



BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services Research Summer Studentship Guidelines

Updated November 2025

BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) Research Summer Studentships are funded by the Provincial Health Services Authority.

BCMHSUS invites applications for Research Studentships in health-related research areas that directly contribute to improving the health of individuals across the lifespan. This includes those at risk for or experiencing mental health and/or substance use issues - such as individuals who are incarcerated or have been found not criminally responsible due to mental disorder.

Studentships may include co-op student placements, practicum placements, and other supervised summer student research projects. These individuals are gaining educational, work, and professional experience in a particular area of research.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA – APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Be a current undergraduate student or undergraduate medical student registered at a recognized university.
- Students graduating in spring/summer are eligible if registered at the time of application.
- Have a BCMHSUS Investigator as the primary supervisor. Applicants must contact the BCMHSUS Investigator and co-develop the proposed project before applying.
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident or foreign national. *Out of province and international applicants are welcome but must have a valid work/student permit and a Social Insurance Number from Service Canada.*

Applicants are not eligible to hold a BCMHSUS Research Summer Studentship at another institute (e.g., BC Children's Research Institute) or have university funding for the same type of training during the studentship funding period, except for external awards requiring matched funds. A student who receives external funding requiring matched funds may use the studentship as the match.

2. FUNDING AND EXPECTATIONS

Funding supports an 8- to 12-week research period between May and August. Students will receive a stipend, which may be supplemented in amount or duration by the supervising BCMHSUS Investigator if resources allow. Students are expected to actively participate in their research roles and should not hold other positions that conflict with their studentship commitments. Specific working hours will be determined in consultation with the research supervisor.



3. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

A completed online application form, along with all requested supporting documents, must be submitted by the deadline. The application must be completed and signed by both the student and the supervisor.

Each BCMHSUS Investigator may submit only one project, which must be linked to a single student applicant. Similarly, each student may apply with only one project and one BCMHSUS Investigator. **Multiple applications from the same investigator or student will not be accepted.**

Investigators are responsible for providing any space, supplies, or resources required for the student to successfully complete the project.

A **complete application** includes:

- A completed and signed [application form](#).
- Responses to all questions within the space provided.
- A current resume or CV.



Applications must be submitted online by the **second Friday in March**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Post Award:

- A [UBC Research Project Information Form \(RPIF\)](#) will be requested if the application is successful and if the student's supervisor is affiliated with UBC*. **RPIF forms require one week to be processed and must be submitted within the week of notice of award.**

**A new UBC PG account will be activated. It will be the primary supervisor and their respective UBC Department's responsibility to submit a student appointment to UBC Payroll to finalize the student appointment. For questions about completing a student appointment, please contact the supervisor's respective UBC Human Resources department.*

4. MANDATORY REPORTING

At the end of your summer studentship, you'll be asked to submit a short-written report reflecting on your research experience and the impact of your project. You're welcome to prepare this report together with your supervisor. Be sure to include an acknowledgement of the funding support provided by BCMHSUS in any project-related documents or presentations. This report helps BCMHSUS evaluate the studentship program and may inform future opportunities.

5. REVIEW OF APPLICATION AND NOTIFICATION

Projects will be evaluated by BCMHSUS research leadership and researchers on the scientific merit of the research project, and the potential benefit the student will obtain from the experience.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **second Friday in March**

Complete applications *must* be received by the deadline date. Incomplete applications or applications received after the noted deadline ***will not* be considered.**

Decisions will be communicated in April. *Please direct questions to: BCMHSUS_Research@phsa.ca*