



- SECOND CALL -

Masters and Doctoral Graduate Scholarships in Inuit Environmental Health

1) Description

The Nasivvik Centre for Inuit Health and Changing Environments is a multidisciplinary research and training centre (within the Public Health Research Unit, Laval University Hospital Research Centre) funded by the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples Health (IAPH), one of the 13 institutes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (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 five (5) theme areas, *as they pertain to Inuit health*, are:

- contaminants, diet, nutrition and the environment;
- healthy homes; e.g. air and water quality;
- climate change and Inuit health;
- northern environmental health surveillance and monitoring;
- Inuit knowledge and scientific knowledge for environmental health research; e.g. traditional medicines, research methods for knowledge incorporation.

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

2) Focus

Applications are invited from students whose graduate research focuses on an issue related to one or more of the 5 themes identified by Nasivvik Centre. The submission of projects that are being conducted in cooperation with an Inuit community or organization, which include some in-community research time, and that have a high probability of contributing to the understanding of a specific Inuit environmental health issue and the student's education in Inuit health is strongly encouraged.

3) Objectives

- to stimulate interest in research on key Inuit environmental health topics of importance to 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.

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 research training in a graduate school are eligible for support.

4.1) Masters applicants: Applicants must plan to conduct field (in community) research during the tenure of the award. Funding will not be provided for students engaged full-time in course work only.

4.2) Doctoral applicants: At the time of application, candidates must have completed at least 12 months of graduate study at the Masters or PhD level, and have been registered for no more than 26 months as a full-time student in a doctoral program. Applicants must plan to conduct (in-community) research during the year of the award.

Individuals with a health professional degree who seek support for Masters or Doctoral research training are eligible to apply but should also consult the guidelines for the CIHR Fellowships program. Those eligible for applying to both have the option of applying to either program but not both in the same year. Please note that a person holding a health professional degree would receive a higher stipend only through the CIHR Fellowships program (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services/22340.shtml>).

4.3) Students pursuing a combined MD/PhD program are eligible to apply, but are encouraged to review the guidelines of the CIHR MD/PhD Studentships Program (<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services/22337.shtml>).

5) Location of Tenure

The award for which support is being sought should be under the supervision of a researcher currently engaged in research in these fields, and holding research funds obtained through a recognized competitive peer review process. The supervisor can be located at any recognized Canadian University or institution eligible to receive CIHR funds.

6) Closing Date

The closing date for applications is October 25, 2004, 5:00 pm EDT. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. Only original applications and requested supporting information must be submitted to:

Susie Bernier
Coordinator, Nasivvik Centre
945 Ave Wolfe
Ste-Foy, Québec G1V 5B3
Tel: 418-650-5115 ext 5248; Fax: 418-654-3132
Email: Susie.Bernier@crchul.ulaval.ca

7) Applications

A complete application consists of:

- a. CIHR training module (except pages 9 and 16) (http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services/pdf_21836.htm).
*Masters applicants please identify on the form that the application is for a **Masters scholarship** and complete all sections pertaining to a doctoral application. **Please include the rationale and budget for the request for travel funds offered below (see 9) Student Stipend section for explanation.***
- b. Copy of letter of acceptance or proof of registration in a graduate program.
- c. Student's current transcripts of undergraduate and graduate education must be submitted (*Clear copies of transcripts will be accepted, but official transcripts will be required to follow before any funds are released.*)
- d. Letter of support from the research supervisor and two letters of reference (*Letters of support should be submitted by the student, but their confidentiality must be ensured by having the letter contained in a sealed envelop where the signature of the person supplying the reference is signed across the seal of the envelope*) Please use CIHR's forms for letters of support(http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services/pdf_21837.htm). You are not required to submit these forms to CIHR, or obtain a CIHR registration number for this process, only to use the CIHR forms to present your application.
- e. Letter of support from the Inuit community or organization to be most directly engaged in or interested by the research program.
- f. CIHR CV modules by both the supervisor and the trainee (using CIHR forms at <http://www.commoncv.net>).

Please provide 5 copies of the application and attachments

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
- Scientific activity of the supervisor
- Research resources available
- Training record of the supervisor
- Community research experience of the supervisor (relationships developed with Inuit organizations and communities)

Characteristics and Abilities of the Candidate

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

Nature of Proposed Research Program

- Fit with key themes of Nasivvik Centre
- Strong community interest in research project (as demonstrated in the letter of support)
- High level of community participation and training in research project (if research assistants or trainees will be involved, please provide names of Inuit trainees and describe process for training / involvement in project description)
- Community based approach to research topic

9) Student Stipend

The stipend will be provided at CIHR recommended levels: \$17,000/year for Masters students and \$20,000/year for PhD level students. **Additionally, up to \$3,000 for travel in the North related to the research for Masters student applicants and \$5,000 for PhD student applicants can be requested in addition to the standard stipend amount (see a. in Applications section).**

The Nasivvik Centre is currently funded until October 2005. Therefore, student scholarships shall be awarded annually; renewals will be considered and will be judged on the basis of satisfactory performance as reviewed by the selection committee and contingent upon renewal of Nasivvik funding from CIHR-IAPH.

10) Effective Date

Applications must be received by October 25, 2004. Decisions for both Master and Doctoral Scholarship recipients will be made before December 1st, 2004 and awards must be taken up within one month of the date of the offer. Only successful applicants will be notified and all awardees' names will be posted on the Nasivvik web site (www.nasivvik.ulaval.ca). All 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.

For additional inquiries, contact:

Susie Bernier
Coordinator, Nasivvik Centre
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