



Education Fund – 2020/2021 PhD/Fellowship Awards - UPDATED Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. *How is COVID-19 impacting this year's competition?*
 - a. The proposed submission deadline for this competition is June 19, 2020. However, due to ongoing uncertainty associated with COVID-19 and related repercussions we will reassess the planned timeline and submission dates for this competition on a regular basis. Relevant information and updates will be available on our website at <https://tedrogersresearch.ca/ef/>
 - b. *As travel restrictions are evolving, eligible trainees are: a) currently residing in Canada; or b) international applicants who have already been accepted into a Toronto-based research programs and have already secured a Toronto-based supervisor associated with one of our partners (SickKids, UHN, UofT).* We will reassess this as needed. Relevant information and updates will be available on our website at <https://tedrogersresearch.ca/ef/>
 - c. While we anticipate this competition will progress to completion with provision of awards, we may need to put the competition on hold due to ongoing suspension of non-essential research activities in our research programs and laboratories. We will be monitoring the situation and the competition's status on a regular basis. Relevant information and updates will be available on our website at <https://tedrogersresearch.ca/ef/>
2. *Who is eligible for these awards?*
 - a. *Eligible trainees are: a) currently residing in Canada; or b) international applicants who have already been accepted into a Toronto-based trainee programs and have already secured a Toronto-based supervisor associated with one of our partners (SickKids, UHN, UofT) (see 1b above), enrolled full-time as of **January 1, 2021** (extended in case academic calendars are delayed) or before, in a doctoral degree program, or postdoctoral research fellowship program, irrespective of whether the previous doctorate degree was an MD or PhD.*
 - b. Trainees involved in cardiovascular research focusing on some aspect of [heart failure](#). This may be broadly interpreted and may include diverse fields of science, medicine, nursing, engineering, data science, public health, etc.
 - c. The proposed project involves collaboration with at least 2 of 3 of the Ted Rogers Centre's [partner organizations](#): Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), University Health Network (UHN), University of Toronto (UofT) - typically campus-based departments.
 - d. Trainees with a supervisor who holds one of the following: a) a full-time appointment at SickKids; b) a full-time appointment at UHN; c) a primary (typically campus-based) appointment at UofT; or d) a full-time appointment at a UofT-affiliated academic health sciences centre (TAHSN), hospital or research centre.

3. *How is collaboration defined?*

A key objective of the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research (TRCHR) is for its three founding partners to collaborate on their research projects, to leverage each partner's knowledge and expertise. Projects will be assessed as to the strength of collaboration among the Centre's partners involved in the project. As noted, projects are to involve collaboration between at least 2 of 3 partner institutions (SickKids, UHN, UofT). UofT in this instance refers to investigators with a primary (typically campus-based) appointment at UofT. If a trainee's supervisor holds a full-time appointment at a UofT-affiliated centre, the project would require collaborators from 2 or more TRCHR partners (ie SickKids, UHN or UofT – typically campus-based departments) to meet the collaboration objective as noted in 2c above.

4. *Is a full-time appointment at a TAHSN hospital considered a primary UofT appointment?* No

5. *What about trainees with post MD research training, ie not post PhD, but post MD – are they eligible?*
Yes, these trainees are eligible, see 2a above.

6. *I received an Education Fund award in a prior cycle, I applied for a renewal the next year but was not successful. Am I eligible to apply?*
Yes, you are eligible to apply again for a second term, using the Term 2/Renewal application form.

7. *Do I need to include my supervisor's CV?*
Yes, please include your supervisor's CIHR Common academic CV (last 5 years only) with your application.

8. *Are reference letters required?* No

9. *Who are academic transcripts to be sent to?*
Please submit your academic transcripts with your application. These do not need to be sent directly by the granting institution.

10. *I received CIHR funding of \$17,500 for the school year (2020-2021), would I be eligible?*
Depending on the terms and amounts of your award(s), you may be eligible for a supplement or top up from the Centre.

11. *I received an award of \$50,000/year, am I eligible for this award?*
No. The Centre would welcome your participation in its activities and learning opportunities, however, the size of your current award would preclude you from receiving a top up.

12. *My supervisor has a full-time / primary appointment with one of the Centre's partner institutes, and my project is cardiac/heart failure focused, but my supervisor's research is not cardiac/heart failure focused, am I eligible?*
Yes. Your supervisor does not need to be a cardiac researcher. As long as your work is aligned with the Centre's [Mission and Objectives](#) and conforms with 2b and 2c above, your project is eligible.

13. *The application requests information regarding translation and/or commercialization plans and/or activities, what is required here?*
A key objective of the Ted Rogers Centre is to improve the prevention and management of heart failure across the lifespan. Briefly describe the knowledge gap that your project will address and your plans (and associated rationale) to share the proposed outputs from your project with the scientific and clinical communities to achieve impact. For projects that are planned for commercialization, describe the steps you plan to pursue (eg protecting intellectual property, patents, licensing, creating a startup, seeking financing, obtaining regulatory approval etc.) and the associated rationale.

Leads (supervisor and/or trainee) of all funded projects will be required to meet with the Ted Rogers Centre's Translation & Commercialization Committee prior to project conclusion. You may also be interested in the [Entrepreneurship for Cardiovascular Health Opportunities \(ECHO\)](#) program.

14. Are there other requirements associated with the Education Fund awards?

Yes, applicants receiving Education Fund awards are to:

- a. Acknowledge support from the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research on all research outputs
- b. Attend monthly TRCHR Lab meetings
- c. Participate in the annual [TRCHR scientific symposium](#)
- d. Respond to periodic surveys/queries regarding the award program and the impact and outputs of their research
- e. Provide an end of term report
- f. Meet with the Translation & Commercialization Committee
- g. Participate in TRCHR-related activities/events

15. How many trainees per supervisor?

Up to one trainee per supervisor per level (eg a supervisor may have one trainee at the PhD level and up to 1 trainee at the PDF level) across all applicants (ie new applicants and those being renewed). A supervisor cannot have more than 1 trainee per level (eg a supervisor can have up to 1 trainee with a PhD award and up to 1 trainee with a PDF award). A supervisor may be named as a collaborator on more than one application, however, they can only serve as supervisor for up to 1 PhD trainee and up to 1 PDF trainee.

16. Am I eligible for funding for the 5th year of my PhD? Yes

17. Are there any opportunities for new/early career investigators, either salary awards or research grants?

The Education Fund provides trainee awards.

18. How many awards are planned for this year's competition?

The number of awards will depend on the quality of the applications received and the evolving COVID-19 pandemic (see 1c above).

In last (2019/2020) year's competition, 6 Doctoral awards and 4 Postdoctoral Fellowship awards were provided. Please note that some of these trainees are eligible to apply for a second year of funding as part of this year's competition.