CALL FOR PROPOSALS

McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

Graduate Student Professional Development Award

The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging will fund up to 20 graduate student professional development awards per year (ten in each round) for up to $250 each for students working with MIRA researchers. These awards are for students planning to present their work at an academic conference (virtual or in-person), attend a training program (virtual or in-person), complete an online course at a different institution, or participate in research activities in another location.

Professional development awards are tenable for up to one year after the application deadline. Successful applicants must submit expenses following their approved activities, to be reimbursed for the value of the award. Students are asked to advise MIRA, by email to mirafund@mcmaster.ca, of cancellations or changes related to MIRA-supported professional development activities. For activities occurring during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, students are responsible for ensuring that any in-person activities occur within the parameters that have been established by the university. A full list of resources is available here.

Eligibility requirements

- The student must be supervised by a member of MIRA
- Students are eligible for only one MIRA Graduate Professional Development Award per 12-month period
- The applicant must ensure that their proposed professional development activity meets the COVID-19 requirements/restrictions of both the university and the province
- There must be a 1:1 match for the requested funds by the supervisor and/or other sources demonstrated in the application

Expectations and deliverables

- At the completion of the professional development activity, award recipients must submit a one-page summary of the experience, including lessons learned and connections made because of the award
- MIRA’s contribution must be acknowledged in any presentations resulting from the award
- Award recipients will be expected to present a poster at the MIRA Labarge Research Showcase in the fall
- These funds are not intended to replace sources of funding already available through grants or University/Faculty/Department sources
Submission and selection process

Fall deadline: September 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Spring deadline: March 15, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Winners are expected to be announced within one month of the deadline. Reviews will be based on academic performance, quality of abstract, anticipated value of professional development to the student, and demonstrated need for funds. All submissions must be sent by email to mirafund@mcmaster.ca and must include “Graduate Student Professional Development Award” in the subject line.

Funds will be reimbursed following the completion of professional development activities and upon submission of receipts for up to $250 CAD in Professional Development activities expenses.

Required Documents:

Documents must be submitted in one PDF file in the order listed below:

1. MIRA Graduate Professional Development Award application form
2. A copy of the conference abstract, if applicable (accepted or submitted), OR course/activity description
3. Applicant’s curriculum vitae
4. Applicant’s unofficial transcript(s)

For further information, please email mirafund@mcmaster.ca