



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship (USRF)

The McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) will fund up to **six** summer Fellowships at a value of **\$2,000** each for undergraduate students working with MIRA researchers between May and August 2024.

MIRA supports research that develops and leverages interdisciplinary connections across the University and has the potential to benefit end users, including older adults, their caregivers, and other stakeholders. Researchers and students from across all six Faculties at McMaster are encouraged to incorporate principles of design thinking into their proposal for a summer research project that advances and explores a topic in aging. Students submitting proposals to work on existing MIRA- or LCMA-funded projects must include details on how their proposed work will complement or enhance the funded project. The application should be jointly completed and submitted by the student and supervisor.

USRF funding is paid out to the supervisor at the end of the summer, reimbursing the same amount the student was paid from for the duration of the Fellowship. It is the supervisor's responsibility to pay the student's wages during the Fellowship. Accumulated wages for the summer position must be equal to, or greater than the value of the USRF funding.

Eligibility

- The student must be supervised by a member of MIRA*
- The student must be a full- or part-time undergraduate student registered for courses in the fall semester of 2024
- External candidates who have a MIRA supervisor may be given consideration, however, McMaster candidates will be given priority
- MIRA supervisors are encouraged to provide additional cash or in-kind support for the student and describe this support in the application.

*Potential supervisors can request MIRA membership by emailing mirainfo@mcmaster.ca

Expectations and deliverables

All scholarship recipients are expected to actively participate in MIRA activities and trainee events, including delivering a poster at the annual MIRA & Labarge Knowledge Exchange. Recipients will be required to submit a final report to MIRA.

Submission and selection process

Deadline: **April 4, 2024, 4 p.m. ET**

Applications will be reviewed based on the quality of the research proposal, its alignment with MIRA's mission, goals and approach, and the student's academic record. **Successful recipients are expected to be announced in late April 2024.**

The application package must be uploaded as a **single PDF file** as outlined in the MIRA Undergraduate Research Fellowship application form. [Submit applications through the online application portal.](#)



Other requirements and notes

- Students may undertake a full- or part-time summer research project between May and August 2024
- Students and supervisors are encouraged to seek and demonstrate additional support for the fellowship, including but not limited to: additional student awards, cash support from supervisory grants or other funding, departmental or faculty-level support, in-kind contributions such as lab materials, software licenses, etc.
- MIRA funding is intended to support the student's wages; research costs must be supported by the supervisor and should be described in the application.
- At the end of the fellowship, recipients will be asked to submit a short summary of the progress made on the proposed project, as well as an indication of the future work necessary to complete the work.
- During the fellowship, recipients are expected to join the [MIRA Trainee Network](#), participate in the Network's activities.
- Fellowship recipients are expected to present a poster at the MIRA and Labarge Knowledge Exchange in the 2024/25 academic year.

Proposal requirements

The research proposal should be two pages maximum, not including the references page(s), in 11 pt. Calibri or Arial font, with 1-inch margins, written in lay terms with references, that includes the following headings:

1. Background, relevance to aging, and alignment with MIRA's goals
2. Purpose
3. Methods – **please use lay language where possible.** Applicants are encouraged to describe how their project can use MIRA's [Voice Canada](#) – a digital platform connecting researchers to older adults – to connect with the community and facilitate knowledge exchange.
4. Anticipated outcomes
5. Student's specific contributions
6. Novel contributions
7. Anticipated benefits – describe the anticipated benefits the project will bring to the student's career path and development in the short- and long-term

Required Documents

The following documents must be uploaded **as PDF files** in the order outlined below:

1. A cover letter clearly stating **"How this opportunity fits in with your future goals"**
2. Research proposal (2-page maximum plus reference page(s))
3. Student's CV
4. A copy of the student's unofficial transcript(s)

For further information, please contact mirafund@mcmaster.ca