CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging and the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging:

MIRA & Labarge Scholarship Program

McMaster University identifies aging as a research priority, focusing its research strength on addressing the most pressing questions facing the aging population. In 2017, the University made a transformative investment in this critical area by creating the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA). MIRA’s mission is to optimize the health and longevity of the aging population through leading-edge research, education and stakeholder collaborations, while upholding the values of integrity, excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration and transparency.

The MIRA & Labarge Scholarship program offers awards at the Master’s and Ph.D. level in two distinct streams: The Labarge Mobility Scholarship for applicants whose research on aging includes a focus on mobility; and the MIRA Scholarship in Aging Research for applicants with a more general focus on aging, in one or more of the research areas listed in the stream descriptions below. The research projects supported by these scholarships should aim to develop the capacity of future leaders in aging research and generate evidence that contributes to the well-being of older adults.

Scholarship recipients will demonstrate high academic achievement, proven interest in aging research, strong work ethic, the desire to collaborate with diverse disciplines and participate in research activities with potential benefits to older adults. Up to four scholarships will be awarded: one Master’s and one Ph.D. in each stream. The awards are valued at $15,000 (Master’s) and $18,000 (Ph.D.) for one year. In making the recommendation of these awards, MIRA requires confirmation that the supervisor and/or program will commit to matching the minimum level of support for the recipient for the duration of the graduate degree.

Stream 1: MIRA Scholarship in Aging Research

Applicants are invited to submit a research proposal that focuses on interdisciplinary, impact-driven approaches in the study of optimal aging through one or more of the following research areas:

1. The impact of exercise on optimal aging
2. The interrelationship between psychological function and social function
3. Causes and consequences of multimorbidity, frailty, and polypharmacy
4. The role of caregiving, equity, economics and transportation in optimal aging
5. The understanding of the biological mechanisms of diseases of aging
6. Evaluating approaches to knowledge translation to improve optimal aging
7. The use of technology to promote optimal aging and aging in place

Stream 2: Labarge Mobility Scholarship

Applicants are invited to submit a research proposal that focuses on aging and mobility, which includes both physical and community aspects of mobility, such as execution of daily activities and participation in society.

Established in 2017 by the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging (LCMA), which is funded by a generous gift from Suzanne Labarge, the Labarge Mobility Scholarship is intended to stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration in aging research on the broad topic of mobility.
Eligibility

Canadian citizens, permanent residents and international candidates are eligible for the award. The scholarships are open to Master’s students entering their first year of study and Ph.D. students entering year one or two of their study. The applicant’s primary supervisor must be a MIRA member. Please direct new membership enquiries to mirainfo@mcmaster.ca. As MIRA and the LCMA support interdisciplinary research, proposals for this award must also involve a mentor from a McMaster Faculty outside of the primary supervisor’s. The research proposal and letters of support should indicate the value that the interdisciplinary mentorship brings to the trainee’s development.

Expectations and deliverables

Recipients of either scholarship are expected to participate in MIRA activities and trainee events, including delivering a poster at the annual MIRA Labarge research showcase in fall 2020 and a report outlining project outcomes and next steps, due at the end of the year of the award.

Submission and selection process

Email submissions to mirafund@mcmaster.ca and include “MIRA & Labarge Scholarship Program” in the subject line.

Note: As a result of the new directives outlined by McMaster’s Vice-President, Research (VPR) on March 17 and March 20, many Faculties have implemented processes to ensure both new and continuing research is compliant with these new directives. Please consult with your Faculty Associate Dean, Research (ADR) before submitting your application.

Deadline: July 1st 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST

MIRA has identified a cross-disciplinary group of researchers to review and rank the submissions. The Scientific Director of MIRA will make selections based on the advice of this Committee. Winners to be announced late July.

Required documents:

The application package must be received as two separate files in PDF format as outlined below. Each filename must include the applicant’s surname.

File 1

- Completed MIRA & Labarge Scholarship Program Application Form
- Applicant cover letter
- Research proposal (Maximum two pages, single spaced). Proposal must include background/rationale, methods, goals, and dissemination plans.
- Letter from proposed graduate supervisor, describing capacity to support student and proposed research, including confirmation of minimum financial support for duration of graduate degree
- Letter from proposed mentor; from a different Faculty than supervisor, describing how the interdisciplinary mentorship will contribute to the project and to the student’s developing capacity in aging research

File 2

- Applicant’s curriculum vitae

A separate, confidential letter of support, ideally from a previous academic supervisor, must also be emailed directly to mirafund@mcmaster.ca

For further information, please contact mirafund@mcmaster.ca