

Interprovincial Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Terms of Reference

Objective:

With the advent of new interprovincial monies to establish postgraduate stipends for Canadian DVMS, it was decided to initiate Interprovincial Undergraduate Student Research Awards. These awards are intended to stimulate the interest of undergraduate students in research by providing them with a valuable experience in a university laboratory, and to encourage these students to undertake graduate studies.

Eligibility:

Interprovincial undergraduate student research awards are available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents who are full-time students registered in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. When the award is held, a student must have successfully completed a minimum of two academic terms (i.e., completed first year). Students must be exposed to research and development activities during the work period. They may hold a maximum of three undergraduate research awards throughout their university career.

Value of Awards:

These awards are valued at \$1,900.00 per month (May to August inclusive); in addition an accountable research allowance of \$500.00 (assigned through the appropriate department head) is allowed to defray research costs. The value of these awards and of the research allowance will be subject to annual review.

Terms of Awards:

Awards are normally tenable during the summer months (May to August inclusive) but they may also be held at other times of the year where permitted by the student's academic program. The maximum duration of an award is four consecutive months. Normally, awards will not be made for less than three months.

Location of Tenure:

Normally, students may undertake their research project in any of the departments of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Under very special circumstances, student research activity may be undertaken at other universities or other institutions; in all cases supervision must be by a faculty member of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Application of Procedures:

Application forms and appropriate instructions are available from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine Research Office and from departmental offices. Applicants must identify a faculty member to serve as supervisor of their proposed research. Applications should be completed in consultation with proposed supervisor and completed applications should be submitted to the appropriate department head by January 15.

The development of an application should be seen as a joint effort involving both a student and a faculty member. It is understood that either party may initiate the application process. Each department head is responsible for arranging for the ranking of applications submitted from his/her department. This prioritized list together with copies of all applications will be submitted to the WCVN Research Office. Selection is made by the Associate Dean (Research) with the advice of a subcommittee of the Graduate Education Committee.

The review criteria for selection include: the student's academic record and demonstrated interest, the suitability of the project and appropriateness of experimental design, track record of supervisor in handling summer projects, quality of the summer research experience.

Only one application/student will be reviewed. The student's academic record should be at a level to insure entry into graduate school.

The Office of the Associate Dean (Research) will make a final decision regarding the assignment of these awards and will notify department heads and applicants.

Reporting:

Each successful student applicant is required to submit a written summary of their summer research by October 31. This summary should be no longer than four typewritten pages and should include the following sections. Rationale and background information; research methods; results and a brief discussion regarding the potential application of these results. In addition a short (less than one page) overview and evaluation of the summer experience is requested.

The appropriate department head is required to submit a statement of expenditures regarding the \$500.00 accountable research allowance by October 31. Any unspent balance at this time will revert to the central pool.