

VAST SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FORM

Graduate (Masters and PhD) Trainees

Eligibility:

- Currently enrolled in a graduate program at a Canadian university.
- Did not hold a previous VAST scholarship in the preceding academic year.
- Co-supervision by two PIs is required. Supervisor and co-supervisor must both be VAST co-investigators. Trainees supervised by ECRs (< 5 years since first academic appointment) who are registered VAST members and have contributed content development and/or mentoring trainees in the VAST mentorship program are eligible, as long as the other supervisor/co-supervisor is a VAST co-investigator. ECRs who feel they meet these criteria can apply to become a VAST ECR Member [here](#). Only those approved and accepted will be eligible for funding. Please contact Program Manager Jolene Phelps [jolene.phelps@ucalgary.ca] for any questions about eligibility.
- Proposed project must be related to vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia.
 - Projects involving other neurodegenerative processes (e.g., Alzheimer's disease) are allowed as long as vascular dysfunction is being investigated as a cause, modulator, or outcome of those processes.

Application deadline:

- Application will be submitted electronically via fillable PDF.
- Application deadline is **May 31, 2024**, for funding that begins September 1, 2024.

Funding: VAST will provide **up to \$8,750 for a Masters and up to \$10,500 for a PhD**. For applicants with additional sources of funding, the VAST Executive Committee reserves the right to reduce the VAST contribution.

Evaluation: Competitive; ranked based on peer review.

The following materials are required (1 electronic copy in PDF format):

- Completion of the online survey on equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI):
<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/VASTEDI>
 - This information is used to allow us to evaluate whether VAST's goals for diversity are being met. Application deadlines may be extended to allow for targeted recruitment if there is insufficient diversity of candidates in terms of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, ability, and/or geographic region among applicants.
- Application in PDF format. All sections are mandatory. The application includes:
 - **Other Funding:** Disclosure of other funding is required.
 - **Applicant Statement of Intent:**
 - Applicants will be evaluated on motivation, interest in the field, and how the award will help their training and further their career goals. Highlight special distinctions, awards, and achievements.
 - **Research Project:** Describe the objective, hypothesis, methods, and significance, including novelty. Indicate the role of the applicant in the project.
 - Applicants will be judged on the right balance of challenge, importance and novelty of the research question, potential impact of the research, feasibility, and suitability in relation to the applicant's experience and training.
 - The applicant should clearly state their role(s) in the proposal, especially if their work is part of a larger project.

- **EDI Considerations:** Explain how sex, gender, race, ethnicity, and culture are considered in the design and conduct of the research, analysis of the research data, and interpretation of the results. If these considerations are not relevant, please explain why they are not relevant.
 - The integration of sex, gender, racial, ethnicity and cultural considerations will be evaluated or, if these considerations are not relevant, the rationale for the reasons why they are not relevant.
- **Description of Research Training Environment:** This section should be completed by the supervisor and co-supervisor, or with input from the supervisors.
 - Evaluated on support for the applicant and demonstrated access to the facilities, equipment, collaborative opportunities, and mentorship needed to successfully execute the project.
- Attachments. Please include these in PDF format:
 - **Applicant CV.**
 - Evaluated based on professional and/or volunteer experience including non-scientific positions, demonstrated interest in health and research, awards and achievements, publications and presentations (if applicable), and diversity of life experiences.
 - **Supervisor and Co-Supervisor Signed Letter of Support** (2 page maximum).
 - Will be evaluated based on evidence suggesting that the applicant exhibits characteristics and skills associated with research career achievement, including critical thinking, an investigative nature, original and independent thought, and capability to be highly focused and energetic. Creativity in setting research goals, designing experiments, developing new methodologies, interpreting findings, and communicating results is prized. Supervisors should note how the applicant's background prepares them to successfully complete the proposed project. A commitment to develop and/or facilitate the development of the trainee's research, technical and professional skills, and networks should be evident. **The supervisor must describe a source of matching funds to provide the trainee with a minimum total stipend of \$27,000 per year for a Masters, and \$40,000 for a PhD.**
- Supervisor and Co-Supervisor Expectations: It is required that VAST mentors will contribute (or have contributed) an online learning module (approved by the VAST curriculum committee) and agree to serve at a later date on the VAST stipend review committee if asked.

Submission: Please complete the online EDI survey, and email the completed PDF application with attachments in a single PDF to vast@ucalgary.ca, by May 31, 2024.

VAST Award Application Form - Graduate Trainees

Project Title:

Date of Application:

Applicant Last Name:

University:

Email:

Applicants must complete this survey for EDI (equity, diversity inclusiveness) considerations: <https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/VASTEDI>

Applicant First Name:

Supervisor Last Name:

University:

Email:

Supervisor First Name:

Co-Supervisor Last Name:

University:

Email:

Co-supervisor First Name:

Program: MSc PhD

Start Date:

Actual or Anticipated End Date:

Funding requested (up to \$8,750 for MSc, \$10,500 for PhD):

Statement of Other Funding: (attach additional pages if needed)

| Awarded by: | Dates | Total Amount: |
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Applicant Statement of Intent:

Project: Describe the objective, hypothesis, methods, and significance, including novelty. Indicate the role of the applicant in the project. Please attach up to 1 page, not including references. Figures may be included within the 1-page limit. Either 12-pt Times New Roman or 11-pt Arial font is required, with minimum 2 cm margins. If figures are included, they should be embedded in the document. References should be included as an additional page and may not exceed 1 page.

EDI Considerations: Explain how sex, gender, race, ethnicity, and culture are considered in the design and conduct of the research, analysis of the research data, and interpretation of the results. If these considerations are not relevant, please explain why they are not relevant. Please attach up to a half page. Either 12-pt Times New Roman or 11-pt Arial font is required, with minimum 2 cm margins. Figures may be included and should be embedded within the half page limit.

Description of Training Environment (to be completed with input from Supervisor and Co-supervisor):

Supervisor/Co-Supervisor expectations (required):

I will contribute an online learning module:

If asked, I will participate in the VAST Application Review Committee for 2022-23:

Initials

Supervisor:

Co-Supervisor:

Supervisor:

Co-Supervisor:

Applicant signature: _____

Supervisor signature: _____

Co-Supervisor signature: _____