

McLean Foundation Graduate Student Summer Awards

~Student Information~

What are the awards for?

The Mclean Foundation graduate student summer awards provide graduate students with an opportunity to participate in 16 weeks of paid, full-time, research-based activity in the summer. The intent is for the research to be student-initiated. Research must focus on topics in Environmental Studies, Watershed Ecosystems, Biology, and Geography.

The awards are intended to cultivate and support research partnerships between faculty members and graduate. The research could be your idea or part of a faculty member's own project, but a substantial component of the research must be completed independently by you.

Value and Duration of Awards

These awards provide an opportunity to receive \$7000 to cover 16 weeks of full-time, student-initiated, research-based activity during the summer term. This is a matching program whereby the McLean Foundation provides 50% of the award value and the remaining 50% is contributed by your faculty supervisor¹

Who is eligible?

To be eligible to apply and hold award, you must:

- be registered , at the time you apply, as a full-time Master's or Ph.D student in one of Trent's graduate programs;
- be eligible to receive OSAP;
- have lived in Ontario for 12 consecutive months;
- have been registered in the term immediately before holding the award in a graduate degree program at Trent University;
- be in good academic standing

When accepting the award, successful candidates must agree to:

- participate in 16 consecutive weeks of full-time research between May and August;
- write a letter of acknowledgement to the McLean Foundation, including a summary of the proposed research;
- submit a final project report to the Office of Research by September 7, 2012.

¹ Funding must come from an active Tricouncil Award

How do you apply?

Recommendations for Getting Started

The following are suggestions that may be helpful as you begin your application.

1. Selecting a faculty supervisor:

- You may wish to approach a faculty member that has similar research interests to your own or work directly with your graduate supervisor.

2. Develop your research project in consultation with your supervisor:

- Correspond regularly with your faculty supervisor while completing your research proposal. They are a resource to help guide you through the application process. It is appropriate to ask for feedback with regard to your research project, time line and learning plan.

Application Process

You must submit 2 copies of a completed Application Form and your research proposal before the deadline date. One (1) copy must include original signatures, the remaining copy can be a duplicate of the original application. The Office of Research will access confirmation of your OSAP eligibility only after receiving the completed Application Form and confirmation of your consent to access your financial aid records.

For the 2012 competition, the deadline is 4:00 pm on **April 4th, 2012**.

All proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Research, Suite 344, Gzowski College before 4pm on the deadline date. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered. It is the student's sole responsibility to ensure that applications are complete and that all information is accurate.

Ethics Approval

Ethics approval is not needed to submit an application. However if an award is offered and ethics approval is required, a copy of the ethics certificate indicating this approval normally has to be produced before the award can be granted. You can view the following website for further information on receiving ethics approval: www.trentu.ca/research

Application Evaluation and Selection Process

Applications are reviewed by a committee of faculty members and administrative personnel, typically including the Dean of Graduate Studies or designate, a Graduate Program Director, Chair of the Natural Sciences Committee on Research, Director, Office of Research, and the Certifications and Regulatory Compliance Officer.

Applications will be evaluated based on the merit of the research proposal and financial need.

The evaluation and selection committee will consider the overall quality and feasibility of your proposal, and clearly articulated responses to the following questions:

- What methods will you use to conduct your research project?
- What are your learning objectives for your research project? A learning plan is about you - where you want to go, how you will get there, and how you will know you have been successful.
- What strategies will you undertake to achieve your learning objectives?
- How will the successful completion of your objectives be assessed?
- What is your overall role in the research project?
- What are your specific tasks in the research project?
- What is the connection between your research, and your academic studies?

All applicants will be notified via email (as listed by the student on the Application Form) with regard to their award status generally within three weeks of the application deadline date.

To Request Further Information

For more information pertaining to the BMO USRA, contact: Karen Mauro, Office of Research, kmauro@trentu.ca; 705-748-1011 ext. 7050