



Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network

Call for 2026-2027 ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship Program

Background

The Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network is a national research network funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Our mandate is focused on *initiating, supporting, and sustaining innovative and collaborative ME and associated common comorbidities research and to mobilize this knowledge to improve health services and products for people living with ME*. The network is committed to patient-centred research from discovery to implementation science, with the ultimate goal of finding the cause(s) and possible treatments for ME, thereby increasing the quality of life and management of the illness for people in Canada impacted by ME.

The ICanCME Research Network is announcing a call for applications for the **2026-2027 ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarships**.

Objective

The purpose of the **ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship Program** is to support the work of promising graduate students who are conducting Myalgic Encephalomyelitis research as part of their masters or doctoral research project. Canadian applicants are eligible to apply regardless of whether they are affiliated with a laboratory in Canada or abroad. International students and postdoctoral fellows, however, are eligible only if they carry out their project in a Canadian laboratory.

Funds Available and Duration of Award

Scholarships of **\$20,000** are available to support graduate students investigating different facets of ME research as part of their training at the Masters or PhD level. ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship are available for one year only, with a possibility to resubmit an application for a second year of support. One scholarship of **\$40,000** is available to support a research postdoctoral fellow for one year only, with the possibility to resubmit an application for a second year of support. The postdoctoral project must be fully dedicated to research.

- **Submission Deadline: 11:59 pm EDT August 30, 2026.**
- **Start Date: October 1st, 2026 (or exceptionally, January 1st, 2027)**
- **End Date: September 30th, 2027 (or exceptionally, December 31st, 2027)**

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, the applicant must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or hold a student visa.
- Be a full-time Masters, PhD student or postdoctoral trainee registered at a recognized Canadian university or at a university abroad in a leading ME laboratory (only for Canadian citizens).
- Candidates starting in September 2026 or already enrolled in a MSc or PhD program are eligible. Exceptionally, candidates accepted in MSc or PhD program at the time of the submission of their application but starting in January 2027 may apply. Postdoctoral candidates are eligible to apply if they have not completed more than three years as postdoctoral trainee at the time of their application.
- Be undertaking studies that include research that leads to the completion of a dissertation or scholarly publication.
- Have their academic supervisor provide a letter demonstrating their capacity to provide guidance and resources for the duration of the applicant's MSc, PhD, or postdoctoral studies.
- Arrange for **two** professional references familiar with the applicant to each provide a reference letter describing the applicant's qualities, scientific curiosity, autonomy, research aptitudes, collaboration, and communication skills.

How to Apply

Applicants are expected to complete the application form (Font 12 pt, margins 2 cm) and submit the following documents:

- Application form
- Attachments: (1) Outline of Proposed Research and (2) Bibliography
- Transcript from all courses completed at the time of application
- Verification/confirmation of enrollment*
- Curriculum Vitae

* Verification/confirmation of enrollment is not required by the submission deadline, but prior to the transfer of grant funds.

The applicant is to ensure that letters of support are submitted directly by:

- Academic supervisor (n=1)
- References (n=2)

to info@icancme.ca by no later than the submission deadline.

Submission Deadline: Applications are to be submitted by email to the National Network Coordinator, Anita Franco (info@icancme.ca), no later than **11:59 pm EDT, August 30, 2026.**



Application Form

Application Instructions: Please indicate the applicant’s last name and type of application in the email subject line (e.g., Last Name_SoT_Scholarship). Applicants may submit the application and required documents in either English or French. (**Noting that for applications written in French, maximum characters may be 20% more than the stated English character limit. For example, a 250 character maximum in English would be a 300 character maximum in French. Please contact our Coordinator if you need any help with this.*)

The ICanCME Research Network recommends consulting with your academic supervisor to complete this application.

Please retain a Times New Roman 12-point font with margins of 2 cm throughout this application.

Applicant Information	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
Institution:	Program/Degree:
Year of study:	
Primary Academic Supervisor Information (mandatory)	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
	Institution:
Faculty/Department:	Position:
Secondary Academic Supervisor Information (if applicable)	
Name:	Email:
Mailing address:	Telephone:
	Institution:
Faculty/Department:	Position:
How did you hear about the ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholarship program? (maximum 250 characters including spaces)	

<p>What is your interest in pursuing ME research? (maximum of 500 characters including spaces)</p>
<p>What previous exposure to or experience have you had with ME? (maximum of 500 characters including spaces)</p>
<p>Application Title <i>The title should describe the research to be carried out during your training. Spell out scientific symbols and acronyms.</i></p>
<p>Field of Research <i>Please provide 5 to 10 keywords describing your research project, experimental design and/or methodology.</i></p>
<p>Sex and Gender Considerations (maximum of 500 characters including spaces) <i>Please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal or explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.</i></p>
<p>Start Date of Program of Study <i>Indicate the date you enrolled (or will enroll) in the program for which you are seeking support.</i></p>
<p>Host Institution <i>Indicate the institution at which you will hold the ME Stars of Tomorrow scholarship.</i></p>
<p>Outline of Proposed Research (maximum of one page) <i>Provide a detailed description of the proposed research project in plain language, for the period during which the applicant will hold the award.</i></p> <p><i>Be as specific as possible: What is the research objective and hypothesis? What is its intended impact and outcome? How will the research be done (outline the experimental or theoretical approach to be taken and the methods and procedures to be used)? How will the research benefit people living with ME?</i></p> <p><i>Should there be any changes to what is submitted after and if the proposal is funded, a letter of modification is required justifying these changes, and is not a guarantee of continuing approval.</i></p> <p><i>This summary may be made available to the public if your application is successful.</i></p>
<p>Bibliography and citations (maximum of one page) <i>Provide a bibliography that includes citations for all works referenced in the research proposal. These citations should be in a format used by the primary discipline of the proposed research. The applicant must ensure that all citations are clear and complete, to allow reviewers to easily locate the sources.</i></p>

Funding from Other Sources

Have you applied for graduate funding from other sources? Yes No

If yes, please complete the following table:

Funding opportunity <i>For each funding opportunity applied to, please identify the name of the competition below.</i>	Amount of the funding and length of time	Status of the submission <i>Please check the applicable box.</i>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>
		Under review <input type="checkbox"/> Successful <input type="checkbox"/>

Expectations of Successful Applicants

- Successful applicants and their academic supervisor(s) must be members of the ICanCME Research Network to receive this scholarship: <https://icancme.ca/membership/join-the-network/>
- They will be notified by no later than September 30, 2026. Successful applicants must confirm acceptance of the award within 2 weeks of receiving notice.
- The recipients of the scholarship will be required to use the term "ME Stars of Tomorrow Scholar" to indicate the successful awarding of the scholarship and to provide credit to ICanCME for this support. For example, this may be in oral or poster presentations, in peer-reviewed publications that result from this support, etc.
- As needed, funds will be transferred, in two equal annual installments, to the successful applicant's host institution via their academic supervisor. The first installment will be at commencement of award, the second at the mid term, following receipt of a mid term progress report. A final summary report is required within one month from completion of the funded period. The academic supervisor will arrange for the award of the external scholarship through the host institution's faculty of graduate studies (or equivalent) in the form of a monthly stipend amount for the duration of the scholarship funding.



- Applicants and award holders must comply with the policies and guidelines set out in the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) and in any other documents related to scholarship applications and awards.
- Awardees, academic supervisors, and mentors will become a part of the ICanCME Research Network and may be invited to participate in additional activities including our virtual ACADEME.
- **Awardees agree to:**
- Participate in a mandatory virtual orientation and/or check-ins offered by ICanCME Research Network.
- Participate in an ICanCME Awardee Community of Practice, as part of the ACADEME, facilitated by the ICanCME Medical Education and Trainee Working Group.
- Participate in webinars and/or other activities as required, organized by ICanCME Research Network.
- Acknowledge the ICanCME Research Network and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research in project-related outputs, including but not limited to: publications, presentations, and creative outputs. For example, “[Your name / project title] is supported by the ICanCME Research Network.”
- Submit a summary report (maximum 1 page) as per expectations noted above, by the end of the grant period and using the reporting template provided by ICanCME. The reports may be posted publicly on the ICanCME Research Network website.

Signature

All details in this application are true and accurate. I accept the terms and conditions applied to any award received through this application.

Applicant name:
Signature:
Date:

Contact: Questions regarding this call may be directed to:
Ms. Anita Franco, National Network Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Canadian Collaborative Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ICanCME) Research Network,
Email: info@icancme.ca