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|  | **Research and Graduate Studies**  **Western College of Veterinary Medicine** |

Room 4116 52 Campus Drive Saskatoon SK S7N 5B4 Canada Telephone: 306-966-8734 Facsimile: 306-966-7274

**WCVM RESEARCH TRUST GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD   
Scholarship Description:**

The goal of the WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship program is to support research excellence of graduate students registered in a thesis-based MSc or PhD program at the WCVM. The WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship will provide 50% of a stipend for 1 year, with the possibility to re-apply. The Graduate Student supervisor, another source of funding (e.g. 75th or SSF from department) or a combination must provide a match of a minimum of 50% of the stipend for students to receive the award.

MSc – WCVM Research Trust contribution of $10,000 and a minimum supervisor contribution of $10,000 for a total stipend of at least $20,000 for the student

PhD – WCVM Research Trust contribution of $12,500 and a minimum supervisor contribution of $12,500 for a total stipend of at least $25,000 for the student

Awards will be for 1-year, with the possibility to re-apply for funding in subsequent years, provided the maximum duration in program has not yet been reached.

IMPORTANT: If an applicant is awarded a WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship, they must start the scholarship within the year of the award (start sometime between May 1 – April 30) or the scholarship will be forfeited. However, the individual can re-apply the next year if they were not able to start this award within a given year.

**Number of awards:** Dependent on availability of funding

**Value of award:** MSc. $20,000 PhD. $25,000

**Deadline for submission:** April 1

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

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

**Eligibility:**

1. Graduate students must be entering or registered in a thesis-based WCVM graduate program with a WCVM faculty member (not adjunct) as their primary supervisor.
2. Students must apply each year (there are no automatic renewals).
3. The maximum time in program to be eligible for WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship funding is 2 years for an MSc, 4 years for a PhD or a total of 5 years for a graduate student who has transferred from MSc to a PhD.
4. All WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship recipients must be in good standing within their program and with the College of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies. Evidence of this should be provided in reference letters.
5. Students may be requested to give research presentations at events to promote WCVM research or asked to work with WCVM communications to write articles for WCVM media such as *Vet Topics*. Failure to make reasonable efforts to comply with these requests will render a student ineligible for future awards of this scholarship.
6. Students cannot hold another major award at the same time. A maximum of an additional 50% beyond the WCVM Research Trust Graduate Scholarship amount can be held at the same time.

**A complete application consists of the following:**

1. Research project proposal and/or progress to date (no more than 1-page).
2. Transcript(s) (unofficial is acceptable, as our office may confirm accuracy with the department). Please provide University of Saskatchewan transcripts plus copies of transcripts from other institutions as provided for entrance application to this university.
3. A brief CV (no more than 2 pages).
4. Letter(s) of reference:
5. **For graduate students already in a WCVM graduate program**: A letter of reference from the applicant’s supervisor is required. This letter should provide insight into the applicant’s suitability for award of the scholarship, research accomplishments, abilities and potential. This supervisor letter should include a confirmation of suitable matching funds and continued availability of funds to support the student’s research project.
6. **For graduate students entering a WCVM graduate program:** Letters of reference from two referees, professors or former research supervisors preferred, who can provide insight into the applicant’s suitability for award of the scholarship, abilities and research potential must be provided. Additionally, a third letter of support from the proposed supervisor at the WCVM is required. The supervisor’s letter should include a confirmation

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of matching funds and the availability of funds to support the student’s proposed research project.

Applications are due to the office of the WCVM Associate Dean of Research & Graduate Studies office by **April 1.** Please submit your application through the [WCVM graduate student website](https://wcvm.usask.ca/students/graduate-program/graduate-programs.php)

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**WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship evaluation criteria:**

The WCVM Research Trust Graduate Student Scholarship will be adjudicated by the WCVM Graduate Awards committee or other suitable ad hoc WCVM committee through the WCVM Associate Dean Research & Graduate Studies office. The committee will follow criteria for evaluation of tri-agency postgraduate student awards, considering evidence of both research potential and achievements inside and outside the academic experience, adjusting weighting of these two to reflect level of training for MSc versus PhD. [(Selection committee guide for Postgraduate Scholarships – Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships programs (nserc-crsng.gc.ca)](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/Students-Etudiants/SelectionCommitteeGuide_e.pdf)

A brief description of these factors is given below:

*Research ability and potential*

1. Quality of research proposal

* specific, focused, and feasible research question(s) and objective(s)
* clear description of the proposed methodology
* significance and expected contributions to research

1. Relevant training; such as academic training, lived experience, and traditional teachings.
2. Research experience and achievements relative to the applicant's stage of study, lived experience, and knowledge systems.
3. Quality of contributions and extent to which they advance the field of research. Contributions may include: publications, patents, reports, posters, abstracts, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, knowledge translation outputs, community products, etc.
4. Demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically.
5. Demonstration of responsible and ethical research conduct, including honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, commitment to safety and to the dissemination of research results, and adherence to the use of professional standards.
6. Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach.
7. The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical, and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats.

*Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia*

1. Scholarships, awards, and distinctions (amount, duration, and prestige)
2. Academic record, such as

* transcripts
* duration of previous studies

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* program requirements and courses pursued
* course load
* relative standing in program (if available)

1. Members should consider the entire academic record when assessing academic excellence. Members should favourably consider situations where an applicant has demonstrated an improving trend or provided an appropriate explanation for their academic record in the Applicant’s statement section of the application. The experience of members plays a key role in this evaluation. It is important to note that members are not expected or required to calculate GPAs manually.
2. Professional, academic, and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students, and members of the community such as

* teaching, mentoring, supervising, and/or coaching
* managing projects
* participating in science and/or research promotion
* participating in community outreach, volunteer work, and/or civic engagement
* chairing committees and/or organizing conferences and meetings
* participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies, and/or clubs

The onus is on the applicant to provide a clear and complete application that demonstrates attention to detail and permits a comprehensive assessment.