

Master's Research Scholarships 2026-2027 (B1)

- Regular component and Re-Entering Research component

<u>Competition year:</u> 2026-2027	<u>Annual amount:</u> \$20,000	<u>Deadline (application):</u> October 1, 2025, 16:00 (EST)
<u>Announcement of results:</u> April 2026	<u>Duration of funding:</u> Up to 6 semesters	

In the event of a discrepancy between the English and French versions of this program, the French version prevails.

Important reminders

It is the applicant's responsibility to read the rules of this program and the [Common General Rules \(CGR\)](#) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ). The program rules provide additional details and information that supplement the CGR. In the event of any discrepancy with the CGR, the program rules shall prevail.

A PDF version and an accessible version of these rules are available in the Toolbox [in French only].

Master's scholarship applications must be submitted via the Application space of the [FRQnet portal](#), the transactional interface used by the FRQ for the submission of funding applications and the management of awards. To submit an application, the applicant must first create an FRQnet account. **At the competition deadline of October 1, 2025 at 16:00, the status of the application in the Application space of the FRQnet portal must be "Submitted to the Fonds". An application with any other status will be inadmissible.** It is impossible to submit an application, or add a document to the application, after the competition deadline.

Questions?

- Nature and Technologies sector: boursesmsc.nt@frq.gouv.qc.ca, 418 643-8560, Ext. 3445
- Health sector: boursesm.sante@frq.gouv.qc.ca, 514 873-2114, Ext. 4256
- Society and Culture sector: pascale.marcoux@frq.gouv.qc.ca, 418 643-8560, Ext. 3163

Overview of the application evaluation process

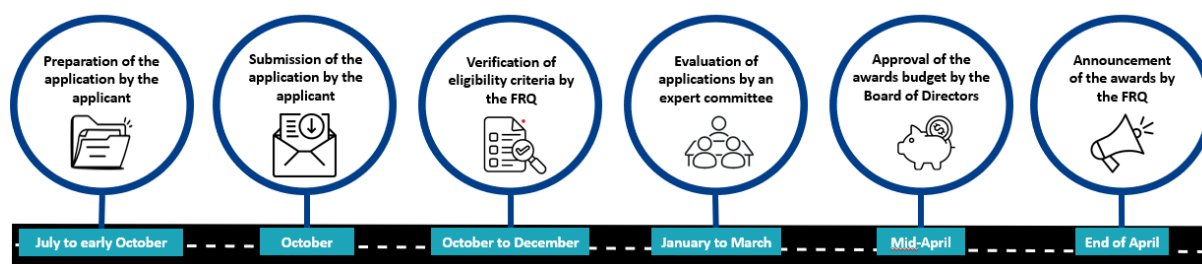


Table of Contents

1. Objectives.....	3
2. Features.....	3
3. Eligibility requirements	3
4. Application	7
5. Evaluation.....	11
6. Partnership scholarships.....	12
7. Announcement of results.....	15
8. Rules for using the scholarship.....	15
9. Open access policy.....	22
10. Promoting FRQ-funded research.....	22
11. Effective date	22

1. Objectives

The objective of the training awards offered by the Fonds de recherche du Québec is to help support new generations of students in all sectors of research: natural sciences, mathematics and engineering (Nature and Technologies), human health (Health), humanities, social sciences, art and letters (Society and Culture).

More specifically, the Master's Research Scholarship aims to:

- Spark the interest of new generations of students in research;
- Support research excellence by providing top students with financial assistance as they undertake or pursue a master's research program.

2. Features

2.1 Value and duration of the scholarship

The annual value of the Master's Research Scholarship is **\$20,000**.

The maximum amount that can be awarded is \$40,000, corresponding to 6 semesters of funding (6 payments).

2.2 Supplement for studies outside Québec

The supplement for students who pursue their studies outside Québec is intended to help awardees undertake or pursue a graduate program outside the province.

The supplement is only available to awardees who indicate a study location outside Québec in their application. Each sector of the FRQ may attribute the supplement to the ten applications that ranked first among all the applications evaluated by the review committees. Awardees must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents and have a valid RAMQ card (see Section 3.6). All applications that indicate a study location outside Québec will be automatically considered. Co-supervised programs are not eligible.

The maximum annual value of the supplement is **\$1,500**, i.e. **\$500** per semester.

3. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must comply with the following eligibility requirements. If the scholarship is awarded, awardees must meet the conditions described in Sections 3.1 and 3.6 throughout the duration of the scholarship.

3.1 Basic requirements

In accordance with Section 2.1 of the CGR, to be eligible to apply for a master's scholarship, applicants must:

- be a Canadian citizen or Canadian permanent resident, and

- have a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline, or proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline or, if they are in the process of renewing their RAMQ card at the competition deadline, proof that a new card has been requested from RAMQ and a copy of the old (expired) card.

Applicants who do not meet one or both of the above conditions are still eligible to apply, provided they submit proof of admission to a program of study at a Québec university or a consent form from their research supervisor (see Section 4.3). In addition, they must carry out their studies in Québec (see Section 3.6).

3.2 Target group

Master's Research Scholarship – Regular component: the Regular component is open to applicants who have or plan to obtain an undergraduate degree, and who wish to undertake or pursue a master's research program in one of the areas covered by the FRQ.

Master's Research Scholarship – Re-Entering Research component: the Re-Entering Research component is open to applicants who wish to re-enter the research community by pursuing master's-level research studies in one of the areas covered by the FRQ.

To be considered a “research” program, the master's program must lead to the writing of a research thesis. Essays, research reports, dissertations and articles do not qualify. Professional master's programs are not eligible.

Important note for Health sector applicants: Health professionals who hold a valid license to practice in Québec are encouraged to apply for one of these award programs, if they are eligible:

- [Master's Research Scholarships for People with a Professional Health Degree \(B1DP\)](#)
- [Professional Postgraduate Training in Research \(fellowship\) - B10](#)

3.3 Minimum overall average

Master's scholarship applicants must have obtained:

- an unrounded cumulative average in their undergraduate university program equal to or greater than:
 - **3.55 for the Nature and Technologies sector, or**
 - **B+ for the Health sector, or**
 - **A- for the Society and Culture sector, or**
- the equivalent for their undergraduate university studies.

Applications with a lower cumulative average are not eligible. To learn more about the FRQ's equivalency requirements, consult the [equivalency table for the minimum cumulative average required](#) for the sector to which you are applying. If the average is expressed as a value not listed in this table, the applicant must demonstrate that the cumulative average obtained is at least equivalent to the required minimum. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse an application based on the explanations provided or in the absence of the requested demonstration.

If the applicant has, or expects to have, only one undergraduate degree, the grades obtained for that degree will be considered in calculating the average. If the applicant has or has

begun more than one undergraduate degree, grades for programs unrelated to the program of study for which the scholarship is being sought may not be considered in calculating the average.

3.4 Eligibility Period

3.4.1 Master's Research Scholarship – Regular component

To apply for the regular component, applicants **must have been enrolled in a master's program for no more than 3 full-time semesters before May 1, 2026.**

If the scholarship is awarded, **Nature and Technologies sector** awardees may receive a maximum of 6 payments during the first 6 semesters of their master's studies (or equivalent). Any semesters already completed in a master's program at the time the scholarship comes into effect are subtracted from the maximum number of payments allowed. **Health or Society and Culture sector** awardees may receive a maximum of 6 payments during the first 9 semesters of their master's studies (or equivalent).

The following **are considered** in calculating the eligibility period and the maximum number of payments allowed:

- Semesters completed on a full-time basis at the time the scholarship comes into effect
- Semesters completed on a part-time basis, as indicated in the [equivalency table for part-time semesters](#)
- The number of semesters during which applicants received financial support from a recognized Canadian or Québec government funding agency (e.g., NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, FRQ, CAC, CALQ, CORPAQ), in order to ensure that the total funding received does not exceed 6 semesters.

The following **are not considered**:

- Unregistered semesters
- Semesters completed in a professional master's degree program
- Semesters completed in a master's research program in another discipline.

Applicants who are not enrolled in a master's program, but who plan to undertake graduate studies, are eligible to apply on condition that they begin their program between May 1, 2026 and January 15, 2027.

Applicants who obtained a first master's research degree and who wish to undertake a second one in another discipline may apply to the Fonds if their initial master's degree was not funded by the FRQ through its training award competitions. The applicant must demonstrate that the master's project presented in the application is in a different discipline, i.e., that it will be evaluated by a different review committee than the one that would have evaluated the previous project. This demonstration must be attached in the "Titre et domaine de recherche [Title and research field]" section of the form. The list of review committees is available in the Toolbox. Should this demonstration not be provided, the Fonds reserves the right to refuse the application if it deems there are too many similarities between the two master's projects.

Direct entry from a bachelor's to doctoral studies or fast-tracking from a master's to doctoral studies: To be eligible for a training award, students admitted to a doctoral program directly from a bachelor's program and students who are fast-tracked to a doctoral

program without submitting a thesis must first apply to the master's training scholarship competition, if eligible.

3.4.2 Master's Research Scholarship – Re-Entering Research component

To apply to the Re-Entering Research component, applicants must have held an undergraduate university degree for at least five years at the competition deadline.

Applicants **must not**:

- have been enrolled in a graduate program for at least five years. However, applicants may be enrolled for their first semester at the competition deadline;
- have earned university credits for at least five years at the competition deadline.

3.4.3 Exceptions

- **Extension.** Applicants who have interrupted or delayed their studies for parental leave, major family obligations or health reasons may be granted an eligibility period extension. The Fonds will determine the duration of the extension based on the supporting documents provided with the application.
- **Exemption.** Applicants who have interrupted or delayed their studies because of a handicap as defined in the [Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration](#) (CQLR, c. E-20.1) may be granted an eligibility period exemption. The maximum duration of funding remains 6 semesters at the master's level.

Exception requests and supporting documents attesting to the date, the duration of the interruption and the rate of slowdown of activities, where applicable, must be submitted with the application form (see Section 4.2.5). Applicants wishing to request such an exception are advised to contact the program manager before submitting their application form. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse any exception request that is not adequately justified.

3.5 Restrictions

Students enrolled in certain psychology programs are not eligible (refer to the page [Eligibility of Psychology programs](#) to verify eligibility).

Applicants may only submit an application to **one of the following programs, regardless of sector**, in any given year:

- Master's Research Scholarships (B1)
- Master's Research Scholarships for Medical Students (B1M)
- Master's Research Scholarships for People with a Professional Health Degree (B1DP)
- Partnership Master's Research Scholarships (B1P)
- Doctoral Research Scholarships (B2)
- Doctoral Research Scholarships for Medical Students (B2M)
- Doctoral Research Scholarships for People with a Professional Health Degree (B2DP)
- Partnership Doctoral Research Scholarships (B2P)

- Postdoctoral Research Scholarships (B3)
- Postdoctoral Research-Creation Scholarships (B5)
- Professional Postgraduate Training in Research (fellowship) (B10)

In accordance with Section 3.1 of the CGR, it is not possible to concurrently hold more than one FRQ training award.

Applicants who have received or are currently receiving a research award from a Québec or Canadian granting agency (e.g., FRQ, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, CORPAQ, CAC, CALQ) for the program for which they are applying for funding, the total value of which is equal to or greater than the total value of the Fonds scholarship, are not eligible for this competition.

Applicants who apply for a scholarship for their preparatory studies are not eligible.

3.6 Conditions for using the scholarship outside Québec

In accordance with Section 2.1 of the CGR, to use a training award outside Québec, awardees must:

- be a Canadian citizen or Canadian permanent resident, and
- have a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline, or proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline or, if they are in the process of renewing their RAMQ card at the competition deadline, proof that a new card has been requested from RAMQ and a copy of the old (expired) card.

Awardees who do not meet both of the above conditions are required to pursue their studies in Québec. In this case, their continuous physical presence in Québec is required throughout the duration of funding, excluding break periods listed in the university calendar. However, travel outside Québec may be allowed if it is deemed essential for the proper implementation of activities related to the program of study and it does not exceed 180 days per year or 180 consecutive days. To avail themselves of this option, awardees must submit a [declaration of travel outside Québec](#), signed by their research supervisor, to the FRQ for approval.

Periods of study outside Québec as part of a co-supervised program are permitted only for awardees who are eligible to pursue their studies outside Québec.

Awardees who are not eligible to use their scholarship outside Québec at the time of application will remain ineligible throughout the funding period, even if their citizenship or residency status changes.

4. Application

The electronic Master's Research Scholarship application form is available in the Application space of the [FRQnet portal](#) no later than one month before the competition deadline.

Applicants can also consult the various FRQnet guides available in the Documentation tab at the top right of the FRQnet portal.

Applicants are solely responsible for choosing:

- the right funding program
- the right application form

- within this form, the right program component, the appropriate sector of the FRQ, and the review committee they deem most appropriate for the evaluation of their application.

In the event of an error, the Fonds will not transfer the application from one program, application form, program component, sector or review committee to another.

Applicants must prepare their application sufficiently in advance to ensure that they are able to obtain all the required documents and submit the form within the required deadline. Applicants must also anticipate and consider the high volume of funding applications received by the Fonds near the competition deadline.

In accordance with Section 3.6 of the CGR, the application form must be completed in French. Documents attached to the form may be written in French or English and must respect the [presentation standards for PDF attachments](#).

Official documents submitted in a language other than French or English must include a certified professional translation. Any other documents submitted in a language other than French or English must include a basic translation.

Applicants are entirely responsible for their application, which must be complete and meet all program requirements. The absence of any required documents will render the application ineligible. No documents received after the competition deadline will be considered. No document that was not requested will be sent to the review committee.

The submission of a funding application implies a commitment to read and abide by the [standards of ethics and integrity](#), the [Open Access Dissemination Policy](#) and the [Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

4.1 Selecting the sector and review committee

Applicants select the sector and the review committee that will evaluate their application. To choose the sector, applicants should consult the list of FRQ research areas ([Nature and Technologies sector](#), [Health sector](#), [Society and Culture sector](#)) and the [guidelines for applying for a training award](#). To choose a review committee, applicants should consult the [list of review committees](#) for the chosen sector.

4.2 Documents required from the applicant

A checklist of documents to be attached with the application can be found in the Toolbox.

4.2.1 RAMQ card, proof of admission or consent form

Applicants who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada must provide:

- a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline, or
- proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline, or
- if they are in the process of renewing their RAMQ card at the competition deadline, proof that a new card has been requested from RAMQ and a copy of the old (expired) card.

In accordance with Section 3.6 of these rules, applicants who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents, or do not have one of the documents listed above, are still eligible for this competition, but must carry out their studies at a Québec university. They must provide one of the following two documents:

- proof of admission to a program of study at a Québec university, or
- a consent form from their research supervisor at a Québec university as described in Section 4.3.

4.2.2 Transcripts

Transcripts that are missing, incomplete, illegible, unofficial, uncertified or not up to date shall render the application ineligible.

Copies of all transcripts are required for all university studies, whether completed or not, including transcripts for exchange programs and courses for which transfer credits were received, where applicable. Transcripts must show all grades obtained in university courses and training programs.

The transcript for an applicant's **current program of study** must:

- be up to date, i.e. it must have been issued no earlier than July of the year in which the competition opens, and
- show all grades obtained in the last semester completed prior to the competition deadline, including the summer semester, if applicable.

The elements that make a transcript official may differ from one academic institution to the other. Nevertheless, in order to be considered official by the Fonds, each transcript must:

- be issued by the relevant academic institution, and
- include elements that prove it is an official transcript from the academic institution, including the university seal, the signature of the registrar, wording such as “official transcript”, etc.

A watermark does not render a transcript unofficial as long as the requirements specified above are met. A transcript issued in a sealed envelope by the registrar's office may be opened and scanned. Transcripts that can be consulted online must be converted to PDF and attached to the application in the appropriate section of the form. If there is any doubt as to the authenticity of a transcript, the Fonds reserves the right to confirm the information with the applicant and with the academic institution.

Other documents to be attached with the transcripts, where applicable:

- For transcripts obtained outside North America, or when the average is expressed as a value not listed in the [equivalency table](#), a document explaining the grading system in effect and/or demonstrating that the cumulative average obtained is at least equivalent to the required minimum. The document must clearly explain the grading system so that the transcripts can be easily understood by the FRQ and the review committee.
- When no transcript is issued, an explanatory document from the institution (registrar's office or equivalent administrative body) detailing the reason(s) for the missing transcripts. The Fonds reserves the right to verify the admissibility of the reasons given.

- When no transcript is issued and the applicant is unable to obtain an explanatory document from the university, an explanatory document from the applicant, signed by the appropriate authority at the host institution, justifying the absence of transcripts. The Fonds reserves the right to verify the admissibility of the reasons given.

4.2.3 List of part-time and unregistered semesters

Applicants who were enrolled part-time or were not enrolled for one or more semesters since the start of the program of study for which the scholarship is being sought, must provide:

- An official notice from the registrar's office listing all semesters or other official document issued by an appropriate authority at the university specifying the semesters completed on a part-time basis or without registration.

4.2.4 Other documents to attach to the form

Applicants must also attach the following documents in the appropriate sections of the application form:

- **Program of study** (maximum 1 page): a description of the master's program of study, including objectives, duration, number of course credits, number of research credits, and whether the program requires the writing of a thesis, essay or other.
- **Honours** (maximum 1 page): a list of any scholarships, prizes and distinctions received, and how they were awarded.
- **Integrated background presentation** (maximum 1 page): a description of the links between the applicant's experiences and interests on the one hand, and career choices, training, and academic and professional background on the other. While there are no evaluation criteria for this, the integrated background presentation can help the review committee to better understand, contextualize and assess the applicant's academic record, background and contributions. Applicants are not expected to disclose any sensitive personal information.
- **Relevant experience and achievements** (maximum 2 pages): a presentation and description of experience and achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) relevant to the proposed research and the applicant's background.
- **Proposed research** (maximum 1 page): a description of the proposed research (originality, clarity and coherence) including an outline of the conceptual framework and methodological elements, demonstrating their appropriateness.
- **Bibliography** (maximum 1 page): a list of up to 10 references used in the description of the proposed research. In accordance with Section 3.2 of the CGR, links to web pages may be included as bibliographic references where relevant.
- **Document for a second master's in a different discipline** (maximum 1 page): Applicants who obtained a first master's research degree in another discipline must demonstrate that the project presented in the application will be evaluated by a different review committee than the one that would have evaluated the previous project, in accordance with Section 3.4.1. This demonstration must be attached in the "Titre et domaine de recherche [Title and research field]" section of the form.

4.2.5 Documents for eligibility period exception

Applicants seeking an **eligibility period exception** (see Section 3.4.3) must provide:

- **Justification of request for an eligibility period extension or exemption** (1 page maximum): the applicant must explain the exception request and provide, in the case of a request for extension, the dates and duration of the interruptions, as well as the rate of slowdown of activities, if applicable. This document must be attached in the “Préadmissibilité [Pre-eligibility]” section of the form and **will not be sent to the review committee.**
- **Supporting documents for the exception request** (maximum 5 pages): e.g. medical certificate, disability certificate, child’s birth certificate, caregiver tax credit application, official document or letter from employer, etc. These documents allow the Fonds to determine the duration of the extension to be granted. They must be attached in the “Préadmissibilité [Pre-eligibility]” section of the form and **will not be sent to the review committee.**

4.3 Documents required from the research supervisor

This section is intended only for applicants who are required to pursue their studies in Québec and are unable to provide proof of admission to a program of study at a Québec university. For all other applicants, this document is not required. If the scholarship is awarded, however, awardees must identify their research supervisor in their FRQnet portal (see Section 8.4.2).

The applicants must identify the research supervisor in the “Encadrement [Supervision]” section of the form and send them a consent request by clicking on “Envoyer une demande de consentement [Send consent request]” **(the supervisor must first create an FRQnet account, if this has not already been done)**. An email is then sent to the identified supervisor, and a consent form is automatically added in the Application space of the supervisor’s FRQnet portal.

The research supervisor’s consent form must be submitted **before the applicant submits the scholarship application form**. This can be checked at any time in the Funding section of the Application space of the FRQnet portal, by clicking on the “Consent” button of the application in question. The consent status in the FRQnet portal must be “Yes”, accompanied by a consent date. If not, the applicant will not be able to submit the form and the application will be inadmissible. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide the research supervisor with the necessary instructions for creating an FRQnet account, and to ensure that the form is submitted within the prescribed deadline.

No further changes can be made to the consent form once it has been submitted by the research supervisor.

4.4 Eligibility notice

All applications received by the Fonds are assessed for eligibility. Applicants will receive an email notification no later than December following the competition deadline, informing them of the result of the eligibility assessment of their application and, where applicable, its transmission to the review committee. Applications sent to the review committee may nevertheless be declared ineligible at any time.

5. Evaluation

The evaluation process for funding applications is described in Section 4 of the CGR.

Evaluation criteria, sub-criteria and weighting:

Academic record and achievements (50 points)

- Transcripts
- Honours (awards, distinctions, scholarships)
- Achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) and relevant experience (related to the project or the applicant's background)

Research interest and potential (45 points)

- Originality, clarity and coherence of the proposed research
- Appropriateness of the outline of the conceptual framework and methodological elements

Overall presentation (5 points)

Total (100 points)

6. Partnership scholarships

The scholarship may be offered in partnership. For this, applicants must select, in the “Partenariats [Partnerships]” section of the application form, one or more partners whose research areas are in line with their research theme. If the scholarship is awarded, the Fonds sends the selected partners the information needed to assess the relevance of the partnership to their strategic and research priorities (project title, abstract, areas of research). If the applicant's research project is deemed relevant by one or more partners, the scholarship will be offered in partnership.



6.1 Partner – Nature and Technologies sector

Partner	Description
SSA Québec Support Unit (SPOR National Training Entity)	<p>Research with and for patients in a learning health system approach</p> <p>The SSA Québec Support Unit is a provincial unit of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s national Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) network. The Unit works to continuously improve Québec's healthcare system and make it a learning system. It mobilizes and equips the network to do things differently and achieve the Quintuple Aim by promoting partnership work, the integration of science and innovation, and the facilitation of change. Its pan-Québec team deploys its expertise in training, consulting, tools, facilitation and networking to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build scientific and experiential knowledge• Offer à la carte support to project leaders in the network• Orchestrate continuous quality improvement.

	<p>The National Training Entity (NTE), also part of CIHR's SPOR, is a pan-Canadian organization that aims to increase, support and sustain the capacity of a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment focused on partnering with and for patients. NTE provides answers to changing healthcare questions, helping to improve the patient experience.</p> <p>The scholarships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the SPOR National Training Entity enable scholarship holders to hone their skills and gain experience in research with and for patients, to network, and to work across disciplines with different healthcare professionals and organizations in a learning health system approach.</p>
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6.2 Partners – Health sector

Partner	Description
Pediatric Research Foundation  Fondation de la recherche pédiatrique	Early childhood diseases Training scholarships in pediatrics research, with a focus on the diagnosis of childhood diseases. Amount of the scholarship: \$22,500 per year
Parkinson Québec 	Parkinson's disease Training scholarships in Parkinson's disease research. Amount of the scholarship: \$22,500 per year
Mental health Research Canada 	Training scholarship in the mental health field. The following themes will be prioritized: 1) Enhancing Workplace Mental Health: Research supporting employee mental health in the workplace and the development of programs to help mitigate work-related stress. People spend a large portion of their lives in workplaces, and poor mental health has been shown to lead to increased absenteeism, decreased productivity and increased employer healthcare costs. COVID-19 has both augmented and spotlighted the importance of supporting mental health in workplaces, and at least 70% of Canadian businesses do not have a workplace mental health strategy (Deloitte, 2019). 2) Supporting Diverse Populations: Research supporting specific groups of people with unique needs. These may include,

	<p>but are not restricted to: Indigenous populations, BIPOC populations, refugees and recent immigrants, LGBTQ+ communities, and/or women, for example.</p> <p>3) Advancing virtual service delivery: Research focusing on assessment and efficacy of existing – not new – digital products and services. There is an ever-increasing number of apps and digital platforms aimed at offering mental health supports, many of which need validation to prove their effectiveness in their target populations, and to continue to refine and improve their delivery.</p>
<p>SSA Québec Support Unit (SPOR National Training Entity)</p> 	<p>Research with and for patients in a learning health system approach</p> <p>The SSA Québec Support Unit is a provincial unit of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s national Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) network. The Unit works to continuously improve Québec's healthcare system and make it a learning system. It mobilizes and equips the network to do things differently and achieve the Quintuple Aim by promoting partnership work, the integration of science and innovation, and the facilitation of change. Its pan-Québec team deploys its expertise in training, consulting, tools, facilitation and networking to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build scientific and experiential knowledge • Offer à la carte support to project leaders in the network • Orchestrate continuous quality improvement <p>The National Training Entity (NTE), also part of CIHR's SPOR, is a pan-Canadian organization that aims to increase, support and sustain the capacity of a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment focused on partnering with and for patients. NTE provides answers to changing healthcare questions, helping to improve the patient experience.</p> <p>The scholarships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the SPOR National Training Entity enable scholarship holders to hone their skills and gain experience in research with and for patients, to network, and to work across disciplines with different healthcare professionals and organizations in a learning health system approach.</p>
<p>Canadian Network on Hepatitis C</p>  <p>CanHepC <small>Canadian Network on Hepatitis C Réseau Canadien sur l'hépatite C</small></p>	<p>Research on the Hepatitis C virus</p> <p>Training scholarships in Hepatitis C virus research. Amount of the scholarship: \$32,000 per year</p>

6.3 Partner – Society and Culture sector

Partner	Description
SSA Québec Support Unit SPOR National Training Entity	<p>Research with and for patients in a learning health system approach</p> <p>The SSA Québec Support Unit is a provincial unit of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)'s national Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) network. The Unit works to continuously improve Québec's healthcare system and make it a learning system. It mobilizes and equips the network to do things differently and achieve the Quintuple Aim by promoting partnership work, the integration of science and innovation, and the facilitation of change. Its pan-Québec team deploys its expertise in training, consulting, tools, facilitation and networking to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build scientific and experiential knowledge• Offer à la carte support to project leaders in the network• Orchestrate continuous quality improvement <p>The National Training Entity (NTE), also part of CIHR's SPOR, is a pan-Canadian organization that aims to increase, support and sustain the capacity of a collaborative, interdisciplinary research environment focused on partnering with and for patients. NTE provides answers to changing healthcare questions, helping to improve the patient experience.</p> <p>The scholarships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the SPOR National Training Entity enable scholarship holders to hone their skills and gain experience in research with and for patients, to network, and to work across disciplines with different healthcare professionals and organizations in a learning health system approach.</p>

7. Announcement of results

The competition results are announced at the end of April. In accordance with Section 5.2 of the CGR, applicants who are offered funding are required to indicate their acceptance or refusal within 30 days after the notice is posted to the FRQnet portal. Once a funding offer has been refused by the applicant it cannot be reactivated.

8. Rules for using the scholarship

The rules presented in Section 8 apply to all scholarships awarded under this program. However, applicants are encouraged to read them when applying, and to keep them for future reference if they are awarded a scholarship. **Technical details are provided in the scholarship user guide**, which will be made available when the results are announced.

To retain the scholarship, awardees must meet all eligibility requirements and the program rules in effect at the time of application. In addition, the following conditions must be met throughout the funding period:

- Be enrolled in the program of study for which the scholarship is granted on a full-time basis, subject to the exceptions described in Section 8.2
- Comply with the rules pertaining to concurrent funding described in Section 8.3.

Awardees must notify the Fonds as soon as one of these conditions is no longer met and of any change in their situation that could affect compliance with the conditions of the scholarship. Failure to meet these conditions (or failure to inform the Fonds of such a change) may result in the cancellation of the scholarship and the obligation to reimburse the sums received.

8.1 Scholarship start date

The scholarship must begin **between May 1 of the year of the offer and January 15 of the following year** (see Section 8.4.1 for further information). The duration of funding is determined based on information provided in the scholarship application. It is not possible to increase the duration of funding.

8.2 Part-time enrolment

Part-time studies are permitted only in the cases listed below, on the condition that the research supervisor authorizes it and on presentation of supporting documents:

Family obligations or medical condition: family obligations (e.g., family caregiver, primary caregiver for a young child) or a medical condition that prevents the awardee from studying on a full-time basis. While enrolled part time, awardees may receive 50% of the value of the scholarship payments.

Disability: handicap as defined in the [Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration](#) (CQLR, c. E-20.1) that prevents the awardee from studying on a full-time basis. The awardee may receive full scholarship payments.

In both cases, the total value of the scholarship is not affected.

8.3 Rules for concurrent funding (scholarships, employment and internships)

8.3.1 Concurrent scholarships

The following table details the rules for concurrent scholarships.

Type of scholarship / scholarship program	Rule
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Training scholarships (master's, doctoral and postdoctoral) from the federal granting agencies: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)	Concurrent funding prohibited or partial* concurrent funding allowed**, under certain conditions
Training scholarships (master's, doctoral, postdoctoral, partnership) from Québec granting agencies such as the Fonds de recherche du Québec	Concurrent funding prohibited
Scholarships from Canadian and Québec government departments and agencies other than those mentioned above	Concurrent funding allowed
Co-supervised international mobility scholarships and scholarships for internships in or outside Québec	Concurrent funding allowed
Scholarships from the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) or Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ)	Concurrent funding prohibited if the scholarships are for the same project
Scholarships from the private sector, internal scholarships from universities and affiliated centres and supplementary scholarships from the research supervisor	Concurrent funding allowed

***Partial concurrent funding with a scholarship from a federal granting agency**

Applicants who receive an award offer from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) or the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) **must accept it as soon as it is offered**. However, they are encouraged to also accept the FRQ award if partial concurrent funding is allowed, i.e. if the FRQ award is of a higher **annual value** or longer **duration** than that of the federal agency, in accordance with the following:

- When the **annual value** of the Fonds scholarship is higher than that of the other scholarship, the amount will be adjusted to make up for the shortfall.

- When the **duration** of the Fonds scholarship is longer than that of the other scholarship, the Fonds will extend the term of the scholarship to make up for the shortfall when the other scholarship ends, unless the total value of the other scholarship is equal to or higher than the total value of the Fonds scholarship.

It is not possible to defer a payment or the start of a scholarship in order to receive another scholarship with which concurrent funding is prohibited.

Awardees who receive payments in a situation in which concurrent funding is prohibited will be required to reimburse the sums paid.

**** Concurrent funding for studies outside Québec**

An awardee may hold concurrent scholarships from federal and provincial granting agencies if, at the start date of the Fonds scholarship, the awardee is attending an academic institution outside Québec and the annual tuition fees are equal to or higher than the annual value of the Fonds scholarship. The annual value of the tuition fees does not include registration fees, student association fees, etc. Tuition fees must not be reimbursed by another organization.

8.3.2 Paid employment and internships

Paid employment or internships undertaken alongside the program of study and **that do not interfere with research activities** are permitted, without time restrictions, provided they are approved by the research supervisor or co-supervisor.

In addition, awardees may be paid a salary by their research supervisor or co-supervisor to work on the research project funded by the Fonds while holding the scholarship. Excellence awards paid by the Fonds do not constitute a salary.

8.4 Payments and management

8.4.1 Payment schedule

The annual scholarship amount is paid to the awardee in three instalments. Each instalment covers a four-month period.

The first payment must be claimed **between May 1 of the year of the offer and March 1 of the following year**, failing which the scholarship will be immediately cancelled (see Section 8.4.3).

For awardees whose program of study is already underway when the award letter is issued, the first payment will be made as of:

- May 30 after the scholarship is awarded (summer semester)

For awardees whose program of study has not yet started when the award letter is issued, the first payment will be made at the start of the first semester of enrolment in the program, i.e. as of one of the following dates:

- May 30 after the scholarship is awarded (summer semester)
- September 30 after the scholarship is awarded (fall semester)
- January 30 after the scholarship is awarded (winter semester)

A detailed schedule of payments, including the periods for claiming them, can be found in the scholarship user guide. Once the scholarship has been awarded, awardees will be able to consult the payment schedule in their FRQnet portal.

8.4.2 Payment conditions

Awardees must comply with all the conditions associated with their payments, which are described in the following table.

Instalment	Payment conditions
All instalments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation of enrolment• Declaration of status and any other awards received
3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declaration of the name of the research supervisor
4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Health sector awardees, submission of completion certificates for Levels 1 and 3 of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux research ethics tutorial, if applicable

8.4.3 Cancellation of a payment or scholarship

The first scholarship payment must be claimed no later than March 1 following the year in which it is awarded, failing which the scholarship will be immediately cancelled. Starting with the second payment, a payment will be cancelled, after prior notice, if it is not claimed or deferred or if required documents are not received within two months of the semester start date.

The Fonds will cancel a scholarship, after prior notice, if the awardee has not taken any action in the FRQnet portal for two consecutive payment periods.

The Fonds will cancel a scholarship, after prior notice, if two consecutive payments must be cancelled due to non-compliance with the eligibility requirements or failure to submit required documents in the two months following the start of the periods concerned.

In addition, the Fonds reserves the right to cancel any payment or scholarship in accordance with the [Policy for the responsible conduct of research](#).

8.5 Deferral of payments

8.5.1 Gaining relevant experience

The Fonds may authorize the suspension of studies for the acquisition of relevant experience (experience within a research team, teaching experience related to the field of study, language stay, etc.), for a period of four months **for each full year of funding granted**. The scholarship payment for this period is then deferred until the end of the funding period. The Fonds reserves the right to deny any request that is insufficiently justified or inappropriate.

The deferral periods authorized for the entire duration of the scholarship may be taken consecutively if this is approved by the research supervisor.

Awardees cannot use this provision for their first payment, to accept another scholarship with which concurrent funding is prohibited, or to accept paid employment.

8.5.2 Sick leave or family obligations

In accordance with Section 6.14 of the CGR, awardees may obtain a deferment of payment if their studies are suspended due to illness or family obligations, for as long as the university permits.

8.5.3 Parental leave

In accordance with Section 6.13 of the CGR, awardees may obtain a deferment of payment for the birth or adoption of a child for a **maximum period of 12 months**.

8.6 Scholarship supplement for parental leave

In accordance with Section 6.13 of the CGR, during the authorized suspension of studies for parental leave (see Section 8.5.3), awardees may apply for a **scholarship supplement for a continuous period of eight months** (i.e., for a maximum of two payments).

To be eligible for this supplement, awardees must have already received their first scholarship payment and must not be enrolled in the program of study. In addition, they must not hold paid employment for the duration of the leave.

In the case of partial concurrent funding with an award received from a federal agency, the awardee must take the parental leave allowance offered by the federal program.

8.7 Changes during the funding period

8.7.1 Request for changes

Any change in the awardee's situation must be communicated to the Fonds. In accordance with Section 6.5 of the CGR, the Fonds will ensure the requested change does not impact the outcome of the application's initial evaluation and remains in compliance with the eligibility requirements and program rules. The Fonds will assess the requested change and may decide to continue, reduce, suspend or terminate the payments. The Fonds may also require that the awardee reimburse the sums paid.

The decision to accept or refuse the requested changes is sent by email.

8.7.2 Change in scholarship start date

This type of change must be made before the first payment is made. It is strongly recommended that the change be requested at the time of accepting the scholarship.

8.7.3 Change in level of study

A Master's Research Scholarship holder who plans to pursue a doctoral degree may use the remaining payments of the master's scholarship to begin a doctoral program, on the condition that the program begins in the next semester. The payments must occur during the term of the initial scholarship. In addition, the awardee must have received at least one payment of the master's scholarship for at least one full-time semester in the program for which the scholarship was granted, except in the case of direct or fast-tracked transfer to a doctoral program.

8.7.4 Change in program of study

Any change of program during the term of the scholarship must be in line with the research areas of the sector concerned and the choice of review committee in the initial application. However, if an awardee intends to change programs for administrative reasons and remains in the same field of study and research, the Fonds will assess the situation and the scholarship may be maintained.

8.7.5 Change in study and research location

A change of study and research location is permitted on the condition that the change is consistent with Section 2.1 ("Citizenship and Domicile") of the CGR.

8.7.6 Change in research supervisor

An awardee who continues to study in the same training program and whose research project remains the same may change research supervisor. The request is automatically approved.

8.7.7 Change in research project

To change research project, the awardee must:

- demonstrate that the new project is in the same area of research, i.e., that it would be evaluated by the same review committee as the one that evaluated the initial project
- demonstrate that the new project is of the same scientific quality as the initial project.

It must also be indicated whether the awardee intends to stay with the same research supervisor, at the same university and in the same department.

In addition, the research supervisor must agree to of and justify the proposed change.

The Fonds will take into account the evaluation criteria used to evaluate the initial project when analysing the request.

8.7.8 Withdrawal or part-time studies

An awardee who withdraws during the semester or who decides to study on a part-time basis, with the exception of the cases described in Section 8.2, is no longer eligible for the scholarship and must notify the Fonds to terminate it. The awardee may be required to reimburse the last payment received.

8.7.9 Completion of studies and graduation

Awardees are eligible to receive payments until the final submission of their thesis. Enrolment is not required after the initial thesis submission.

8.8 Final report

In accordance with Section 7.2 of the CGR, a final report is required within three months after the end of the period covered by the final instalment. The final report allows the Fonds to document the impact of the scholarship. Future FRQ funding under a different program is contingent upon receipt of this final report.

9. Open access policy

The master's thesis resulting from this scholarship must be made openly accessible, without embargo, in an institutional or disciplinary repository, in accordance with the [Open Access Dissemination Policy](#) (revised in 2022). In addition, any peer-reviewed publications stemming from the research made possible by this scholarship must be released as immediate open access (without embargo) under an open license.

10. Promoting FRQ-funded research

Awardees must, in all reports, articles, artistic works, peer-reviewed publications and papers, master's or doctoral theses, written communication or any other output arising from the funded research, acknowledge the funding received from the FRQ using the templates provided by the FRQ.

Awardees are solely responsible for the content of their work. Acknowledgement of funding received from the FRQ in a production arising from FRQ-funded research does not constitute an endorsement of the content on the part of the FRQ.

11. Effective date

These rules apply to the 2026-2027 fiscal year.