

VHA Home HealthCare Graduate Student Award

Research Focus: Caring for Children with Medical Complexities in the home setting

Monetary, mentorship and networking supports are available for talented graduate students who are identified as a potential leader of tomorrow to develop strong links with a homecare agency while investigating research related to [*caring for children with medical complexity in the home setting*](#).

VHA Home HealthCare is committed to sponsoring promising young scientists to engage in research that will diversify the research capacity and expertise in the home and community sector. VHA Home HealthCare will co-fund one graduate student studying topics related to children with medical complexity that is a strategic fit with the vision, mission and values of the organization.

Eligible candidates must: be enrolled or accepted into a full-time Master's or PhD program (research based); be studying children with medical complexity (related to homecare); interested in collaborating and learning about home and community care; and maintain an excellent academic record.

This co-funding opportunity is \$12,500 for the academic year Sept 2018 – Aug 2019. The award will be provided to the student and can be used as a stipend or to support study related activities. This is a one-time award and is not renewable.

Please connect with Sandra McKay to learn more. smckay@vha.ca

Application Requirements

1. **Plain Language Project Summary** (maximum 1 page)

Outline the proposed research project and the alignment with the research focus: Supporting children with medical complexity and their families. Applicants should provide an appropriate synopsis of their proposed research including research question(s), methods and literature, and any preliminary results etc. Applicants and

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- their supervisor(s) should ensure that it provides a concise account of the subject matter which reflects the significance of the project.
2. **Relevance of Project and Potential impact for Homecare** (maximum 1 page)
Demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research project to the strategic research priorities of VHA Home HealthCare and clearly state how the research will potentially contribute to improving the health or experiences of our clients and or families who have a child with medical complexity at home.
 3. **Scanned Transcript** (unofficial copy of academic transcript is acceptable)
 4. **Curriculum Vitae** (please include the sections listed below)
 - a. Section entitled 'Education'
 - Every degree (Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate) must be recorded in the CV whether they are complete or in progress.
 - b. Section entitled 'Recognitions & Research Funding'
 - Indicate any recognition received, including honours, distinctions, prizes, awards and citations.
 - Research Funding including the source/agency, value and length of time held
 - c. Section entitled 'Employment'
 - d. Section entitled 'Activities'
 - The activities and contributions defined in this section should include both academic and non-academic achievements
 - e. Section entitled 'Academic Contributions'
 - Presentations & Publications
 5. **Letter of Support from Supervisor (s)** (maximum 1 page)
 6. **280-Character Tweet**
Please provide a statement of 280 characters or less indicating the nature of the project and expected impact. This statement may be adapted for use in social media if the application is successful.
 7. **Personal Essay** (maximum 1.5 pages)
Your academic transcript, your CV and your reference letter will provide details of your commitments and accomplishments, but the personal essay gives you the opportunity to present the overarching narrative about your life, leadership accomplishments, and research goals for the selection committee. You may want to structure your personal essay to include the following 2 sections; Research Experience & Relevant Activities.

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Research experience: Describe the skills and abilities that you have gained through your past research experience, including special projects, honours thesis and co-op reports. If you have relevant work experience, discuss the relevance of that experience to your proposed field of study/research and any benefits you gained.

Relevant activities: Describe your professional, academic, and extracurricular activities, interactions and collaborations that best demonstrate your communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills. Examples of these include:

- Teaching, mentoring, supervising, and/or coaching
- Managing projects
- Participating in science promotion, science/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
- Work experience
- Awards for papers, reports, posters, oral presentations, teaching, and/or volunteer/outreach work

An interdisciplinary review committee will select the candidate(s) for funding based on the following criteria:

- **Academic excellence**
 - Academic record
 - Scholarships and awards held
 - School/program/courses pursued
 - **Research ability or potential**
 - Potential impact to homecare delivery – anticipated outcomes; clinical & or operational
 - Quality and originality of research
 - Relevance of work experience & academic training
 - **Communication, interpersonal, and leadership abilities**
 - Extracurricular activities and past collaborations – work experience
 - Leadership experience
 - Involvement in academic and community activities
 - Potential to communicate research findings clearly and logically in written & oral formats
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If you are selected by the review committee and you accept the award you must agree to adhere to the guidelines and policies of VHA Home HealthCare including, but not limited to the following:

- Maintain 'good' academic standing in your program at a Canadian post-secondary institution.
 - Be engaged in academic study/research aligned with the mission and vision of VHA Home HealthCare & the award as stated.
 - Participate actively in VHA research activities including attendance at the VHA Research Advisory Committee & annual event, one presentation to the Senior Management Team and a commitment to maintain open and regular communication related to your study progress.
 - Agree to share your study abstract, biography and photo on VHA website along with previous recipients and consider additional request from VHA Communications and participate as you are able.
 - Acknowledge the support of VHA Home HealthCare in presentations, publications, and other knowledge translation activities related to research conducted during your funding period.
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Please email a copy of your completed application to Dr Sandra McKay, Manager Research & Evaluation smckay@vha.ca prior to the deadline of August 13th, 11:59 am.