Duration and Value: One year; $17,500 (non-renewable)

Objective: The objective of the BC NEIHR Master's Scholarship program is to help develop research skills and assist in the training of Indigenous (*First Nations, Métis or Inuit*) Master's students in British Columbia (BC) institutions, who demonstrate achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies and partnership potential with Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations.

Description: The BC NEIHR launches an annual competition for nine (9) Master's Scholarships. Each year, recipients are invited to a Learning and Sharing Circle (with funded Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations), where they present their work and speak about their participation in this Scholarship program**.**

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply, you must:
- provide proof of Canadian Indigenous ancestry, specifically, a photocopy of either a status, citizenship, membership, registration, or enrolment card (refer to FAQs on website for examples);
- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;
- not have previously held a BC NEIHR Master's Scholarship;
- be enrolled in, have applied for, or will apply for full-time admission to a CIHR eligible (https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html) graduate program at the Master's level at a British Columbia institution (funds will not be released until we have received proof of enrollment);
- submit a completed application prior to the deadline posted on the funding opportunity; and
- have completed, at the time of the application deadline, between zero and 12 months of full-time studies (or full-time equivalent) in the program for which you are requesting funding. If you have completed more than 12 months of full-time studies in the program for which you are requesting funding, you are not eligible to apply.

Program of study eligibility:

The BC NEIHR accepts applications from all disciplines; however, an eligible program must have a significant research component. A significant research component is considered to be one that requires students to undertake original, autonomous research as a requirement for completion of the program. Examples include: completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, scholarly publication, performance, recital and/or exhibit that is merit/peer-reviewed at the institutional level.

- Joint programs with a professional degree (for example, JD/MA, MBA/PhD, MA/MBA) are eligible if they have a significant autonomous research component, as described above.
- Clinically-oriented programs of study, including clinical psychology, are also eligible programs if they have a significant autonomous research component, as described above.
- Master's programs that are based only on course work are typically not eligible as they do not include a significant autonomous research component.

General Application Process:

- Applications must be prepared, finalized and submitted by applicants as *one PDF file* and emailed to bcneihr@uvic.ca. See Application Checklist on the Application Form to ensure the completeness of your application.
- Any information that exceeds the page/character limits, or is not required, will be removed from the application prior to review.
- Documents (e.g. CV) should use either Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman 12 point. Maximum of six lines per inch, margin of 2 cm (3/4 inch) – minimum- around the page. Do not use condensed/narrow font sizes, type density, or line spacing. Smaller text in tables, charts, figures, graphs, and references is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%.
- Applicants should preview all components of their application to ensure its completeness.
- Submission of an application serves as consent to the peer review process and public announcement of recipients on our BC NEIHR website.
- Funds are released as payments each term and start in the September following the funding call. Students must be registered as full-time during the course of the payments.

If you have questions and/or need help with your application, please contact us Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Pacific Time by email at **bcneihr@uvic.ca** or by **phone at 250-472-5449.**

Applicants should consult the BC NEIHR YouTube Channel: @BC NEIHR for instructional videos on how to apply for scholarships as well as answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

Complete the BC NEIHR Master's Scholarship Application Form:

To complete the 2-page fillable PDF Application Form, please visit website: www.uvic.ca/bcneihr to download the form or email the Network Coordinator bcneihr@uvic.ca.

The form will collect information about your discipline, research proposal and community/geographic region, which helps to assign applications to appropriate reviewers. The form will also ask you questions about other external funding, which is defined as funding from an outside research organization/agency (e.g. CIHR, SSHRC, MSFHR, Mitacs, etc.) and does not include internal funding from your own institution.

Letters of Support:

Each applicant must provide **two letters of support**, which can be from academic mentors and Indigenous communities, collectives and/or organizations (ICCOs) as appropriate. Ideally, one letter is from an academic mentor (e.g., supervisor) and one is from an ICCO. However, both letters can be from academic mentors. One of your letters of support must confirm your Indigenous identity. Maximum of two letters and one page each.

Up-to-date Official Transcripts

Include in your application official copies of all post-secondary transcripts. Reviewers will want to see final grades on your transcript if you are in courses for the September-December semester prior to the February 1st deadline. Please wait until final grades are posted to order a transcript from your institution to include in your application. If you are not in courses, but registered in a program (e.g. thesis), you must still provide an up-to-date transcript that includes thesis-registered semesters. If you are not yet registered in a Master's program, please provide a transcript of your most recent studies (e.g. undergraduate). If you are entering a Master's program based on work experience and do not have an undergraduate degree, please explain that in your proposal or letter of support. Official transcripts are defined as transcripts issued by the institution's registrar office. Transcripts from other sources, such as those printed from the student's account on the institution's website, are not official. Please order your most recent official transcript for pick up or by mail, and then scan them. The official transcript is not mailed directly to the BC NEIHR. The application and all supporting documents must be submitted as *one PDF file* by email to bcneihr@uvic.ca.

Selection Process:

BC NEIHR's principles of review include:
confidentiality;
absence of conflict of interest;
fairness;
accountability, and,·
transparency.

Review refers to the process used by BC NEIHR to assess applications submitted for funding. Applications are assigned to BC NEIHR Team Members who possess the required experience and/or knowledge (individual or collective) to properly assess the quality of the applications based on the objectives of the funding opportunity and its evaluation criteria. BC NEIHR's review process is supported by academic reviewers, as well as non-academic reviewers, including Indigenous organizations and community-based representatives.

Review Criteria:
 Applications will be assessed on the basis of:

- **Applicant's Potential** (60%)
  - Research potential (e.g. work experience, leadership experience, project management, volunteerism/community outreach, etc.).
  - Research or related experience in Indigenous wellness.
  - Academic excellence (as demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions).

- **Proposed Research Potential** (40%)
  - Feasibility of the proposed project (i.e., relevance to Indigenous wellness, activities, timeline, scope).
  - Your proposal should describe:
    - a clear rationale for the study (why should it be done?);
    - the aim of the research (i.e. what purpose will it serve?);
    - the methodology (approach) you will take;
    - how you will engage with those involved in the research project;
    - the methods you will engage to gather information;
    - how the project advances Indigenous wellness.

Consideration will be given to regional, cultural and disciplinary representation. Research will ideally be initiated by an Indigenous community, collective or organization (not sought out by the student or their supervisor).

Accountability:

On condition of receiving the scholarship, recipients will be expected to meet specific accountability measures, including:

- engaging with the proposed plan outlined in their application;
- actively participating in and/or contributing to the BC NEIHR activities and resources;
- supporting peers and mentoring students more junior in training;
- contributing to the BC NEIHR evaluation activities by completing a brief survey about the experience and a Use of Funds report;
- attending the annual Learning and Sharing Circle to present work and speak about participation in this opportunity, and;
- acknowledging the BC NEIHR in any publication or presentation related to the research project.

Use and disclosure of information:

The BC NEIHR may publish the name and other limited award information of award holders on their website: www.uvic.ca/bcneihr and/or social media pages.

For more information:

Contact Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Pacific Time.

bcneihr@uvic.ca

250-472-5449

You may also visit the BC NEIHR website for more information and/or social media pages for frequent updates on other student opportunities and resources.

Website: www.uvic.ca/bcneihr

Facebook: @BC.NEIHR

Twitter: @BCNEIHR

YouTube: @BC NEIHR

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Michael Smith Health Research BC

University of Victoria