

Doctoral Research Scholarships for Persons Enrolled in an M.D.-Ph.D. Program 2027–2028 (B2M)

<u>Competition launch date:</u> July 2026	<u>Announcement of results:</u> End of April 2027	<u>Amount:</u> \$25,000 per year
<u>Deadline (application):</u> September 29, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (EST)	<u>Funding start year:</u> 2027–2028	<u>Funding duration:</u> Up to 9 terms

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

Important reminders

It is the responsibility of the applicant 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 clarifications and additional information to the CGR. In the event of a discrepancy with the CGR, the program rules prevail.

The doctoral scholarship application must be submitted in the Application area of the [FRQnet portal](#), the transactional interface used by the FRQ for submitting funding applications and managing awards. To submit an application, the applicant must first create an FRQnet account. **By the competition deadline, September 29, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. (EST), the status of the application in the Application area of the FRQnet portal must be “submitted to the Fonds.” Any application showing another status will be deemed ineligible.** It is impossible to submit an application or add a document to the application after the competition deadline.

Questions about the program rules?

- Health sector: boursesdoc.sante@frq.gouv.qc.ca, 514-873-2114, extension 4254

Technical questions about the application form?

- Centre.Assistance@frq.gouv.qc.ca

In the weeks leading up to the competition deadline, the FRQ receives a very high volume of emails and calls. This situation may result in longer-than-usual delays in processing support requests. Our teams are doing everything they can to handle each request carefully. Thank you for your understanding.

The FRQ is a signatory of the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA) and the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment](#) (CoARA). This dual commitment marked the starting point of a strategic initiative: the Evolution of the Evaluation of Research Excellence (E3R).

Through this initiative, the FRQ promotes, among other things, a qualitative approach to research assessment supported by the responsible use of quantitative indicators in order to recognize the diversity of research contributions, including the diversity of knowledge systems, including [Indigenous knowledge](#). By aligning its directions with these principles, the FRQ is engaging in a gradual process of adapting and transforming assessment practices.

Overview of the application assessment process



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1. Objectives

The training scholarships of the Fonds de recherche du Québec aim to help ensure a student succession in all research sectors: natural sciences, mathematical sciences and engineering (Nature and technologies), human health (Health), social sciences and humanities, arts and literature (Society and culture).

More specifically, the doctoral research scholarship for persons enrolled in an M.D.-Ph.D. program aims to:

- Stimulate student interest in research
 - Support research excellence by providing financial assistance to the strongest applicants to begin or continue a doctoral research program
 - This particular program is designed to enable medical students to pursue, alongside their medical studies, research training leading to a doctorate.
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2. Features

2.1 Scholarship value and duration

The annual value of the doctoral scholarship is **\$25,000**.

The maximum amount that may be awarded is \$75,000, corresponding to 9 funding sessions (9 instalments).

Quotas

One new scholarship per year, per university.

Exceptionally, two scholarships may be awarded if no application is submitted for the Master's Research Scholarships for Persons Enrolled in an M.D.-M.Sc. Program (B1M) at a university.

2.2 Extension

The scholarship may be extended for 3 years, during which the award holder completes their research project or continues research activities (seminars, thesis writing) alongside their medical studies.

The annual value of the scholarship during this extension is \$10,000 for a maximum of 3 years.

3. Eligibility requirements

The applicant must meet the following eligibility requirements. If awarded, the conditions described in section 3.1 must be met throughout the duration of the scholarship.

3.1 Basic requirements

In accordance with section 2.1 of the CGR, to be eligible to submit an application for a doctoral scholarship, the applicant must have:

- Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent residency, **and**
- a valid Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card by the competition deadline, or proof that a RAMQ card has been requested and will be valid by the competition deadline, or, if the applicant is in the process of renewing their RAMQ card by the competition deadline, proof that a new card has been requested from RAMQ and a copy of the expired card.

If one or both of the above conditions are not met, the applicant remains eligible provided they submit proof of admission to a study program at a Québec university institution or the consent form from their research supervisor (see section 4.2). In addition, they must complete their training in Québec and are not eligible to apply for or use the scholarship to undertake joint supervision training with a university outside Québec.

3.2 Target applicants

This program is intended for applicants who:

- hold or expect to obtain an undergraduate or graduate degree

OR

- have completed at least 90 course credits in a university program
- applicants who have not completed 90 course credits in a university program must provide a letter of recommendation from the dean of the faculty of medicine
- are enrolled in a regular undergraduate medical program at a Québec university (the required 90 university credits may have been completed as part of an undergraduate doctorate in medicine or any other bachelor's degree)

AND

- will be enrolled (before January 15, 2027) in a regular research-type doctoral program (Ph.D.) as part of a structured M.D.-Ph.D. program at a university recognized by the FRQ. To be considered "research-type," a doctoral program must lead to the Ph.D. degree and the writing of a thesis. The following are not accepted: an essay, research report, dissertation, article or master's thesis, for example. Professional doctoral programs and doctoral programs offered only part-time are not eligible.
- will submit a health research project that directly concerns human health and is feasible within a maximum period of 3 years. The award holder must temporarily interrupt the regular course of their medical training for a maximum duration of 3 years
- will have completed 14 sessions or fewer of their research doctorate by April 30, 2026. The number of registration sessions is calculated from the first registration date in a research-type doctoral program in human health

3.3 Eligibility period

3.3.1 Doctoral research scholarships

To submit an application, the applicant **must have been enrolled in a doctoral program for no more than 14 full-time sessions before May 1, 2027.**

Direct entry from a bachelor's degree to a doctorate or accelerated transfer from a master's degree to a doctorate: an applicant who transfers directly from a bachelor's degree to a doctorate, or who accelerates to a doctorate without obtaining a master's degree, must have been enrolled for no more than 20 full-time sessions in the graduate program(s) concerned by the direct or accelerated transfer before May 1, 2027. They may first apply to the [master's research scholarships](#) competition, if eligible.

If awarded, the scholarship holder may receive a maximum of 9 instalments within the first 15 doctoral study sessions (or equivalent). To determine the maximum number of eligible instalments, the FRQ subtracts the sessions already completed in the doctoral program at the time the scholarship takes effect from the number of sessions during which the scholarship may be paid (15 sessions).

The following elements **are taken into account** when calculating the eligibility period and the maximum number of eligible instalments:

- Full-time sessions completed at the time the scholarship takes effect
- Part-time sessions completed, as specified in the [Equivalency table for part-time sessions](#)
- The number of sessions during which the applicant received financial support from any recognized federal or Québec provincial granting agency (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, FRQ), so that the total financial support received does not exceed 9 sessions

Conversely, the following elements **are not taken into account**:

- Sessions without registration
- Sessions completed as part of a professional doctorate
- Sessions completed as part of a research doctorate in another discipline

If, by the competition deadline, the applicant is not enrolled in a doctoral program but intends to undertake such studies, they are eligible to apply provided that their program begins no later than the winter 2028 session.

An applicant who has obtained a first research doctorate and wishes to undertake a second may apply provided that the second doctorate is in another discipline and that the first doctorate was not funded by the FRQ through its training scholarship competitions. The applicant must demonstrate that the funding application for the second doctorate will be assessed by a committee different from the one that would have assessed the application for the first doctorate. This demonstration must be attached in the "Research title and field" section of the form. The list of assessment committees is available in the toolbox. In the absence of this demonstration, the Fonds reserves the right to reject an application if it considers that there are too many similarities between the two doctorates.

3.3.2 Exceptional measures

- **Extension.** An applicant whose studies were interrupted or delayed due in particular to parental leave, major family obligations or health reasons may have their eligibility period extended. The Fonds determines the extension to be granted based on the supporting documents provided with the application.
- **Exemption.** A person may benefit from an exemption from the rules relating to the eligibility period if they interrupted or delayed their studies due to a disability corresponding to the definition contained 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). The maximum duration of the scholarship remains 9 doctoral sessions.

The request for an exception, as well as supporting documents attesting to the date and duration of the interruption and the rate at which activities slowed down, if applicable, must be submitted with the application (see section 4.1.4). If such an exception is requested, it is recommended that the applicant contact the person responsible for the program before submitting the application form. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse any request for application of exceptional measures that is insufficiently justified.

3.4 Restrictions

Persons enrolled in certain psychology programs are not eligible (see the [Eligibility of psychology programs](#) page for FRQ training scholarships).

In the same year, only **one scholarship application may be submitted to one of the following programs, regardless of the sector targeted:**

- Master's research scholarships (B1)
- Master's research scholarships for medical students (B1M)
- Master's research scholarships for persons holding a professional health degree (B1DP)
- Doctoral research scholarships (B2)
- Doctoral research scholarships for medical students (B2M)
- Doctoral research scholarships for persons holding a professional health degree (B2DP)
- Postdoctoral scholarships (B3)
- Postdoctoral research-creation scholarships (B5)

In accordance with section 3.1 of the CGR, it is not possible to hold several FRQ training scholarships concurrently.

An applicant who has received or is currently receiving a research scholarship from a Québec or Canadian granting agency (for example, FRQ, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) for the program targeted by the application or for any other doctoral training program, and whose total value is equal to or greater than the total value of the Fonds scholarship, is not eligible for this competition.

An applicant requesting a scholarship to undertake preparatory studies is not eligible.

4. Application

The electronic application form for the Doctoral Research Scholarships for Persons Enrolled in an M.D.-Ph.D. Program 2027–2028 (B2M) is available in the Application area of the [FRQnet portal](#) at least one month before the competition deadline. Applicants may also consult the various FRQnet guides available in the Documentation tab at the top right of the FRQnet portal, including the [FRQnet portal user guide for applicants to funding programs](#).

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to choose:

- the correct funding program
- the correct form

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

Anyone wishing to submit an application must ensure that they obtain all required documents and submit the form within the required deadlines. They must also take into account the high volume of support requests sent to the Fonds at the end of the competition period, where applicable.

In accordance with section 3.6 of the CGR, the funding application form must be completed in French. Documents attached to the form may, however, be written in French or English. To ensure fair assessment for all applicants, attached documents must also comply with the [presentation standards for attached files](#). Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disqualification of the application without notice.

Any official document submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a professional translation certified as true to the original. Any other document submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a simple translation.

If an attached document is empty, or contains only a QR code or any other type of link relying solely on online content external to the application, the document will be considered inadmissible and the application may be deemed ineligible. Similarly, if an attached document does not meet the requirements described in the program rules, it will be considered inadmissible and the application may be deemed ineligible.

The applicant is fully responsible for their file. It must be complete and meet each of the program requirements. If any of the required documents are missing, the application will be deemed ineligible. No document received after the competition deadline will be considered, and no application update is possible. No document that is not required will be submitted to the assessment committee.

Submitting a funding application entails a commitment to read and comply with the [standards of ethics and integrity](#), the [Open Access Dissemination Policy](#) and the [Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

4.1 Documents required from the applicant

A checklist of documents to attach is available in the toolbox.

4.1.1 RAMQ card, proof of admission or consent form

Applicants who have Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent residency must attach to the application form:

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

Applicants who do not have Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent residency, or who do not hold one of the documents listed above, remain eligible for this competition but must complete their training at a Québec university institution. They must then submit one of the following two documents:

- proof of admission to a study program at a Québec university institution, or
- a consent form from the research supervisor at a Québec university institution, according to the procedure described in section 4.2

4.1.2 History of part-time sessions or sessions without registration and other special situations related to registration

Applicants who were registered part-time or were not registered for one or more sessions since the start of the training program for which the scholarship is requested must provide:

- A certificate from the registrar's office showing the history of sessions, or any other official document issued by a competent authority of the university institution specifying the sessions completed part-time or without registration.

Other special situations related to registration in the training program for which the scholarship is requested, and that may affect the eligibility period or the maximum number of eligible instalments, must also be attested by an official document issued by a competent authority of the institution. The Fonds reserves the right to determine the admissibility of the document provided.

4.1.3 Other documents to attach to the form

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

- **Recognitions** (maximum 1 page): applicants, where applicable, must describe the scholarships, awards and distinctions they have received, as well as their awarding conditions, specifying in particular whether these recognitions were awarded following an excellence-based competition process or granted on other bases.
- **Relevant experience and achievements** (maximum 4 pages): applicants must present and describe their experiences and achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) that are relevant to their research project and background. They must also highlight their capacity for engagement and leadership (inside and outside academia) and their ability to foster dialogue between science and society.
- **Research project** (maximum 2 pages): applicants must describe their research project. They must demonstrate the originality of the project and its potential contribution to the

advancement of knowledge, the clarity and coherence of the research problem, the relevance of the conceptual framework and methodology, as well as the feasibility of the project and the realism of the timeline. It is recommended that the project be presented clearly and simply, without jargon or undefined acronyms.

- **Bibliography** (maximum 1 page): applicants must list the complete references of the works used in the description of the proposed research. In accordance with section 3.2 of the CGR, hyperlinks to web pages may be included, like bibliographic references, when relevant.
- **Document for a second doctorate in another discipline** (maximum 1 page, where applicable): applicants who have obtained a first research doctorate in another discipline must demonstrate that the project covered by the application will be assessed by an evaluation committee different from the one that would have assessed the previous project, in accordance with section 3.3.1. This demonstration must be attached in the “Research title and field” section of the form.

4.1.4 Documents for exceptional measures

Applicants who wish to make use of **an exceptional measure concerning the eligibility period** (see section 3.3.2) must provide:

- **Justification for the request to extend or be exempted from the eligibility period** (maximum 1 page): the person must explain the request for an exception and provide, in the case of an extension request, the dates and duration of the interruptions, as well as the rate at which activities slowed down, where applicable. This document must be attached in the “Pre-eligibility” section of the form and **will not be sent to the evaluation committee**.
- **Supporting documents for the exception request** (maximum 5 pages): e.g., medical certificate, disability recognition, child’s birth certificate, tax credit application for caregivers, official employer document or letter, etc. These documents allow the Fonds to determine the duration of the extension to be granted. They must be attached in the “Pre-eligibility” section of the form and **will not be sent to the evaluation committee**.

4.2 Documents required from the research supervisor

This section is intended only for applicants who must complete their training at a Québec university institution and who are unable to provide proof of admission to a study program at a university institution. For all other applicants, this document is not mandatory. If awarded, however, the scholarship holder will be required to identify, in their FRQnet portal, the person supervising their research (see the [rules for using an FRQ master’s and doctoral scholarship](#)).

Applicants must identify, in the “Supervision” section of the form, the person supervising their research and send them a consent request by clicking the “Send a consent request” button (**this person must first create an FRQnet account if they have not already done so**). An email is then sent to the identified person and a consent form is automatically added to the Application area of their FRQnet portal.

The consent of the person supervising the research must be submitted beforehand, **before the applicant submits the scholarship application form**. It is possible to monitor the status at any

time in the Application area of the FRQnet portal, in the Funding section, by clicking the “Consent” button for the relevant scholarship application. The consent status in the FRQnet portal must indicate “Yes” and include a consent date. Otherwise, the applicant will not be able to submit their form and the application will be inadmissible. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide the person supervising the research with the instructions needed to create an FRQnet account and to ensure that the consent is submitted within the prescribed deadlines.

Once the consent has been submitted by the person supervising the research, it can no longer be modified.

4.3 Eligibility notice

After receiving the applications, the Fonds verifies their eligibility. A notice will be sent by email, no later than December following the competition deadline, to inform the applicant of the result of the eligibility review of their application and, where applicable, of its transmission to the evaluation committee. An application sent to the evaluation committee may nevertheless be deemed ineligible at any time.

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 (45 points)

- Honours (awards, distinctions, scholarships)
- Achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) and relevant experience (related to the project or the applicant’s background)
- Capacity for engagement and leadership (in and out of academia)
- Ability to facilitate dialogue between science and society

Research project (55 points)

- Originality of the project and potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge
- Clarity and coherence of the research problem
- Appropriateness of the conceptual framework and methodology
- Feasibility of the project and realism of the time frame

Total (100 points)

Only applications with a score of 70% or higher may be recommended for a training award. However, achieving a score of 70% does not guarantee that a scholarship will be awarded, as the number of scholarships awarded depends on the available budget.

6. Partnership scholarships

The scholarship may be offered in partnership. To do so, the applicant must select, in the “Partnerships” section of the application form, one or more partners whose research areas correspond to their research topic. The applicant must also ensure that they meet the conditions stated in the partner description, where applicable. If awarded, the Fonds sends the selected partners the information needed to assess the relevance of the partnership based on their strategic and research priorities (project title, summary, research areas and bibliography). If the applicant’s research project is deemed relevant and selected by one or more partners, the scholarship will be offered in partnership.

Partner	Description
Pediatric Research Foundation	Childhood diseases Excellence scholarships in pediatric research, primarily in the field of diagnosing childhood diseases. Scholarship amount: \$29,000 per year
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ALS Québec wishes to support the funding of research projects on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Québec Learning Health System Support Unit (the SPOR National Training Entity)	Research conducted with and for patients within a learning health system approach The Québec Learning Health System Support Unit is a provincial unit of the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The Unit works to continuously improve Québec’s health 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 innovations, and change facilitation. Its Québec-wide team deploys its expertise by offering training, consulting, tools, facilitation and networking: It builds scientific and experiential knowledge It offers tailored support to project leads in the network It orchestrates continuous quality improvement The National Training Entity (NTE), also an integral part of CIHR’s SPOR, is a pan-Canadian organization that aims to increase, support and maintain the capacity of a research environment focused on partnership with and for patients, and that is collaborative and interdisciplinary. The NTE provides answers to evolving health-care questions, thereby helping to improve the patient experience. Scholarships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the National Training Entity allow award holders to further develop their skills and gain experience in research with and for patients, to network, and to work interdisciplinarily with individuals and organizations active in health within a learning health system approach.

7. Announcement of results

Competition results are announced at the end of April. In accordance with section 5.2 of the CGR, a person who receives a funding offer must indicate whether they accept or decline it no later than 30 days after the notice is posted in the FRQnet portal. A funding offer declined by the applicant cannot be reactivated.

8. Scholarship start date

The scholarship must take effect **between May 1 of the year of the offer and January 1 of the following year**. The duration of funding is established based on the information provided in the scholarship application. No upward adjustment to the duration of funding is permitted.

9. Rules for using the scholarship

To learn about the rules that apply if an award is granted, the person who receives a scholarship offer must consult the [FRQ scholarship use rules](#). The applicant is nevertheless required to review them when applying for the scholarship and keep them for future consultation if an award is granted. To retain the scholarship, the award holder must fully comply with the eligibility requirements and the rules in force at the time the application was submitted.

The technical procedures related to managing the award are found in the [scholarship user guide](#), made available when the results are announced.