



Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research
Centre du festin traditionnel de recherche autochtone sur les ITSS

Nominate a Graduate Masters or PhD Student for a Feast Centre Graduate Scholarship!

Four Graduate Scholarships

Two Masters scholarships each valued at **\$17,500**

Two PhD scholarships each valued at **\$21,000**

Important Dates:

- **Call for applications: February 10, 2025**
- **Deadline to submit Expression of Interest email: February 24, 2025 @ 5 pm EST**
- **Deadline to submit application for iterative review feedback (OPTIONAL): March 10, 2025 @ 5 pm EST**
- **Feedback from iterative review: March 31, 2025**
- **Deadline to resubmit (FINAL SUBMISSION) with feedback from iterative review: April 14, 2025 @ 5 pm EST**
- **Reviews and scoring from reviewers: April 14, 2025 – May 5, 2025**
- **Notice of decision: May 5, 2025**
- **Signing of transfer agreements: May 5 - June 30, 2025**
- **Funds available: September 1, 2025**

Introduction

The Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research invites members of the Feast Centre to nominate graduate Master's or PhD students conducting Indigenous STBBI research in any one of the four pillars of health science (clinical, epidemiology/public health, basic science and social science) for a Feast Centre Graduate Scholarship. A key objective of the Feast Centre is to provide funding, mentorship, and training to support the development of expertise in Indigenous STBBI health research that is grounded in Indigenous knowledges, methods, and decolonizing approaches. This scholarship will provide recipients with one year of Feast Centre funding to support their development as Indigenous STBBI researchers.

Successful recipients of this award will be supported by experts in the field of Indigenous STBBI research, a national Council of Elders, community partners and by Feast Centre staff. The Feast Centre is committed to supporting award recipients to produce and expand research and scholarship in the field of Indigenous STBBI research that uses Indigenous methods in order to develop Indigenous solutions.

Value and Duration

The Feast Centre is providing one year of non-renewable scholarships to two Master's students, and two PhD students to conduct Indigenous STBBI research in their field of study.

Each scholarship, whether Master's or PhD is to support Indigenous STBBI research in one or more of the four pillars of health research mentioned above.

Background

The Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research is a partnership between McMaster University and CAAN Communities, Alliances and Networks, and is affiliated with the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI) and the Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research Collaborative Centre (the AHA Centre). Through our collaborative approach, the Feast Centre has representation from Indigenous and allied scholars, community organizations, Indigenous people with lived experience of HIV/AIDS and other STBBI and diverse and traditional knowledge holders.

The Feast Centre privileges the use of community-based research approaches that draw on Indigenous knowledges and adopts a decolonizing orientation to shape methodological approaches. Of particular focus is the use of culturally relevant data collection in addition to analytic procedures that create relationships and support Indigenous autonomy to respond to STBBI in ways consistent with diverse cultural traditions. This includes supporting research that is strengths-based that contributes to the health and wellbeing of Indigenous communities. Such actions include - but are not limited to - understanding cultural sources of resilience, focusing on social determinants of health, and exploring other faces of experiential knowledge (e.g. multigenerational Indigenous knowledges, cultural protocols, etc.). Towards this end, the Feast Centre emphasizes the four pillars of health research (basic, clinical, epidemiology/public health and social science) to maximize the effectiveness of activities.

Eligibility

Graduate scholarship applicants must be nominated by a Feast Centre team member to be eligible for this opportunity. If the Feast Centre team member is not connected to the academic institution in which the applicant studies, linkages will be made with the applicant's supervisor. Applicants must be eligible to work in Canada, must be enrolled in a Canadian academic institution and must be in good academic standing.

Graduate students must be registered in a Canadian Masters or PhD program with a significant research component. A significant research component is considered to be original, autonomous research that leads to the completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, and/or scholarly publication that is merit/expert-reviewed at the institutional level as a requirement for completion of the program.

Note: Graduate students who have applied but have not yet been accepted to their respective programs are eligible to be nominated for this opportunity. Successful applicants will receive conditional offers until they are able to provide proof of enrollment.

Expectations

Students will be required to:

- Construct an individualized research plan including a timeline and activities that they will undertake to increase their capacity in Indigenous STBBI research. This plan will outline how the student will undertake research development, contribute to an ongoing study, and/or engage with a range of community/stakeholders to create and implement a knowledge translation plan.
- Identify an academic advisor with whom they will work closely throughout the duration of the research project.
- Check in quarterly with the Feast Centre Research Coordinator to discuss overall progress with respect to the research plan and to review benchmark attainments.
- Develop KTE activities/resources related to their research topic.
- Participate in the Feast Centre Learning Institute.
- Communicate regularly with relevant supports as identified by the student and the Feast Centre. This could be with community partners, Elders, or researchers in the field of Indigenous STBBI research.
- Acknowledge support from The Feast Centre for Indigenous STBBI Research in any publication or presentation of work

Students will be encouraged to:

- Submit an abstract to present research findings at - but not limited to - the Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network (CAAN) Wise Practices Conference or other relevant conferences upon completion of the project
- Submit an article for publication consideration.

Required Documents

For consideration, the following attachments must be completed and included in your application:

- **Attachment A:** Nomination Form to be completed by Feast team member
- **Attachment B:** Student Application form to be completed by student applicant
- **Attachment C1:** Outline of research interest (for Master's students)
- **Attachment C2:** Outline of proposed research (for PhD Students)
- **Attachment D:** Undergraduate and Graduate transcripts:
 - Attach a scanned copy of unofficial transcript(s).
 - Eligible applicants will be required to send official transcripts to the Feast Centre before release of funding.
- **Attachment E:** Detailed curricular vitae (CV) of the student applicant that highlights research experience, employment, education and training, relevant publications, conference or meeting presentations, engagement in past research and knowledge translation activities, etc.
- **Attachment F: Three reference letters** (at least one academic reference and one community reference)

Application Process

All applications are to be submitted electronically using the instructions below:

- Email an **Expression of Interest** to feastapp@mcmaster.ca by February 24, 2025 @ 5 pm EST. **Email subject line:** your Full Name, Feast Graduate Award, Expression of Interest
- Scan your completed application and submit as one PDF file, including all signatures and supporting documents

- Email application to **feastapp@mcmaster.ca**
- **Email subject line:** your Full Name, Feast Graduate Award, Application
- **First deadline (optional, iterative review feedback):** March 10, 2025 @ 5 pm EST
- **Final deadline:** April 14, 2025 @ 5 pm EST

Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that applications are complete, and that all information is accurate.

Application Evaluation and Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed by a committee of representatives from the Feast Centre team. Recipients will be selected based on the quality of their application, including their research plan, community engagement strategy, use of Indigenous and decolonizing methods, grades, and reference letters. Successful applicants will be notified via email regarding their award status.

Attachment A: Nomination Form (Completed by Feast Centre team member)

As the Feast Centre nominator for the student, please complete the short identification form followed by a brief statement explaining why you think this applicant would benefit from the scholarship.

Feast Centre Team Member Information

Name:	
Institution:	
Phone:	Email:
Feast Centre team member signature:	
Name of Graduate Student:	

Please provide one-to-two paragraphs describing why you are nominating this graduate student for the Feast Centre Graduate Scholarship.

Attachment B: Student Application Form

Nominee/Applicant Information

Name:	
Phone:	Institution: Email:
Mailing address (building, street, city, province/territory, postal code):	
Applicant signature:	

Project Information (if known)

Project Title:	
Community where the proposed project is being undertaken:	
Anticipated Project Start Date:	Anticipated Project Completion Date:

Advisor Information (if known)

Name:	
Academic institution:	
Phone:	Email:
Advisor signature:	

Reference Information (to be contacted by Feast Centre staff)

Name:	
Phone:	Email:
Position:	
Relation to applicant:	

Name:	
Phone:	Email:
Position:	
Relation to applicant:	

Attachment C1: Outline of Research Interest for Master's students

Throughout the duration of the successful recipient's award period, the individual will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with Feast Centre staff, community partners, the Feast Centre Elders' Council and experts in the field of Indigenous STBBI research. The purpose of this scholarship is to increase skills and capacity for Indigenous STBBI research by providing support, a supportive network, additional tools and training. This will allow the successful recipient to explore and gain experience in Indigenous STBBI research grounded in decolonizing methodologies and Indigenous knowledges.

- 1. Please write two pages (double-spaced) outlining your interest in this opportunity with the Feast Centre, making sure to respond to the following questions:**
 - What is your understanding of the relationship between decolonizing approaches and Indigenous STBBI research?
 - How will this opportunity enhance your academic training?

- 2. Please write two pages (double-spaced) outlining the details of your intended area of Indigenous STBBI research by answering the following questions as applicable:**
 - What is the significance of your intended area of research in relation to Indigenous peoples living with or affected by STBBI?
 - How do you socially locate yourself within Indigenous STBBI research?
 - How are you integrating a gender analysis within your proposed area of Indigenous STBBI research? If you are not, why not?
 - How do you plan on engaging with Indigenous peoples when conducting Indigenous STBBI research?
 - If you had the opportunity to do so, how would you disseminate findings and translate knowledge back to the Indigenous community?
 - How might this research contribute to and/or impact the responses to STBBI among Indigenous communities?

Attachment C2: Outline of Proposed Research for PhD students

Throughout the duration of the successful applicant's award, the individual will have the opportunity to work collaboratively with Feast Centre staff, community partners, the Feast Centre Council of Elders and experts in the field of Indigenous STBBI research. The purpose of this award is to increase skills and capacity for research by providing research support, a supportive network of knowledge holders and researchers, additional tools and training. The goal for this award is to provide the successful recipient an opportunity to explore and gain experience in Indigenous STBBI research grounded in decolonizing methodologies and Indigenous knowledges. Please submit two pages (double spaced) answering the questions listed below.

1. Please write two pages (double-spaced) outlining your interest in this opportunity with Feast making sure to respond to the following questions:

- What is your understanding of the relationship between decolonizing approaches and Indigenous STBBI research?
- How will this opportunity enhance your academic training?

2. Please write up to five pages (double-spaced) outlining the details of your proposed research project and intended area of focus in Indigenous STBBI research by answering the following questions:

- What is the main issue and significance of your proposed research project in relation to Indigenous peoples living with or affected by STBBI?
- What are the proposed goals/objectives of your project?
- How do you socially locate yourself within the research project?
- How are you integrating gender analysis into your research project? If you are not, why not?
- What are your strategies for community engagement?
- Who do you wish to be involved in this project?
- What methodology/methods will you use to achieve the goals/objectives of this research?
 - Please outline any activities you will take part in to achieve this, including a brief outline of your plan for analysis.
- How will you disseminate findings and translate knowledge back to the Indigenous community?
- What are your preliminary plans for future research?

Application Checklist

A complete application includes the following documents:

- Expression of Interest email sent by February 24, 2025
- Nomination Form
- Nominee/Applicant Application form
- Outline of research interest (Master's students) or Outline of proposed research (PhD students)
- Unofficial transcripts (a screenshot, scanned document or email forward is acceptable)
- Detailed curriculum vitae
- Three reference letters (at least one academic reference and one community reference)