

Alberta NEAHR (Network Environments for Aboriginal Health Research)

Awards for Graduate Students in Aboriginal Health Research

Objectives:

The primary objective of the Alberta NEAHR is to stimulate Aboriginal health research through building and enhancing the capacity of Aboriginal communities to identify and address their local health priorities. The objective of this graduate awards program is to build capacity in research training that will benefit Aboriginal communities. All our research initiatives are grounded in relationships of mutual respect, integrate Aboriginal ways of knowing, link expertise, and strengthen the capacity of academic, government, and community institutions to support Aboriginal peoples' health. The Network operates as a responsive model for research with Aboriginal communities. Our activities promote research themes oriented to Aboriginal community health and research capacity-building:

1. Traditional knowledge in relation to healing practices, mentoring, and community health;
2. Knowledge translation and knowledge exchange in relation to research and practice;
3. Increased access to health for Aboriginal communities and people;
4. Primary Health Care research in Aboriginal communities;
5. Enhancement of distinct and parallel systems of health knowledge and practice;
6. Environmental and community health;
7. Social determinants of health research: intervention/prevention/promotion in areas such as incarceration, children/youth in state-operated systems of care, traditional healers/healing;
8. Mentorship models and practices, including Elders/youth, peers, researchers/graduate students; healers/apprentice.

Eligibility:

This award is open to graduate students who are:

- Registered in full-time or part-time graduate degree programs at an accredited institution in which a thesis/dissertation or research project is part of the degree requirements
- Proposing to carry out research with holistic perspectives in a health-related discipline
- Residents of Alberta or registered at an accredited Alberta-based academic institution
- Canadian citizens
- Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal (Aboriginal as defined in the Constitution Act, 1982)

In keeping with the overall objectives of the program, priority will be given to those applicants who are full-time Aboriginal students proposing or involved with community based research.

Awards:

A limited amount of funding is available for 2014-2015 awards. Maximum funding is \$17,000/year for PhD students and \$14,500/year for Master's students. Students applying for renewal or a second award must prove significant progress in their program. Budgeted expenses cannot include administrative, overhead or operating costs of research projects. Funding decisions are made competitively on the basis of merit, need and availability of funds; thus awards may be prorated.

Budgeted expenses **cannot** include administrative, overhead or operating costs of research projects. Students are encouraged to secure additional funding to top up their stipends.

Review Process and Criteria:

A panel of community and academic representatives will review applications in June of each academic year. Funding decisions will be made on the basis of merit, need, and availability of funds, and thus, partial awards may be given. Selection of successful recipients is based on the following criteria:

1. *Abilities of Candidate as shown in:*

- University academic record, including course grades and completions
- Length of time for program completions, i.e. undergraduate or master's degree
- Coursework (total credit, relevancy to proposed program)

- Relevancy of research background, including health related experience
- Demonstrated research abilities
- Evidence of originality and creativity
- Writing sample
- Quality of proposal
- Letters of recommendation
- Annual progress reports (program supervisor)
- Other awards

2. *Quality of the Training Environment*

- Candidate's academic program
- Research activity of supervisor
- Research resources and support available
- Training record of supervisor

- Formal and informal community links/partnerships
- Support from Indigenous knowledge holders and Elders

3. *Nature of Proposed Research Program (as demonstrated in research proposal and genuine community support)*

- Responds and contributes to community identified/approved Aboriginal health priorities
- Demonstrates collaboration and/or relevant connections with Aboriginal communities
- Supports or involves community learning environments or opportunities that enhance Aboriginal community capacity to identify and address related local health issues
- Respects Aboriginal and other ways of knowing as these apply to capacity building, training and Aboriginal health research partnerships
- As required, must indicate ethics approval process, addressing protocols, timelines and required research agreements, and have these in place within 6 months of award start date, or as dictated by the academic institution.

PLEASE NOTE:

The onus for submitting **ALL** required forms and supporting documents by the deadline is upon the applicant; **incomplete applications will not be considered for review.**

Students who successfully obtain a NEAHR Graduate Student Award **will be asked to** submit an annual progress report.

Please include a completed version of this *Application Checklist* as the cover page to your application upon submission. If there are missing pieces of information in your application please include a written explanation of when and how you will complete and submit the missing portions by the deadline.

- Proof of registered Graduate status [full time or part time]
- Sample of written work
- Proof of Aboriginal descent, as defined in the Constitution Act, 1982, if applicable
- Completed NEAHR application form
- Student's current resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Official academic record (transcript)
- List of other awards held or applied for
- Student's research proposal [Include: Personal academic background and relevant experience; budget, proposed research objectives, work plan, timelines, outcomes, expected benefits of this training to applicant and others; and expected benefits to Aboriginal community/communities or peoples.]
- Two sealed letters of reference, one should be from a current or former employer/ instructor
- Proposed supervisor's current abbreviated CV
- As required, description of how requirements for ethics approval will be met, including timeline, agreements, community or participants' protocols, institutional requirements.
- If applicable, a letter of support and/or commitment from the Aboriginal community involved in the research

Application deadline is May 15, 2014. Forward application package to:

Alberta NEAHR 7133K Education North University of Alberta Edmonton, AB T6G 2G5
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**NEAHR ALBERTA
GRADUATE AWARD APPLICATION FORM**



Date of Application: / / (YYYY/MM/DD)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name:	Field of Study:
Graduation Date:	Email:
Telephone:	Fax:
Address:	

1. Proof of Aboriginal Heritage [Please attach a photocopy of appropriate paperwork. Questions? Please feel free to call us at 780-492-1827 OR e-mail us at abneahr@ualberta.ca]

2. Proof of Graduate Status

3. Official University Academic Record

4. Copy of Current Resume/ Curriculum Vitae

5. Proposal: [Please attach a three-page proposal of your personal academic and research background and relevant experience; proposed objectives, work plan, timelines, and outcomes if awarded funding; expected benefits of this training to your career path and personal development; and outline of community involvement and benefits].

6. Letters of reference: Please include two letters of reference, in sealed initialled envelopes, one of which should be from a former employer or instructor.

7. Sample of Written Work [essay or term paper.]

PROJECT & MENTOR / SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Project Title:

Mentor(s) / Supervisor(s):

Name:	Position:
Institution:	Email:
Telephone:	Fax:
Address:	

Name:	Position:
Institution:	Email:
Telephone:	Fax:

Address:

8. Mentor's / Supervisor's current abbreviated CV [Last 5 years; highlighting funding and publications]			
9. Sealed Letter of Support from proposed academic supervisor			
10. Please indicate if the project involves: <input type="checkbox"/> Human Subjects <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Experimentation <input type="checkbox"/> Containment			
11. Research Ethics: Please attach a copy of the ethics certificate for your project from your institution. <i>If you have not applied for ethics approval, please indicate where and when you will be applying and when NEAHR will receive the documentation.</i>			
COLLABORATING ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY OR ORGANIZATION			
Community:		Contact:	
Community:		Contact:	
Community:		Contact:	
12. Sealed letters of support from each collaborating community			
FUNDS REQUESTED			
Amount Requested: \$			
13. Attach a budget explanation			
14. Additional Funding: (Attach a copy of the completed application for all other funding applied for, received, or rejected during your present degree. For example: government, band council, foundations, community, academic, or institutions.)			
Funding Organization	Applied For	Received	Rejected
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$