

# 2023 FRIEDMAN AWARD FOR SCHOLARS IN HEALTH

Information session for applicants

**NATALIE THORSON, GRADUATE AWARDS COORDINATOR**





# History of the Award: Constance Livingstone & Sydney Friedman

- Two of the first appointments to UBC's Faculty of Medicine, which was founded in 1950.
- Established the Department of Anatomy, which was chaired by Sydney Friedman from 1950-1981.
- Together published more than 200 papers.
- The Foundation supports the **Friedman Award for Scholars in Health** and the **Friedman Travel Award** (for Medical Undergraduate Students)

# The Goal and Mission of the Friedman Award for Scholars in Health

**Goal:** To provide funding to graduate students or medical residents so that they can pursue a learning opportunity to further their career or to bring new perspectives to the education they have already received.

**Mission:** To extend the global reach of UBC graduate students and UBC medical residents and enrich our scholarly community by providing opportunities for our future scholars in the health sciences to learn from global experts in their respective fields.

# Past Awardees - 2022



2022 Friedman Scholar and Master's student in Electrical and Computer Engineering **Wenwen Zhang** is studying multivalent arrays for capturing viruses at the University of California, Berkeley (**USA**)



2022 Friedman Scholar and PhD candidate in Political Science **Leah Shipton** is exploring the politics of global health governance at the University of Geneva (**Switzerland**)



2022 Friedman Scholar and PhD candidate in Biomedical Engineering **Matthew Hickey** is researching mechanical causes of failure in total knee replacement at The University of Strathclyde (**Scotland**)

# Past Awardees - 2021



2021 Friedman Scholar and Medical Resident in Surgery **Ameen Amanian** is studying AI applications in head and neck cancer surgery at Johns Hopkins (USA)



2021 Friedman Scholar and PhD candidate in Kinesiology **Jem Arnold** is focusing on spectroscopy to detect blood flow limitations in endurance athletes (Netherlands)



2021 Friedman Scholar and PhD candidate in Microbiology and Immunology **Virginia Pichler** is researching non-tuberculous mycobacteria infections (France)

Past awardees have come from a variety of fields, including:

- Chemistry
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- English
- Experimental Medicine
- Kinesiology
- Medical Genetics
- Political Science
- Population and Public Health
- Psychology

# **Overview of the Application Process**

# Key Details

<b>Value</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to \$50,000 each.</li><li>• Amount at the discretion of the adjudication committee.</li></ul>
<b>Duration</b>	6 to 12 months of study
<b>Application Deadline</b>	March 10, 2023 at 4:00 pm PT

# Eligibility - Applicant

- Canadians, permanent residents and international students are eligible
- Open to Master's students, Doctoral students, Medical Residents
- Open to any applicants studying/researching in the area of health. "Health" is interpreted very broadly, and includes health promotion and disease prevention, mental health research, laboratory sciences etc.

# Eligibility – Applicant (cont'd)

- The applicant does not need to be studying in a Health degree. Past award winners have included a PhD candidate in English.
- Must be a current student or medical resident at UBC as of the application deadline (March 10) and **remain registered** at UBC for the duration of the travel period

# Eligibility - Opportunity

- Acceptable host organizations or groups may include:
  - Universities
  - NGOs
  - Private sector companies
  - Government agencies

# Eligibility – Opportunity (cont'd)

- **Location:** Outside of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
- **Duration:** Travel must be for a minimum of 6 months (and a maximum of 12 months).
  - Note: remote work from Vancouver would not count as part of the travel period.
  - The travel period may be split into segments but the total travel time span must be completed within 1 year of the start of travel.
- Travel must begin no earlier than June 1, 2023 and no later than May 31, 2024.

# Eligibility – Opportunity (cont'd)

- **Prior connection to host supervisor/host institution:**
  - Applicants are expected to propose transformative new experiences and collaborations
  - If the experience/travel is with a host supervisor from your supervisory committee, or with a lab that your UBC supervisor is already affiliated with, you will need to provide a strong justification for returning to a familiar environment

# Eligibility – Opportunity (cont'd)

- **Clinical fellowships:**
  - For medical residents undertaking a clinical fellowship, the fellowship must include a research component.
- **Necessity of funding:**
  - The proposed travel should be clearly indicated as a project that would not be possible without the Friedman funding.
  - For example, medical residents should indicate how the Friedman funding would affect their clinical fellowship (ex. extend their fellowship duration, allow travel that would not otherwise be funded from other sources).

# Eligibility – Budget Expenses

- Funds received from this award are to be used for expenses related to the opportunity. These may include:
  - travel expenses (airfare, visas, health insurance, etc.)
  - living expenses (rent, groceries, etc.)
  - fees assessed for related educational endeavours
  - other kinds of expenses should include a justification
- May not be used for:
  - expenses already incurred
  - UBC tuition
  - pay down educational debt
  - pay a personal stipend (salary) for the learner

# Evaluation Criteria

- Student/medical resident's past accomplishments and future promise
- The nature and quality of the learning opportunity
- The potential impact of the learning/work opportunity on the field of health

Full details on the evaluation criteria are on our website:

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/friedman-award-scholars-health>

# Application Requirements

1. Application form
2. Outline of the educational opportunity (4 pages max)
  - Description of key personnel, host organization, and their mission and contributions to the broad area of health
  - Timeline of the opportunity - Include start/end dates and key milestones
  - Details of the opportunity - Describe the learning environment, learning objectives, specific activities, and expected outcomes
  - Potential impact of the opportunity on the field of health and on your career and/or personal development
  - Medical resident applicants: Indicate how the Friedman funding would affect the clinical fellowship (ex. extend the fellowship duration, allow travel that would not otherwise be funded from other sources).

# Application Requirements (cont'd)

3. References/bibliography/citation (1 page max)
4. Simple budget (1 page max)
5. Synopsis of your education to date (1 page max)
  - Can be essay or CV format
  - Recommended content to include: Awards, Publications
6. Letter of support from UBC supervisor (2 pages max)
  - For graduate students, your UBC research supervisor
  - For medical residents, your UBC program director
7. Letter of support from host supervisor (2 pages max)

# Features of strong applications

- Proposed project is novel, unique (rather than a well tread area of research)
- Host supervisor/institution is a leader in the field (ie. strong case for necessity of selected host)
- Significant impact expected on the field of health
- Significant impact expected for applicant's professional development
- Strong support in reference letters
- Track record of candidate (awards, publications) relative to education stage

# Tips for crafting your application

- Have you worked with the proposed host site previously?
  - You must include a strong justification as to why another visit to the same site would be warranted.
- Will your host supervisor be someone from your supervisory committee? Have you worked with the host supervisor before?
  - You must include a strong justification as to why working with someone you already work with would be warranted (for example, access to a particular dataset).
- Adjudicators are looking for the applicant to be undertaking a new experience, so returning to a familiar host site or supervisor requires a justification to be compelling.

# Tips for crafting your application

- Applications for applicants who are already at the host site, or who are aiming to fund an in-progress project, would be deemed **ineligible**.
- “Outline of the educational opportunity” document:
  - Reviewers will be from similar disciplines but may not be experts in your particular field of study. Write your “concise outline” document in language accessible to non-experts (avoid jargon).
  - Indicate why you’ve selected the particular host site
    - Why do you need to go to this particular host site for this opportunity?
    - What is special about this host site compared to elsewhere?

# Tips for crafting your application

- “Outline of the educational opportunity” document:
  - Be clear about your plans and goals for this opportunity – speak to “learning objectives”, “expected outcomes”
  - Make a strong case for the “potential impact of the opportunity on the field of health and on your career and/or personal development”
    - What will happen as a result of your opportunity? What will the impact be on the field of health?
    - What impact will this experience have on your career?

# Tips for crafting your application

- Reference letters from UBC supervisor and host supervisor:
  - Should indicate strong support for you and your project from the author
- Host supervisor letter:
  - Should indicate importance/impact of the opportunity
  - Should be clear that the host supervisor knows the applicant and is receptive to and supports the project

# Tips for crafting your application

- When contacting your referees:
  - Contact them far in advance of the application deadline to give them sufficient time to write their letter
  - Inform them of the application deadline and the method of submission (the online submission link provided on our webpage)
  - Advise your referees on the evaluation criteria (how reviewers will assess your application) – if their letter can connect to the evaluation criteria, it will strengthen your application

# Frequently Asked Questions:

- If I have already received an award from UBC or an external agency, am I still eligible to apply for this award?
  - Yes, provided that your application for the Friedman outlines a learning opportunity whose expenses have not already been funded through another UBC award or external agency.
- I am partway through a project abroad – can I apply and use the scholarship to pay for this?
  - No, an application for an extension or continuation of an in-progress project already started abroad would be ineligible.
- Can the opportunity be connected to my current research?
  - Yes, but you must explain how this additional funding would allow you to travel somewhere or do something you would not otherwise be able to do.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

- Am I eligible to apply if I will graduate before or during the opportunity?
  - No. Applicants must be a current UBC student or medical resident as of the application deadline and for the duration of the travel period.
- Should transcripts be provided as part of the application?
  - No.
- Do I need to have an output from the experience (such as a publication)?
  - You do not have to have an output such as planning to publish a paper or presenting your findings at a conference. However, this would strengthen your application.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

- What should be included in the budget?
  - The budget is a strong indicator of the overall organization of the proposed learning opportunity. All of the major costs need to be reasonable and accounted for.
  - It is expected that a substantial portion of the budget will be related to travel and living expenses, like rent, food, and airfare.
  - Some research and project-related costs are acceptable, however this scholarship is not meant to be a research grant-funding vehicle.
  - It is acceptable to have a “contingency” or “other” section in the budget in order to account for unexpected costs. However, this section should not account for more than 5-7% of your total requested award amount.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

- How are winners chosen?
  - Applications are reviewed by a committee composed of faculty members from health and health-related disciplines. Applications are assessed by the committee via the “Evaluation Criteria” for the Friedman.
- How many awards are given per year?
  - In recent years, on average 15 applicants have received the Friedman
- If my application is successful, when would I receive the funds?
  - The earliest that the first installment of funds can be paid out is June 1, 2023.
- When will applicants hear if their application is successful?
  - The length of the adjudication process is dependent on the number of applications received in each competition cycle. It is anticipated that applicants will be notified by early May.

Additional questions?  
Contact us at  
[graduate.awards@ubc.ca](mailto:graduate.awards@ubc.ca).