

RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM – 20 MONTH

The purpose of the Research Scholar Program is to provide **1st year medical students** the opportunity to participate in the continuum of research – from idea creation to data collection to a scientific publication and/or a presentation at an international conference/meeting – via a **consecutive 20-month longitudinal research program**. Newly established in 2010, the Research Scholar program replaces both the CREMS Distinction in Research and Scholar Programs, which were introduced with much success in 2007.

The Research Scholar Program consists of a mentored research project, which is **supervised by at least one full-time faculty member at the University of Toronto. The candidate supervisor must also be appointed to a graduate unit at the University of Toronto (e.g., Immunology, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, Institute of Medical Sciences etc.)**

Duration & Stipend

The Scholar Program is formally run for 20 consecutive months from the beginning of January of a given year to August of the following year (i.e. from the beginning of the 2nd term of Year 1 medicine until the end of August between Year 2 and Year 3 medicine). The 20-month program includes 4 weeks of vacation, to be negotiated with the student's supervisor.

A student participating in the Program receives a **stipend of \$15,000 for the 20-month period**; the **CREMS program will contribute \$7,500 and the research supervisor will be responsible for \$7,500**. The supervisor is also responsible for any extraneous study and travel expenses (which include, but are not limited to, conferences, meetings, poster printing, etc.) The stipend will be paid on a per month basis of the 20-month duration. **Payments from CREMS are processed through the internal system ROSI via direct deposit to the students' bank account. The supervisor portion of the payment must be set up by the supervisor's institution either through a finance officer or HR department. Each institute varies so CREMS is not expected to know how they are processed from institution to institution.**

Eligibility – Supervisors

Potential supervisors will have Associate or Full member appointments to the University of Toronto - School of Graduate Students (SGS appointment) and preferably a demonstration of previous student mentorship, and must have the available funds to supply half of the stipend (\$7,500).

Time Commitment and Requirements for Successful Completion

In order to successfully complete the program, certain requirements must be met in addition to the proposed research project. Failure to complete these requirements may result in the student being terminated from the program.

WHEN	REQUIREMENT	EVALUATION
Orientation Period Beginning of January 2 nd term Year 1 to end of May	4-Month Orientation Period Perform all preparations needed to being the actual research project. This may include literature reviews; setting up meeting with supervisor; ensuring administrative tasks are taken care of (e.g. stipend set-up, ID badge, hospital/institute orientation) Note: all of the on-site prep is the responsibility of the student and their faculty supervisor. As a guideline, it is recommended that students not spend more than 8-10 hours per week during the orientation period. However, given the wide variability of research projects, the expectations for each student may vary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At the end of January, students are evaluated for academic standing. Students with a failing record will not continue in the program. ● Students will submit a research outline to the CREMS Program Director at the beginning of May. ● The research plan will be evaluated and the CREMS Director may meet with the student and supervisor together to discuss the plan.
Summer Period Between Year 1 and Year 2 June – end of August	Summer I Students are required to work on a full time basis for 12 weeks on their research project in addition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Due mid-September, electronic submission of a 2-page report on accomplishments or set-backs during

	<p>to attending organized seminars where attendance is taken. Seminars will consist of presentations by expert clinical/scientists on various biomedical topics of interest.</p> <p>Students may arrange with their supervisor to have 2 weeks of vacation between the conclusion of this summer experience and the onset of Year 2</p> <p>NOTE: If interim evaluations suggest that reasonable progress in research is not being made, the student may be removed from CREMS after appropriate consultation.</p>	<p>the summer, and detailed plans for the upcoming months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is also an opportunity for the student to request a meeting with the CREMS director if they would like to discuss any concerns.
<p>MSRD</p> <p>January / February of following year 2nd term, Year 2</p>	<p>Medical Student Research Day</p> <p>Participation in the annual research day, including submission of an abstract and your preliminary research findings in the form of a poster presentation at the event</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be judged for prizes
<p>Year 2</p> <p>September to May</p>	<p>Maximum of 8-10 hours/week of continued research under the same supervision during normal medical curricula</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An electronic submission of a 2-page progress report and plans for Summer II. This will be evaluated by the CREMS director who may meet with the student and supervisor to discuss any concerns if necessary.
<p>Summer Period</p> <p>Between Year 2 and Year 3 June – end of July</p>	<p>Summer II</p> <p>Students are required to work for 8-12 weeks on the research project on a full time basis with the aim to complete all experimental, data analysis and writing and submission of results for peer review.</p> <p>Students may arrange with their supervisor to have 2-4 weeks off between the conclusion of this summer experience and the onset of Year 3. In addition, students will be required to attend organized seminars where attendance is taken. Seminars will consist of presentations by the students on their research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of October, the student must submit a manuscript in the format of an acceptable Journal to the CREMS director for evaluation. • The expectation is that following the conclusion of the program, the student will publish a peer-reviewed article of high quality
<p>Spring 2nd Term of Year 3</p>	<p>Medical Student Research Day</p> <p>Participation in the annual research day, including submission of an abstract and your final research findings in the form of a poster and oral presentation at the event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be judged for prizes

Successful completion of the Research Scholar Program will be evaluated by the CREMS Program Advisory Committee and Program Director. Students will receive a certificate of acknowledgement for their participation in the program, and a formal notation on their Medical Student Performance Report.