



2010/11 Scholarships for Graduate Students in Inuit Environment and Health Research

1) Description

The Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments is a multidisciplinary research and training centre based at Université Laval and Trent University and funded by the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health, one of the 13 institutes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (IAPH-CIHR). The Nasivvik Centre is focused on building capacity in Inuit health research through trainee support, and promoting research in specific areas of Inuit environmental health. The three (3) theme areas of the Centre, as they pertain to community responses to environmental change, and in particular Inuit health and well-being are:

- Food
- Water
- Natural/traditional medicines and remedies

Part of the Nasivvik Centre's mandate involves providing support for research and training of graduate students registered in a masters or doctoral degree program in which a thesis is a major component. ***This year, the Nasivvik Centre is pleased to announce its eighth call for Masters and Doctoral scholarships in Inuit Environment and Health Research.***

2) Focus

Applications are invited from students whose graduate research focuses on an issue related to one or more of the 3 themes identified by the Nasivvik Centre. The connection to and importance of the research for Inuit health must be explicitly described in the application. The submission of projects that are: being conducted in cooperation with an Inuit community or organization; include in-community research time, and; that have a high probability of contributing to our understanding of a specific Inuit environmental health issue as well as contributing to the student's education in Inuit health are strongly encouraged.

3) Objectives of the competition

- To stimulate interest in research on key environmental health topics of importance to Inuit communities and organizations;
- To provide support to graduate students for training and research in Inuit environmental health;
- To support the development of highly qualified researchers with knowledge and experience in Inuit environment and health issues;
- To enhance/build capacity among Inuit communities, organizations and individuals to participate in and use results from environmental health research.

4) Eligibility Requirements

The program is open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada at the time of application. Only those students engaged in full-time studies in a graduate program are eligible for support. Eligible Inuit and other Aboriginal graduate students are strongly encouraged to apply.

Individuals with a health professional degree are eligible to apply for support for Masters or Doctoral research training but these individuals should also consult the guidelines for the CIHR Fellowships program at www.cihr.ca. Those eligible to apply for both programs must select one to apply to as they are not permitted to apply to both in the same year. Please note that a person holding a health professional degree would receive a higher stipend through the CIHR Fellowships Program than the Nasivvik competition.

Students pursuing a combined MD/PhD program are eligible to apply, but are encouraged to review the guidelines of the CIHR MD/PhD Awards Program.

5) Location of Tenure

The supervisor and candidate can be located at any recognized Canadian University or institution eligible to receive CIHR funds.

6) Closing Date

The closing date for applications is **Friday February 26, 2010, 5:00 pm EST**. Applications and requested supporting information can be submitted electronically, by fax or by mail to:

Kristeen McTavish

Nasivvik Centre Coordinator
Indigenous Studies Department
Trent University
1600 West Bank Dr.
Peterborough, ON
K9J 7B8
Tel.: (705) 748-1011, ext 7242
Fax: (705) 748 1416
Email: kristeenmctav@trentu.ca

***PLEASE NOTE that incomplete applications will not be reviewed and considered for funding. Please pay particular attention to the required elements for the specific grant being applied for.**

7) Applications

A complete application consists of the correctly completed forms found on the Nasivvik website (www.nasivvik.ulaval.ca). Please complete the appropriate forms (as outlined below for the MA/MSc or PhD).

A complete application includes:

a. Training Module

In the "Proposed training program" section (page 5) of the Training Module, please include a clear rationale and objectives, research question or hypothesis, brief description of proposed methods for data collection and analysis, identification of expected results and contribution to knowledge on the topic of study. Please include appropriate references, where required, at the bottom of the space available. Maximum length of this description is 3 pages (including references).

As the Nasivvik Centre is exclusively focused on Inuit environmental health issues and is actively promoting Inuit capacity enhancement in all research it supports, please ensure that your proposal highlights how your work will add to our understanding of an Inuit environmental health issue and may inform Inuit and other health decision makers in a way that supports their future actions on this topic.

If your project is a lab or modelling focused project and does not involve any in-community time for data collection or treatment, you must still describe how you will engage the appropriate Inuit 'community' (community residents, local, regional or territorial / national organization, or collection of key individuals) in aspects of your work (consultation, updates, communication of results). All projects are expected to interact with and engage the appropriate Inuit community in some way. Also, all successful awardees are eligible to receive a travel bursary in addition to the scholarship award. Therefore, please consider that these funds may be used to consult or present your results to the appropriate Inuit organization at the local, regional, territorial or national level.

- b. Copy of letter of acceptance or proof of registration in a graduate program.
- c. Student's current transcripts of undergraduate and graduate education.
- d. Three letters of support (sponsorship), including one from the research supervisor *using the forms found on the Nasivvik website. Please be sure to use the appropriate forms for the degree program of the candidate (MA/MSc or PhD).*
- e. Letter of support from the Inuit community, regional, territorial or national organization to be most directly engaged in or in support of the research program. The letter of support must indicate strong Inuit interest and support, at the appropriate level, for the proposed project and topic.
- f. Completed CIHR CV modules by both the supervisor and the graduate student (using either the CV form posted on the Nasivvik website or by submitting a Common CV printed for submission to CIHR. The Common CV can be found at: http://www.commoncv.net/index_e.html)

Nasivvik strongly encourages all applicants to contact the appropriate regional Inuit Research Advisor during the preparation of their applications to discuss the work being proposed. They are:

**Inuvialuit Settlement Region: Ms. Shannon O'Hara, sohara@irc.inuvialuit.com
Nunavik: Ms. Rynee Kokiapik, rkokiapik@krg.ca
Nunavut: Ms. Stephanie McDonald, smcdonald@tunngavik.com
Nunatsiavut: Mr. John Lampe, john_lampe@nunatsiavut.com**

Further inquiries related to proposal development and submission can be directed to the **Nasivvik Centre Coordinator, Kristeen McTavish** at: kristeenmctav@trentu.ca

8) Review Criteria

The selection of recipients for scholarships will be based upon the following criteria:

(Please ensure that in appropriate sections your application material and project description explicitly address the following)

Quality of the Training environment

- Training program for the candidate
- Research resources available
- Training record of the supervisor

Characteristics and Abilities of the Candidate

- Critical thinking
- Independence
- Perseverance
- Originality
- Organizational skills
- Research abilities

Nature of Proposed Research Program

- Fit with one or more key themes of the Nasivvik Centre
- Quality and innovation of the proposed research project
- Strong Inuit interest in research project (as demonstrated in the letter of support)
- Inuit involvement in the research project (training, participation, etc.)

9) Student Stipend

The stipend will be provided at the CIHR recommended level: \$17,850/year for both Masters and PhD students (Period Covered: April 1 2010 – March 31 2011). **Additionally, up to \$3,000 for travel related to the research (for consultation, field work, presentation of results) can be requested in addition to the standard stipend amount.**

Student scholarships shall be awarded annually; renewals will be considered and judged on the basis of satisfactory performance and progress as reviewed by the selection committee. If funds are available, and progress is deemed satisfactory, MA/MSc scholarships are eligible for renewal once for a total of 2 years of funding and PhD scholarships are eligible for renewal twice for a total of 3 years of funding.

10) Effective Date

Applications must be received by **Friday, February 26, 2010, 5:00 pm EST**. All applicants will be notified by email. Awardees must obtain ethics approval from their home university and the appropriate regional/territorial Inuit organization and fulfill the requirements of the appropriate northern licensing agency/Inuit organization prior to conducting research. Successful award recipients are also required to present their work at CIHR's National Student Gathering held each year between June and August. Travel expenses for participation in this event are covered by the Nasivvik Centre.