

VHA Home HealthCare's Graduate Research Award, Award Year 2025-2026

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 home care agency while investigating research related to one of VHA Home HealthCare (VHA)'s [three research priority streams](#):

- **Better Care:** Our research on how to provide better care is driven by the questions and needs of our clinical teams and client and caregiver partners.
- **Safer Teams:** We are prioritizing research to improve workplace health and safety throughout the home care sector, and specifically at VHA.
- **More Connected:** We are prioritizing research on integrated care to inform and evaluate ongoing efforts to increase integration in the healthcare system.

VHA is a not-for-profit, charitable, home care service provider organization operating primarily in the Greater Toronto Area within the Ministry of Health defined geographies of Toronto, Central, East and West. Care is delivered in the communities of Mississauga Halton, Brampton, North York, Toronto Durham and Scarborough with rehab-only locations in Ottawa and London. We offer services to people of all ages, cultures and orientations from paediatric to palliative care through our team of nursing, personal support and rehabilitation providers (occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, dietetics and speech language pathology). We provide more than 3.9 million visits annually to more than 111,000 clients through our more than 3,000 healthcare specialists. To learn more about our organization visit www.vha.ca.

Since 2009, VHA has invested in research to advance home care and the broader health system.

[In the last year, our vibrant Research & Innovation team](#) led 67 active studies focused on better care, safer teams and a more connected health system, published 17 manuscripts, supported 36 academic trainees, fostered 72 research partnerships and tested 4 different in-home technologies. VHA's research contributions have informed organizational and system level decision-making, changed government policy and improved processes, practices and care and the organization is well-positioned to be a leader in home care science and in the creation of homecare scientists.

VHA is committed to sponsoring promising graduate-level scientists to engage in research that will diversify research capacity and expertise in the home and community sector. VHA will co-fund up to three graduate students studying topics related to research priority streams and [strategic priorities](#), including policy and advocacy activities that are 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) at a Canadian university
- Be interested in collaborating and learning about home and community care
- Maintain an excellent academic record

This co-funding opportunity is **\$5000.00** from September 2025 – August 2026 and can be used as a stipend or to support study-related activities. This award also includes an opportunity to receive mentorship and support from established home care researchers. This is a one-time award and is not renewable.

Please connect with the VHA Research & Innovation team to learn more at researchhelp@vha.ca.

Deadlines: Please email full application package in a combined PDF format to researchhelp@vha.ca prior to the deadline of August 1st, 2025, 11:59 PM. Please reference the Graduate Research Award in the subject line of your email.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Plain Language Project Summary with Title (maximum 1 page)

Outline the proposed research project and the alignment with a strategic research focus: better care, safer teams or more connected. Applicants should provide an appropriate synopsis of their research including research question(s), brief methods and literature review, and any preliminary results (if available). Applicants and their supervisor(s) should ensure that it provides a concise account of the subject matter which reflects the significance of the project. *Preference will be given to projects that have well-established topics and have received REB approval.*

2. Relevance of Project and Potential Impact for Home and Community Care in Canada (maximum 1/2 page)

Demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research project to home and community care in Canada, with a focus on the strategic research priorities of VHA Home HealthCare. Clearly state how the research could potentially contribute to improving the health or experiences of our clients and caregivers who receive their care at home or point-of-care providers.



3. Impact of Funding (maximum 1/2 page)

Describe how receiving this award will benefit your project and/or professional development.

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 and 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 and publications

5. Letter of Support from Supervisor(s) (maximum 1 page – include in application)

6. Personal Essay (maximum 1 page)

Your CV and letter of support 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 your professional and research goals for the review committee. Consider structuring your personal essay to include the following 2 sections: Research Experience and Relevant Activities.

Research Experience: Describe the skills and abilities that you have gained through your past research

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
- Awards for papers, reports, posters, oral presentations, teaching, and/or volunteer/outreach work

An interdisciplinary review committee comprised of clients, caregivers and researchers will select the candidate(s) for funding based on the following criteria:

Research project

- Potential impact to home care delivery – anticipated outcomes; clinical and/or operational
- Fit with VHA Home HealthCare's research priorities as identified above
- Feasibility of project to deliver outcomes
- Quality, originality and relevance of research to the home care sector

Candidate profile

- Relevance of work experience and academic training
- Extracurricular activities and past collaborations
- Leadership experience
- Potential to communicate research findings clearly and logically in written and oral formats

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 and the award as stated
- Participate in at least one presentation to the Senior Management and Research Teams 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's website along with previous recipients, social media and consider additional requests 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

