
The Autism Scholars Awards, 2014-15

With the support of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, a Scholar Awards Program in Autism has been established to ensure that Ontario attracts and retains pre-eminent scholars. The community of autism scholars fostered by this Awards Program will excel, according to internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge concerning child autism, and its translation into improved health for children, more effective services and products for children with autism, and increase the province's capacity in diagnosis and assessment of autism and a strengthened treatment system, by:

- a) promoting, assisting and undertaking research that pertains to one or more of the following aspects of children's health: paediatric behavioural sciences and autism within the academic community, increase advanced research relating to autism, especially its diagnosis and treatment, and other research as required;
- b) creating a robust autism research environment in Ontario, based on internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence and a peer review process, that will attract, develop, and keep excellent scholars and provide them with the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of research and treatment in Ontario and the world;
- c) addressing emerging opportunities, threats and challenges and accelerating the discovery of cures and treatments and improvements to autism care, prevention, and wellness strategies;
- d) promoting the dissemination of knowledge about autism and the application of autism research to improve the health of children in Ontario; and
- e) building the capacity of the Ontario autism research community through the development of scholars and the provision of sustained support for scientific careers in autism treatment and research.

For 2014-15, up to one award at the Master's level and the Doctoral level will be made:

- *Master's Awards - \$18,000*
- *Doctoral Awards - \$20,000*

Conditions:

- All applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada as of the application deadline date (January 31, 2014).
- All applicants must be sponsored and endorsed by the Dean of Graduate Studies at the Ontario university at which they are undertaking graduate study.
- To be eligible for a **Master's Award**, applicants must be registered full-time in a Master's or Doctoral graduate program at an Ontario university at the time of taking up the award (i.e., the fall term of 2014-15), and must remain registered full-time in that master's program throughout the term of the award. Master's students remain eligible to the end of their sixth term of full-time study.
- To be eligible for a **Doctoral Award**, applicants must be registered full-time in a Doctoral graduate program at an Ontario university at the time of taking up the award (i.e., the fall term of 2014-15), and must remain registered full-time throughout the term of the award. Doctoral students remain eligible to the end of their fifteenth term of full-time study.
- Holders of Autism Scholars Awards are precluded from holding any other major award during the term of this award.

Funding:

During the one year period commencing September 2014, master's award recipients will receive \$6,000 per term, for each of the three terms in which they are registered full-time in a master's program in an Ontario university, as long as they do not exceed the sixth term of their master's study. Payments will be made by the university through its customary procedures and on its customary schedule (typically equal monthly payments during the term).

During the one year period commencing September 2014, doctoral award recipients will receive \$6,666 per term, for each of the three terms in which they are registered full-time in a doctoral program in an Ontario university, as long as they do not exceed the fifteenth term of their doctoral study. Payments will be made by the university through its customary procedures and on its customary schedule (typically equal monthly payments during the term).

Application Procedure:

(Application forms are available in the offices of the Deans of the Graduate Schools in Ontario universities, and at the Council of Ontario Universities' website at <http://cou.on.ca/about/chairs-and-awards/autism-scholars-award>.)

The Dean of the Graduate School at which each applicant is proposing to undertake study must sponsor the applicant, certify the applicant's eligibility, and specify which term of their program the master's or doctoral student will be in at the commencement of the award.

Each applicant must submit to the Dean **electronic copies** of the following documents by **December 2, 2013**:

1. The completed application form.
2. A curriculum vitae (including information concerning the eligibility criteria).
3. A statement of research to be undertaken during the period of graduate study (maximum 1,000 words). There must also be an additional non-technical summary (maximum 500 words). These statements must be written by the candidate.

The candidate must also provide:

4. All undergraduate and graduate transcripts. These may be either official transcripts sent directly by the Registrar's office of the issuing university, or copies verified and certified as accurate by the Registrar's office of the Ontario university of current registration.
5. Confidential letters from **two** assessors. These appraisals should focus on an evaluation of the applicant's research to date, and the research being undertaken during the graduate or postdoctoral period. The applicant must ask for the appraisals **to be transmitted electronically directly to the Dean of Graduate Studies.**

By **January 31, 2014**, the complete application package is to be forwarded by the Dean of Graduate Studies of the sponsoring university to:

Dr. Donna Woolcott
Email: dwoolcott@cou.on.ca
Tel: (416) 979-2165 (x 235)

The Selection Committee:

Committee members are nominated by the Deans of the Graduate Schools in the Province of Ontario, and selected by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies.

Applicants for **Master's and Doctoral Awards** will be assessed on their talent, the excellence of their work, the vision that they bring to their endeavors, and the impact that they foresee resulting from their work, as measured by:

- *The program of study and research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge about autism;*
 - *Past academic results, demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;*
 - *Relevant professional and academic experience, including research training, as evidenced by papers presented at conferences and the candidate's publication record;*
 - *Written letters of appraisal; and*
 - *Appropriateness of the choice of institution and supervising investigator.*
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