



VSRN
Vision Sciences
Research Network

STUDENT FUNDING

RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

2026-2027 Competition

VISION SCIENCES RESEARCH NETWORK

INSTRUCTIONS

EDITION	Application Deadlines *	Training must start within this period
Summer 2026	March 5, 2026	From May to August, 2026
Fall 2026	July 5, 2026	From September to December, 2026
Winter 2027	November 5, 2026	From January to April, 2027

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

Objectives

The objective of the Vision Sciences Research Network (VSRN) **Recruitment Scholarships** is to generate student interest early enough in their training to allow the most promising ones to pursue studies in vision sciences. These scholarships are intended for newly admitted graduate students enrolled full-time in a Quebec university who decide to pursue training in vision sciences under the supervision of a VSRN member. Additionally, to promote the training of clinician-researchers, a separate budget will be reserved for students with professional health/science degrees who wish to undertake research training.

More specifically, these scholarships aim to:

- Fund the **first semester** of recipients (MSc, PhD, postdoctoral trainees) for their research studies in vision sciences;
- Serve as leverage for students and postdoctoral trainees to obtain a scholarship from public funding agencies or industry;
- Foster networking and collaborations.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for this program are:

- Relevance of the project to the mission and health research areas of the VSRN vision. Applications that do not meet the mandate of the VSRN will not be evaluated.
- The candidate must be newly admitted for the summer, fall, or winter semester in a graduate program or for a postdoctoral fellowship in a Quebec university and must not already hold a scholarship from a funding agency.
- The research director must be a regular member of the network.
- Part-time projects will only be considered for students simultaneously enrolled in a professional health/science degree program.
- The network will award a maximum of one (1) scholarship per student per financial year.

Please contact reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca if you have any questions regarding your eligibility.

Scholarship Stacking

Scholarship stacking is permitted up to the maximum allowed by the host university. In the case of stacking, the candidate must provide a copy of their university's graduate student compensation policy as justification.

Amount and number of awards

- The scholarship amount is a maximum of **\$5,000** for the first semester of a master's degree and **\$10,000** for the first semester of a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship.
- The number of scholarships awarded in each competition will depend on the number of applications received in each category and the availability of funds.
- The host laboratory must commit to supplementing the amount to bring the student's compensation to the minimum level stipulated by their department or study program.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the candidate's academic record, the role and supervision planned for the student, and the relevance of their studies to the program's objectives.

Commitment

Any recipient of a "Scientific Presentation and Training Award" agrees to:

1. Acknowledge the support of the VSRN in their presentation (oral or poster) and following publication resulting from the project for which he was awarded the award by using one of the following wordings, according to the publication language and to the research project topic:
 2. « **LE RÉSEAU DE RECHERCHE EN SCIENCES DE LA VISION** » OR
« **THE VISION SCIENCES RESEARCH NETWORK** » (doi.org/10.69777/337774);
- Declare to the VSRN any other scholarships received during the period financed by the VSRN;
 - Present the results of their research project at the VSRN annual meeting;
 - Notify VSRN of their progress (study program or employment) after their studies in a VSRN laboratory to help VSRN evaluate the impact of its funding programs.

How to apply

The candidate must complete the **electronic form “RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP”** ([AVAILABLE ON THE COMPETITION HOMEPAGE](#)) complete it, and attach the following documents:

- ✓ Complete application from the candidate, in the following order (a **single combined PDF document**)
 1. **Admission letter**¹ to the university program or job offer for the postdoctoral fellow
 2. **Transcripts** from all completed or ongoing university programs
 3. Copy of the graduate student **remuneration policy** (if applicable)
 4. Scientific CV of the candidate [FRQ Abridged CV](#) (2 pages max, letter format)
 5. **Letter from the research supervisor** (and **co-supervisor** if applicable) confirming their acceptance of the student for the described project. This letter must also outline the research objectives, the student's role, and the planned supervision.

- ✓ Update on laboratory students (EXCEL Document)

The candidate must request this document from their supervisor. It serves as **an update on the progress of students in the supervisor's lab who have previously received funding from the VSRN** (continuation of studies in vision sciences, success in scholarship competitions, graduation rates, employment status after completing studies). Upon request, the VSRN will provide a copy of this document for the researcher to update. The candidate must attach this document to the form.

¹ Proof of an "admission process to the new program" will also be accepted (e.g., proof of enrollment, proof of integrated, accelerated, or direct transfer, etc.). Proof of student status will be required from all recipients.

Incomplete and / or non-compliant applications will be rejected.

For additional information and/or to confirm eligibility:

Vision Sciences Research Network (visionnetwork.ca)
reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca

Réseau thématique soutenu par le

Fonds de recherche
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