



# STUDENT PROGRAM

## RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

### 2024-2025 Competition

## VISION HEALTH RESEARCH NETWORK

### INSTRUCTIONS

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#### Deadlines:

- **March 15 2024\*** (studies must start between May and August 2024)
- **July 15 2024\*** (studies must start between September and December 2024)
- **November 15 2024\*** (studies must start between January and April 2025)

*\*Should these dates fall on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the candidates will have until Monday morning to send their application.*

#### Objectives

In the various training programs in Quebec, exposure to the vision sciences is generally late and insufficient. The purpose of the Vision Research Network (VHRN) **Recruitment Scholarship** is to engage students early enough in their training to enable the most promising students to pursue their studies in vision. These scholarships are for students newly admitted to graduate programs and registered full-time at a Quebec university who decides to pursue their training in vision health research under the supervision of a member of the VHRN. In addition, to promote the training of clinician vision scientists, a separate budget is reserved for students registered in health professional degrees who want to engage in vision research.

More specifically, these scholarships will allow to:

- finance the **first term** for graduate studies (MSc, PhD, and postdoctoral studies);
- help students and postdoctoral fellows to obtain fellowships from public granting agencies or industry;
- foster networking and collaborations.

#### Eligibility

- Relevance to the mission and health research areas of the RRSV vision. Applications that do not meet the mandate of the VHRN will not be evaluated.
- The candidate must be newly admitted in a graduate program for the Summer, Fall or Winter term at a Quebec university or start a postdoctoral training and not already hold a scholarship from another granting agency.
- The research director must be a regular member of the network.
- Part-time projects will be considered only for students registered to a health professional degree program while carrying out their research project.
- The network will award a maximum of one (1) scholarship per student per financial year.

A special fund from the *Fondation Antoine-Turmel* is dedicated for projects that may have an impact on the understanding or treatment of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). You are therefore encouraged to indicate if this is the case since this could allow the financing of additional projects

#### Additional funding

Multiple scholarships are allowed up to the maximum allowed by the host university. In the case of a combination of scholarships, the candidate must provide a copy of the Graduate Student Compensation Policy of the

university for justification.

### Amount and number of awards

- The amount of this scholarship is up to a maximum of **\$ 4,000** for MSc students, and up to **\$ 8,000** for PhD students and post-doctoral fellow.
- A total of **\$48,000** per financial year (April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>) is reserved for this program, including a separate budget to fund students from health professional degree programs who wish to do research in vision.
- The number of scholarships per year is dependent on the number of applications received in each student categories and availability of funds.
- The host laboratory must complement the amount of this award to bring the student's salary to the minimum level specified by the department or the program.

### Evaluation criteria

The application will be evaluated on the basis of the excellence of the candidate, the role and the supervision provided to the student, as well as the relevance of the project in relation to the objectives of the program.

### Commitment

Any recipient of a **Recruitment scholarship** award agrees to:

- Submit an application to the major granting agency training programs on the next competition closing date (if eligible);
- Acknowledge the support of the VHRN in each presentation (oral or poster) and publication resulting from the project for which he was awarded the scholarship by using one of the following wordings, according to the publication language and research project topic:
  - ✓ « Le Réseau de recherche en santé de la vision » or « The Vision Health Research Network » if the project is not related to AMD;
  - ✓ « La Fondation Antoine Turmel et le Réseau de recherche en santé de la vision » or « The *Fondation Antoine-Turmel* and The Vision Health Research Network » if it's a project related to AMD;
- Declare to the Network any additional awards received during the period funded by the Network;
- Present the results of the research project at the VHRN Annual meeting;
- Respond to the requests for follow-up sent by the VHRN in order to evaluate the efficiency of this program.

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### How to apply

The applicant must go to the web link "**RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP electronic form**" ([AVAILABLE ON THE PROGRAM HOMEPAGE](#)), complete the form and attach the appropriate documents:

- ✓ Full Application, following this order (**only one combined PDF Document**)
  1. **Justification** (Section 1)
  2. **Letter of admission**<sup>1</sup> to the university program or promise of employment for the postdoctoral fellow
  3. **Completed transcripts** from all university degrees completed or in progress
  4. Copy of the Graduate **Student Compensation Policy** of the university (if applicable)
  5. [Canadian Common CV](#) in FRQS format including [detailed contributions](#)
  6. **A letter from the supervisor** (and **co-supervisor** if applicable) stating that he or she agrees to supervise the student as part of the described project. This letter must also describe the objectives of the research project, the role of the student and the type of supervision provided to the student.
- ✓ Students status update from the laboratory (**EXCEL Document**)
 

The candidate must ask his supervisor to provide him with this document. This is an **update of the monitoring of students in his laboratory who are or have been funded in the past by the VHRN** (studies in vision, success in scholarship competitions, graduation, and position held). Upon request, the VHRN will provide a copy of this document, which the researcher will only have to update. The candidate must attach this document to the form.

<sup>1</sup> A proof of "admission process to the new program" will also be accepted (ex: proof of enrollment, proof of transfer from MSc to PhD, etc.). A proof of student statut will be required for all recipients.  
Incomplete and / or non-compliant applications will be rejected.

**For additional information, please contact:**  
Vision Health Research Network ([visionnetwork.ca](http://visionnetwork.ca))  
[reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca](mailto:reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca)

Réseau thématique soutenu par le

Fonds de recherche  
Santé  
Québec 

Teleworking: 438-825-1425

**RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP****2024-2025 Competition****ELECTRONIC APPLICATION FORM  
(for information only)****STEP 1 - IDENTIFICATION**

- \*Applicant: First Name Last Name Email  
 Present degree: *BSc student, MSc/MD-MSc/OD-MSc student, PhD/MD-PhD/OD-PhD student, MD student, Postdoctoral Fellow, resident/fellow*
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> session of: *MSc/MD-MSc/OD-MSc, PhD/MD-PhD/OD-PhD, postdoctoral fellowship*
- Type of research: *Discovery, clinical, translational (preclinical), epidemiology, knowledge transfer, technological transfer*
- Study Program  
 Affiliation: *University, Research Center, Institute, etc.*
- \*Supervisor: First Name Last Name Email  
 Co-Supervisor (if applicable): First Name Last Name Email
- \*Axis : *Brain & perception / Vision Neurosciences, Cornea & Anterior Segment / Emerging Technologies, Visual Impairment & Rehabilitation / Social Issues and Visual Disorders, Retina & Posterior Segment / Biology and Pathology of vision*
- \*Could this project have an impact on the understanding and / or treatment of AMD? *No / Yes*  
 \*Does this project result from the use of a VHRN resource? *No / Yes*  
*(Network Programs: Common Infrastructures, National and International Networking or other VHRN Student fundings)*  
 \*Project title related to this application: *general title for your study project (MSc, PhD, fellowship, etc.)*

*\*Mandatory***STEP 2 – SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

Attach the Section 1 and additional documents to the electronic form in a single PDF (see previous page).  
 Attach the Excel file (student update)

Submit

You will receive an **email** confirming your submission.

**Applicant** (First name LAST NAME): \_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION 1 : JUSTIFICATION** (failure to comply with the limits will render an application non-compliant)

- a) Describe your motivation to undertake graduate studies in vision health research (250 words maximum)
  - b) Justify your training environment (250 words maximum)
  - c) Describe your research project (1 page maximum)
    - I. Research hypothesis
    - II. Justification (scientific benefits, contribution to the advancement of knowledge, translational potential, etc.)
    - III. Methodology
    - IV. Your role in the project
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