

### 2024 CAMH Koerner Undergraduate Award

#### Background

The Koerner Undergraduate Award is dedicated towards finding innovative solutions to major challenges in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mental illness. The Koerner Undergraduate Award Competition reflects an investment in undergraduate trainees: highly qualified personnel working towards clinical discovery are vital for the innovation and growth of mental health research in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

#### Award Guidelines

The objective of this competition is to provide undergraduate trainees from underrepresented groups with financial support to work with a CAMH scientist and gain research experience in the fields of mental health and/or substance use health, with practical interest in research techniques. Research trainees are expected to support original research during their award, and gain experience in sound research methodologies such as patient and family engagement in research, study design, data collection, data management, statistical analysis, and knowledge translation. This program is open to applicants who are completing a full-time undergraduate degree. Applicants can be external or internal to CAMH.

Projects will be assessed and awarded under the research themes below, listed alphabetically. These research themes have equal weight of importance and no theme is favoured over another.

1. Basic and pre-clinical neuroscience
2. Brain and/or behavior interventions (including technology-based interventions)
3. Clinical measure and/or biomarker identification
4. Community-based research
5. Health policy or health services research
6. Implementation science
7. Social and epidemiological research
8. Translation of clinical neuroscience (i.e. the study of mechanisms of disease and new ways of diagnosis and treatment) into clinical treatment

#### 12-Week Undergraduate Award

**Four awards are available** (conditional on availability of funds). The award is a 12-week summer placement at CAMH. Applications will be evaluated by a team of independent researchers, based on CIHR standards of excellence. The final selection of awards will be made by the Koerner Steering Committee. The Koerner Undergraduate Award is **open to undergraduate trainees from underrepresented groups**, in alignment with CAMH, Government of Canada, and Tri-Agency priorities to address systemic racism, sexism, and discrimination in Canadian institutions through an intersectional lens, tackle systemic barriers that limit the full participation of all talented individuals, and increase equitable and inclusive participation in the research system. It reflects the commitment of CAMH to foster a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment for trainees.

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must self-identify with at least one of the following groups:
  - First Nations, Métis and Inuit
  - Racialized persons
  - Women

- 2SLGBTQ+
- People with disabilities (including people who have experienced mental health and substance use challenges)
  - **Note:** In relation to these criteria, eligibility will be determined using the response(s) provided in the Notice of Intent (see below). Given that this funding opportunity is only open to specific populations, selecting "I prefer not to answer" to the question relating to these criteria will prevent your candidacy from being considered.
- Applicants must obtain sponsorship of a primary supervisor who holds a scientific appointment at CAMH as Associate Scientist, Staff Scientist, Senior Staff Scientist, Scientist, or Senior Scientist. Applicants are encouraged to reach out to potential CAMH supervisors. Information regarding CAMH scientists can be found at the [CAMH staff directory](#). Please contact [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) to clarify eligibility if your potential supervisor's scientific appointment type is not listed here.
- Only one applicant per primary supervisor will be permitted to apply for the Koerner Undergraduate Award.
- Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at a designated learning institution in Canada at the time of application. International students who are on a Canadian study permit are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be continuing their studies in the fall of 2024. Applicants can either continue with their current undergraduate degree or if they are graduating from their undergraduate degree they must show acceptance into a graduate program.
- Applicants cannot be currently registered or have been previously registered, at any time, in a graduate program in the same field of study.
- Applicants must be residents of Ontario for the duration of the Koerner Undergraduate Research Award.
- For the duration of the award, the Koerner Undergraduate Research Award recipients will be full-time research trainees engaged in eligible research and development activities in substance use and mental health research.
- Applicants must meet eligibility requirements for CAMH Research Trainees as set out in policy [AR 1.2, Research Trainees](#).
- CAMH is a public hospital, and as such an international student may not have any work or study permit conditions that prohibit the engagement, including but not limited to the following: *"Not authorized to work in childcare, primary/secondary school teaching, health service field occupations"*. Successful applicants who have the above-mentioned condition must take steps to have the condition removed and a new study/work permit document submitted to CAMH not later than 11-May-2024.
- If the applicant is successful in obtaining a research award offer from an external agency, the applicant will accept the external offer and free up the Koerner Undergraduate Award for other possible applicants.

### Conditions of Award

- The Koerner Undergraduate Award will be for the duration of 12 weeks for a total of 435 hours at \$17.00 per hour.
- All Koerner Undergraduate Awards are to commence during the period of June 1 - 15, 2024 and end by September 15, 2024.

- Successful applicants are expected to be located at CAMH during the 12-week period of the award.
- The Koerner Undergraduate Research Award is a full-time activity. Students should not receive academic credits for the work done during the term that they are at CAMH.
- In choosing to accept an award, an applicant will be required to provide the CAMH Research Operations, Services and Support Office with an annual update of their current clinical or academic positions/affiliations for a total of five years.

### Instructions

#### 1. Notice of Intent

Applicants must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) online using the following form:

<https://form.jotform.com/233314307308246> by **February 23, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST)**. The NOI must identify the supervisor(s), include a brief description of the proposed research during the award (250 words), answer self-identification\* and project representation questions, and provide 3-5 project area and methodology keywords. Information from the NOI will assist the Grants & Awards team with matching applications to academic experts in the review process. Late NOIs will not be accepted.

\*Information collected will be confidential, cannot be accessed by reviewers, and will not be linked to personnel data. Data regarding the applicant pool will be reported only to the Koerner Undergraduate Award selection committee and a small number of ROSS staff members for the purposes of program administration, application eligibility, process improvement, and reporting requirements.

#### 2. Research Assurances and Approvals Form (RAAF)

A RAAF must be submitted via the [eRA Portal](#) by **March 1, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST)**. For guidance on RAAF submission, please see the [Research Portal](#). If you are applying as an external applicant, please reach out to [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) for instructions on how to create an account for the eRA Portal.

#### 3. Full Application

Applicants must submit their application by email using the guidelines below. The full application must be submitted by **March 8, 2024 by 5:00pm (EST)**. Late applications will not be accepted.

##### a) Research Statement – Limit of 3,000 characters, including spaces.

Applicants are to:

- Indicate why they are interested in their chosen area of research
- Summarize their academic background
- Explain what knowledge or new set of skills they are hoping to develop during their time at CAMH
- Discuss how this award will align with their ultimate career/academic goals

##### b) Research Supervisor Statement – Limit of 1,750 characters, including spaces.

Written by the Supervisor. The description should be detailed and include information related to what the student's role will be at CAMH and describe the training environment that will be provided to the student.

#### 4. Academic Documentation

- a) **Transcripts:** applicants must provide up-to-date official transcripts of their complete academic record. Transcripts must be scanned and uploaded with the application, and include a copy of the legend.
- b) **Proof of registration:** applicants must upload a letter from the University registrar indicating they are registered in an eligible undergraduate program.
- c) **Applicant CV (optional):** provide a **CIHR Academic CV**. Please consult CIHR’s [instructions](#) for completing the Academic CV template via the [Canadian Common CV \(CCV\)](#) interface.

### 5. Submitting the Application

Email [internal.funding@camh.ca](mailto:internal.funding@camh.ca) by **March 8, 2024 by 5:00pm** with the following:

- Subject: Applicant’s LASTNAME, FirstName – 2024 Koerner Undergraduate Award Application (e.g. DOE, John – 2024 Koerner Undergraduate Award Application)
- Attachment: One (1) pdf document named “Applicant’s LASTNAME, FirstName” (e.g. DOEJohn – 2024 Koerner Undergraduate Award). This will include all documents outlined above in the correct order (Research Statement/Supervisor Statement/Academic Documents).

**Note:** Supplemental material and material exceeding the specified length will not be considered in the review process. The reviewing committee consists of academic experts but not necessarily specialists in the applicant’s specific subject area.

DEADLINES AT A GLANCE
Notice of Intent: February 23, 2024
RAAF: March 1, 2024
Full Application: March 8, 2024
Notice of Award: May 2024