

**LABARGE CENTRE FOR MOBILITY IN AGING****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 PhD 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 interested in interdisciplinary approaches to MIRA's identified priority research areas (see 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 academic achievement, proven interest and accomplishment 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 PhD in each stream. **The awards are valued at \$15,000 (Master's) and \$18,000 (PhD) 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 required for the recipient to complete their graduate degree.

Applicants and prospective supervisors can direct questions about eligibility, funding stream, or application requirements to [mirafund@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirafund@mcmaster.ca)

### **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 priority research areas:

1. The impact of exercise and physical activity on optimal aging
2. The impact of psychological, social and environmental factors on optimal aging
3. Causes and consequences of multimorbidity, frailty and/or polypharmacy
4. The role of caregiving, equity, economics, and transportation in optimal aging
5. The biological mechanisms of aging-related diseases and chronic conditions
6. 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.

## LABARGE CENTRE FOR MOBILITY IN AGING

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. Proposals for Labarge Mobility stream must focus on one or more of the following areas:

1. Understanding and defining mobility in aging
2. Maintaining and restoring mobility in aging
3. Environmental facilitators and barriers that influence mobility in aging

## Eligibility

Canadian citizens, permanent residents and international applicants are eligible for the award. The scholarships are open to Master's students entering their first year of study and PhD students entering year one or two of their studies. As MIRA and the LCMA support interdisciplinary research, proposals for this award **must** involve a mentor from a McMaster Faculty outside of the primary supervisor's Faculty. The research proposal and letters of support should describe the interdisciplinary mentorship and indicate the value that it brings to the trainee's development.

## Expectations and deliverables

Recipients of either scholarship are expected to actively participate in MIRA activities and trainee events, including delivering a poster at the annual MIRA & Labarge research showcase. Recipients will be required to submit an annual report to MIRA, detailing research progress, for the duration of their degree.

## Submission and selection process

Email submissions to [mirafund@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mirafund@mcmaster.ca) and include "MIRA & Labarge Scholarship Program" in the subject line.

**Deadline: February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 4 p.m. ET**

A cross-disciplinary committee of researchers will review and rank the submissions. The Scientific Director of MIRA will make selections based on the advice of this committee. Successful applicants to be announced in April.

### Required documents:

The application package must be received as **single PDF file** as outlined in the MIRA & Labarge Scholarship Program application form.