

Niagara Health Knowledge Institute/TaARI Summer Student Research Scholarship

Description:

The purpose of the Niagara Health Knowledge Institute (NHKI) is to improve patient care and experience by embedding research into clinical practice. The vision is to transform health care through leading community hospital-based research in Canada. Our values are equity, collaboration, continuous learning, innovation, and empowerment.

Niagara Health (NH) places great value on teaching, learning, research, innovation and partnerships. As such, NH provides opportunities for learners to participate in scientific exchange, collaboration and learning in a research environment. To facilitate early engagement of future research team members in Niagara, the NHKI has partnered with the Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute (TaARI) of McMaster University to establish the **Niagara Health Knowledge Institute/TaARI Summer Student Research Scholarship**. This award funds University undergraduate students to participate in a research focused placement with the NHKI and TaARI between May and August. **The goal is to provide state-of-the-art research training that focuses on innovation, the aging population, and/or personalized medicine, with emphasis on creating new networks between community hospitals and academic research institutes.**

Award Value*: Approximately \$10,000. **Students will be paid at an hourly rate of \$18 per hour plus vacation in lieu.*

Eligibility:

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate science- or health-related program at a Canadian university
- In good academic standing

Application Process:

- Individuals must apply directly using our [electronic submission form](#)
- All applications must be received by January 31st, 2025 in order to be considered

Required Documents:

The following items will need to be uploaded using the electronic submission form:

- CV/resume (2 pages maximum)
- Statement of interest (one page maximum, single spaced) that outlines:
 - Reasons for applying to the scholarship program with a focus on why they want to do research at NHKI and TaARI
 - Career goals
- Copy of University transcripts (official/unofficial)
- One character reference (name, contact information, relationship to applicant)

Criteria:

The committee reviewing the applicants will consider the following criteria when determining the recipient:

- Research potential and interest in the NHKI research portfolio
- Contributions to community
- Academic standing
- Character reference (for short-listed applicants)

The short-listed applicants will have their character reference contacted and will be invited to participate in a virtual interview.

Program Details:

The student will work full-time (37.5 hours per week) alongside an NHKI and TaARI researcher from May 1, 2025 to August 1, 2025 to contribute to an existing research project. Required research training as outlined in the Niagara Health Researcher Training Policy and Procedure must be completed at the beginning of the placement. Students will also receive lab-based orientation as well as health and safety training at TaARI at the beginning of placement. Following completion of required research training, the student may perform the following activities:

- Lab-based basic science and/or translational research
- Literature review and critical analyses
- Data collection and analysis
- Participation in research meetings such as TaARI Research Day and NHKI Research Day
- Abstract writing
- Presenting the study in an oral or poster format
- Other activities commensurate with skills and knowledge

Appendix A: Niagara Health Knowledge Institute/TaARI Summer Student Research Scholarship Scoring Criteria

Applications will be scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Research Potential and Interest in the NHKI Research Portfolio**
 - **Consider the following when reviewing the applicant’s statement of interest, CV, academic transcripts:**
 - Degree to which applicant clearly articulates an interest in research at NHKI with strong rationale underpinning the statement
 - Degree to which applicant has sought research experiences including lab-based basic science and translational research
 - Alignment of completed coursework with foundational knowledge for research development (e.g. research methods, data analysis, computer skills, University lab-based research training)
2. **Contributions to the Community**
 - **Consider the following when reviewing CV and statement of interest:**
 - Volunteer activities (duration, quantity, and/or diversity of experiences)
3. **Academic Excellence:**
 - **Consider the following when reviewing academic transcripts:**
 - Completion of core coursework in good academic standing (i.e. >80%)
4. **Character Reference** (for short-listed applicants)
 - **Consider the following when reviewing character reference:**
 - Positive description of personal attributes
 - Meaningful and positive assessment of skills that would contribute to high research potential