**WCVM GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP**

**Award Description:**

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine, through the office of the Associate Dean – Research and Graduate Studies, is pleased to provide an award to recognize graduate student leadership.

The Leadership award celebrates graduate students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, community outreach, and volunteerism that positively impacts society beyond their graduate program requirements. This award highlights the importance of engaging with the broader community and fostering meaningful change through service, advocacy, and innovation. By recognizing these efforts, the aim is to support the development of well-rounded leaders and enhance competitiveness for prestigious opportunities like tri-agency scholarships.

**Number of awards:** Minimum of 1 per year

**Value of award:** Minimum of$2000

**Deadline for submission:** May 30

**Application link:** *<https://wcvm.usask.ca/students/graduate-program/graduate-programs.php>*

**Announcement of results:** Fall banquet awards ceremony

**Eligibility:**

To be considered for this Award, applicants must be:

1. Enrolled in a recognized graduate program with the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the time the award is granted;
2. A graduate student in good standing of a department within the WCVM; and
3. Supervised or co-supervised by a member of the WCVM faculty (not an adjunct member).

**Application Process:**

Only one application may be submitted per student. Previous winners are eligible to reapply.

Applications must be completed online through the [WCVM graduate student website](https://wcvm.usask.ca/students/graduate-program/graduate-programs.php).

Applications will consist of the following materials for consideration:

1. **Personal Statement** (1 page):
A statement outlining:
	* Your leadership experiences while enrolled in your current graduate studies program, but outside of regular graduate program expectations.
	* Community outreach, volunteering, or social media engagement activities while enrolled in your current graduate program.
	* The societal impact of your contributions and any measurable outcomes.
2. **A CV/resume that, in addition to regular scientific CV material, highlights (**2-page limit**)**:
	* Relevant leadership roles, community involvement or any related initiatives.
3. **Supporting Evidence** (most impactful and non-redundant):
	* Links or screenshots of social media campaigns or projects. (Links must be to publicly accessible websites)
	* Event photographs, testimonials, or media coverage (if available).
	* Any additional documentation that showcases the scope and impact of your work.
4. **Letters of Recommendation** (2 letters, maximum 1 page each):
	* One letter from a supervisor, mentor, or community leader who can attest to your leadership and societal impact.
	* One letter from a peer, colleague, or collaborator familiar with your contributions.

Applicants should ensure their materials are clear, concise, and demonstrate their sustained commitment to making a difference beyond their academic work.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Applications will be considered, and award decisions made, by the WCVM Graduate Student Awards Committee.

The areas of evaluation will be focused on the following:

1. Leadership Activities: Demonstrate significant leadership experience outside of research, including leading initiatives, organizing events, or mentoring.
2. Community Engagement: Be actively involved in community outreach or volunteering activities that address societal challenges or promote social well-being.
3. Impact on Society: Show tangible outcomes of their contributions that have benefited local, national, or global communities.
4. Exemplary Character: Exhibit qualities of integrity, collaboration, and dedication to serving others.

Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate sustained and impactful contributions beyond a single event or project.