impacted scholarly achievement -25%
- Research project: quality and feasibility of proposed project, relevance and potential significance to the field of aging, and suitability of the research environment, taking into consideration the length of the project and award term -25%
- Benefit to the student: involvement of the student in the proposed work and opportunity to gain new skills, knowledge and understanding of the research process. -25%

Applicants will have an optional space to describe contextual factors. These may include but are not limited to personal circumstances (e.g., work and/or family responsibilities) and institutional contexts (e.g., limited availability of aging-focused research opportunities at their home institution). The review committee will consider the contextual factors, if any, when rating the applicant's academic and scholarly achievement.