



## **CPS EQUITY TRAINEE RESEARCH AWARD 2026**

APPLICATION DEADLINE **DECEMBER 1ST, 2026**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Equity resources, such as funding opportunities for historically underrepresented trainees, enhances inclusion, diversifies scientific perspectives, and reduces biases<sup>1-4</sup>. In keeping with our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, the CPS is delighted to offer **The Canadian Pain Society Equity Trainee Research Award**.

This award will be granted to a trainee who identifies as belonging to a historically underrepresented group, including racialized minorities, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities, members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and women, whose Research Project Summary obtains the highest reviewer scores for a Doctoral project in basic or clinical science.

### **AWARD**

This award includes:

- A grant of \$2,000<sup>2</sup> to support operating costs associated with the student's dissertation study as outlined in the application (e.g., participant stipends, reagents); funds cannot be used for trainee stipends. The duration of these grants is for one year, although an additional one-year extension is available upon request if needed<sup>3</sup>.
- Complimentary registration to the 2026 Scientific Meeting registration

### **ELIGIBILITY & GUIDELINES**

- Applicants must be current trainee members of the Canadian Pain Society ([click here to join CPS today](#)).
- Applicants must currently be enrolled as a PhD student in a Canadian university graduate program.
- The CPS will evaluate applications according to a) the applicant's qualifications/research background and b) merit of the proposed research.
- Applicants must indicate their desire to be considered for the CPS Equity Trainee Research Award by clicking the button in the online submission form.
- Applicants may be considered for the CPS Equity Trainee Research Award and the CPS Trainee Research Awards. However, successful applicants will only be eligible to receive one award. Winners of the CPS Equity Trainee Research Award will not be eligible to also receive a Trainee Research Award, and vice-versa. Previous winners of a Trainee Research Award are not eligible.
- The CPS will distribute the award to the trainee's institution once granted<sup>4</sup>.
- The recipient must acknowledge the CPS Equity Trainee Research Award in publications and presentations associated with research for which the funding is provided.



## TO APPLY

All applications, submitted in English or in French, must include:

- Completion of [our online form](#).
- A copy of the applicant's curriculum vitae (in CIHR Biosketch CCV format).
- A letter of reference from the applicant's current supervisor that addresses their research abilities and potential.
- A statement (500 words, maximum) describing the reasons for applying for the award and how the applicant meets the eligibility criteria. This narrative will only be used to contextualize eligibility criteria. It will not be considered in the evaluation of the scientific merit of the proposed study.
- A one-page Research Project Summary briefly outlining the research project. This summary should include the following headings (where applicable): Background, Aims, Methods, and Significance. Please use 12pt, Times New Roman Font, with 2cm margins.
- All documents must be combined and uploaded into one PDF file.
- Files cannot exceed **25 MB**.

**QUESTIONS?** Please email the chair of the Awards Committee, **Nader Ghasemlou** at [nader.ghasemlou@queensu.ca](mailto:nader.ghasemlou@queensu.ca)

## NOTES

- 1 *This funding does not cover indirect costs.*
- 2 *Extension requests should be sent to the awards committee chair. Should any funds remain unspent at the end of that period, they will need to be returned to the Canadian Pain Society. The award start date is January 1, 2026. The \$2,000 grant will be distributed*
- 3 *directly to the awardee's institution from the Canadian Pain Society after receipt of details regarding to whom it should be sent and made payable, along with the address and any other information needed for this purpose.*

1. Arif S, Massey MDB, Klinard N, et al. Ten simple rules for supporting historically underrepresented students in science. *PLoS Computational Biology*. 2021;17(9):e1009313. doi:10.1371/journal.pcbi.1009313
2. Asplund M, Welle CG. Advancing Science: How Bias Holds Us Back. *Neuron*. 2018;99(4):635-639. doi:10.1016/j.neuron.2018.07.045
3. Zacharias N, Ryan J. Moving beyond 'acts of faith': effective scholarships for equity students. *Journal of Higher Education Policy and Management*. 2021;43(2):147-165. doi:10.1080/1360080X.2020.1777499
4. Ononye LC, Bong S. The Study of the Effectiveness of Scholarship Grant Program on Low-Income Engineering Technology Students. *Journal of STEM Education*. 2018;18(5):26-31.