

VHA Home HealthCare's Graduate Research Award, Award Year 2026-2027

Monetary, mentorship and networking support are available for talented graduate students who are identified as a potential leader of tomorrow to develop strong links with a home care organization while investigating research related to one of VHA Home HealthCare (VHA)'s [three research priority streams](#):

- **Better Care:** We are prioritizing research into better care that is driven by the questions and needs of our point-of-care providers, clients and care partners.
- **Safer Teams:** We are prioritizing research to improve workplace wellbeing, and health and safety throughout the home care sector.
- **Connected System:** We are prioritizing research on integrated care and data-informed contributions that position home care in health system excellence and efficiency.

VHA is a not-for-profit charitable organization that offers 24/7 healthcare and support services in the home and community to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. As one of the largest not-for-profit providers of publicly-funded home care in Ontario, VHA provides personal support, nursing, rehab (occupational therapy, physical therapy, social work, dietetics, and speech language pathology) and community support services in Toronto and the GTA as well as in London, Kingston, and in Ottawa under the name Champlain Rehab Solutions. We provide more than 4 million visits annually to more than 110,000 clients through our more than 3,100 home care 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 2025, VHA's Research & Innovation team](#) led 63 active studies focused on better care, safer teams and a more connected health system, published 12 manuscripts, supported 43 academic trainees and research fellows and engaged 69 clients and providers across research initiatives. VHA's research contributions continue to inform organizational and system-level decision-making, strengthen policy, practice, and care, and position VHA as a leader in home care science and the development of future home care researchers.

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 care sector. VHA will co-fund up to three graduate students whose research aligns with VHA's strategic priorities, including policy and advocacy activities that align with the organization's vision, mission, and values.



Eligibility

Eligible candidates must:

- Be enrolled in or accepted to a full-time, research-based Master's or PhD program at a Canadian university
- Be interested in collaborating with and learning about home and community care
- Maintain an excellent academic record

This co-funding opportunity provides **\$5,000** for the period **September 2026 – August 2027** and may be used as a stipend or to support study-related activities. The award also includes opportunities for mentorship and support from established home care researchers at VHA. This is a one-time, non-renewable award.

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

Deadline

Applicants must email a complete application package in **one combined PDF** to research@vha.ca by **August 4th, 2026, at 11:59 PM**. Please reference “**26-27 Graduate Research Award**” in the subject line.

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, and 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



Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary committee of clients, caregivers, and researchers using 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, short bio, 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

