



BC NEIHR Thesis Fellowship Overview and Instructions

Duration and Value: One year; \$6,000 (non-renewable)

Objective:

The objective of the BC NEIHR Thesis Fellowship program is to provide financial support to full-time Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit) Doctoral graduate students studying at British Columbia (BC) institutions and in thesis-based graduate programs who are approaching their final year of study and are engaged in the final stages of writing to complete their thesis or dissertation.

Description:

The BC NEIHR launches an annual competition for up to three (3) Thesis Fellowships. Each year, recipients are invited to the Gathering for Indigenous Health Research (GIHR) with other funded trainees and Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations, where they have the opportunity to present their work and speak about their participation in this fellowship program.

Eligibility: To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Complete a BC NEIHR Registration Survey, if not already a member (visit www.uvic.ca/bcneihr or email Network Coordinator bcneihr@uvic.ca for a BC NEIHR Registration Survey).
- Provide proof of Indigenous (First Nations, Métis or Inuit) 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.
- Have not previously held a BC NEIHR thesis fellowship.
- Be enrolled full-time in a CIHR eligible (<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36374.html>) graduate program at the Doctoral 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.

- Be in the final stages of thesis writing and in the final year of their program (supervisor must confirm estimated time of completion in letter of support).

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, and dissertation.

General Application Process:

- Applications must be prepared, finalized and submitted by applicants as one PDF file and emailed to bc_neihr@sfu.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 and/or social media pages.
- Funds are released as payments each term and start in the September semester following the funding call. Students must be registered as full-time over the academic year to receive installments.
- 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 Thesis Fellowship Application Form:

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

The form will collect information about your discipline, institution and community/geographic region. 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.

Letter of Support:

Each applicant must provide a letter of support from their supervisor that includes an estimated time of completion for the student. Letters should also comment on the applicant's potential for success (e.g., academic excellence and interpersonal/personal characteristics), overall research potential and anticipated impact, and career trajectory, including significance for advancing Indigenous people health and wellness. Maximum one page.

Up-to-date Unofficial Transcripts:

Include in your application unofficial copies of all post-secondary transcripts. If you are a successful recipient, official transcripts for your current program will be required to receive your funds. Official transcripts are defined as transcripts issued by the institution's registrar office. If awarded, you will be required to 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 transcript must be emailed to bcneihr@uvic.ca.

Dissertation Abstract:

Include a 300-word maximum abstract of your dissertation. Abstracts are succinct summaries with key components such as an introductory statement of research (background or context), research objectives or aims, methods, methodology, data analysis, conclusions and anticipated impact as well as any other relevant information.

Research Statement:

Include a one-page maximum proposal that includes the key components: positionality statement (who you are and your community), and describes your research work to date (e.g., where you are in your research and thesis writing). Outline how the thesis fellowship will assist you to reach graduation and your plans for after graduation.

Complete a CV:

A CV is required as it provides important information to reviewers for the adjudication of each application. Below are some key fields to include in your CV.

a. Education/Degrees

- All degrees (Bachelor, Masters and/or Doctoral) should be recorded in the CV whether they are complete or in progress. In addition, the following information should be included for eligibility purposes:
 - Degree Type
 - Degree Name
 - Specialization
 - Institution
 - Degree Status
 - Degree Start Date (YYYY/MM)
 - Degree Received Date/Degree Expected Date (YYYY/MM)
 - Supervisor

b. Recognitions

- Indicate any recognition received, including honors, distinctions, prizes, awards (monetary or not, declined, etc.) and citations. You should indicate from which channel the recognition was obtained (competitive process or not), and from which source (Federal, Provincial, Non-profit, etc.) If recognition was declined, it should also be indicated.

c. Employment, including Leaves of Absence and Impact on Research

- All relevant employment should be included.
- Any special considerations that have had an effect on academic performance or productivity should be included. They may include considerations that may have

resulted in delays in your program or research activities, such as health problems, family, community or cultural responsibilities, disabilities, or other circumstances. Any gaps in the chronology of your experience should be explained.

d. Research Funding History

- Include research funding entries whereby you were formally recorded as co-applicant, co-investigator, co-knowledge user, collaborator, decision maker, policy maker, principal applicant, principal investigator or principal knowledge user.
- Do not duplicate information included elsewhere in the CV (e.g. CIHR Doctoral awards or any other type of federal or non-federal awards should be listed in Recognitions and not in this section).

e. Activities

- Activities and contributions should include both academic and non-academic achievements as well as their impact.

f. Contributions

- Presentations
 - Community or organizational presentations (date, location, name of event, name of your presentation, co-presenter's names).
 - Conference poster presentations should be listed. If the abstract was published in a conference journal, it should be listed under sub-section entitled "Conference Publications" under Publication section.
- Publications
 - Include publications that have been accepted or are in press. Do not include publications in preparation or submitted.
 - Other Contributions – include any other oral, written or visual activities or materials produced. Service– local, regional, national and international community, organizational, government or institutional.
 - Intellectual Property

e. Other Relevant Factors (note: this section can be narrative based)

- Examples include, but are not limited to, expertise, community-based experience and responsibilities, lived and/or living experience(s), or leadership activities and skills.

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 based on:

- Applicant's Potential
 - Research potential (e.g. research experience, community-based engagement, leadership experience, project management, volunteerism/community outreach, etc.).
 - Research or work-related experience in Indigenous health and wellness.
 - Academic excellence (as demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions, CV).
 - Positionality is clearly articulated and described in research statement.
 - Letter of Support from Supervisor.
- Research Statement
 - Feasibility of completion (i.e., where you are to date in activities, timeline, scope).
 - A clear rationale for the research including existing literature (why should it be done?).
 - The aim of the research (i.e. what purpose will it serve?).
 - The methodology, methods and data analysis approach you will or have taken.
 - Potential impact and significance for Indigenous peoples or Indigenous communities, collectives and organizations and how the study advances Indigenous wellness.

Note: Consideration will be given to distinctions-based, 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 Thesis Fellowship, recipients will be expected to meet specific accountability measures, including:

- Engaging with the proposed plan and timeline outlined in their application.
- Actively participating in and/or contributing to the BC NEIHR activities and resources.
- Commit to actively supporting and mentoring peers and students affiliated with BC NEIHR.
- Contributing to the BC NEIHR evaluation activities by completing a brief survey or other evaluation activities about the experience.
- Attending the annual GIHR to present work and speak about participation in this opportunity.
- 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 by email bcneihr@uvic.ca.

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.

The BC NEIHR scholarship and fellowship programs are generously supported by CIHR and our partners Michael Smith Health Research BC, Provincial Health Services Authority, Simon Fraser University and University of Victoria.

