

Master's Research Scholarships for Individuals Enrolled in an M.D.–M.Sc. Program 2027–2028 (B1M)

<u>Competition launch date:</u> July 2026	<u>Announcement of results:</u> Late April 2027	<u>Amount:</u> \$20,000 per year
<u>Deadline (application):</u> October 1, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. (EST)	<u>Funding start year:</u> 2027–2028	<u>Duration of funding:</u> Maximum 6 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 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 clarifications and additional information to the CGR. In the event of a discrepancy with the CGR, the program rules prevail.

A PDF version and an accessible version of the rules for this program are available in full in the toolbox.

The master's 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. **On the competition deadline date and time, namely October 1, 2026 at 4:00 p.m., 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 to add a document to the application, after the competition deadline.

Questions?

Health sector: boursesm.sante@frq.gouv.qc.ca, 514-873-2114, extension 4256

Technical questions about the application form?

FRQnet IT Assistance Centre: 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 may result in longer-than-usual processing times for support requests. Our teams are doing everything possible to handle each request with care. Thank you for your understanding.

The FRQ is a signatory to 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, in particular, 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, such as [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

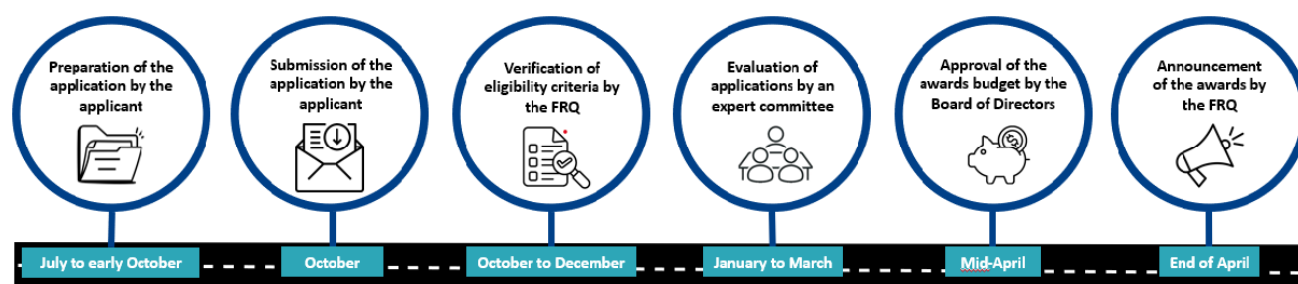


Table of contents

1. Objectives	3
2. Funding characteristics	3
3. Eligibility requirements	3
4. Application	6
5. Evaluation	10
6. Partnerships	10
7. Announcement of results	11
8. Start date of the scholarship	12
9. Rules for using the scholarship	12

1. Objectives

The training scholarships offered by the Fonds de recherche du Québec aim to help ensure the development of the next generation of students in all research sectors: natural sciences, mathematics and engineering (Nature and Technologies), human health (Health), social sciences and humanities, arts and literature (Society and Culture).

More specifically, the master's research scholarship for medical students aims to:

- Stimulate the next generation of students' interest in research
- Support research excellence by providing financial assistance to the strongest candidates so they can begin or continue a master's research program

This specific program is designed to allow medical students to pursue, in parallel with their medical studies, research training leading to a master's degree.

2. Funding characteristics

2.1 Value and duration of the scholarship

The annual value of the master's scholarship is **\$20,000**.

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

Quotas

One new scholarship per year, per university.

Exceptionally, two scholarships may be awarded if no application to the Doctoral Research Scholarships for Individuals Enrolled in an M.D.–Ph.D. Program 2027–2028 (B2M) is submitted by a university.

3. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements. If funding is 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 master's scholarship, applicants must have:

- Canadian citizenship or Canadian permanent residency,

and

- a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid on the competition deadline date, or proof that a card has been requested from the RAMQ and will be valid on the competition deadline date, or, if the applicant is in the process of renewing their RAMQ card on the competition deadline date, proof that a new card has been requested from the 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 program of study at a Québec university **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 complete training under a cotutelle arrangement with a university outside Québec (see section 4.1.1).

3.2 Target applicants

This program is intended for applicants who:

- hold or plan to obtain an undergraduate or graduate university 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, 2028, simultaneously in a regular research-based master's program* (M.Sc.) as part of an M.D.–M.Sc. program at a university recognized by the FRQ. To be considered "research-based," a master's program must lead to the writing of a research thesis. The following are not accepted: an essay, research report, dissertation or article, for example. Professional master's programs and master's programs offered only on a part-time basis are not eligible.

*In the case of an accelerated transition from the master's to the doctoral level, the program begun or continued may be a graduate-level research doctoral program.

- will submit a research project directly related to human health, feasible within a maximum period of 2 years. This research project may be carried out in non-consecutive blocks of 2 to 4 months or integrated into the M.D. program. The applicant is not required to interrupt their medical studies.
- will have completed 3 terms or fewer of their research master's program by April 30, 2027. The number of terms of enrolment is calculated from the first date of enrolment in a research-based master's program in human health.

3.3 Eligibility period

3.3.1 Master's research scholarships for individuals enrolled in an M.D.–M.Sc. program

To submit an application, applicants **must have been enrolled in the master's program for a maximum of 3 full-time terms before May 1, 2027.**

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

- Full-time terms completed at the time the scholarship takes effect
- Part-time terms completed, as specified in the [equivalency table](#) for terms completed on a part-time basis
- The number of terms during which the applicant received financial support from any recognized federal or Québec provincial government funding agency (NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, FRQ), so that the total financial support received does not exceed 6 terms

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

- Terms with no enrolment
- Terms completed as part of a professional master's program
- Terms completed as part of a research master's program in another discipline

If, on the competition deadline date, the applicant is not enrolled in a master's program but plans to undertake such studies, they are eligible to submit an application provided their program begins no later than the winter 2028 term.

Applicants who have obtained a first research master's degree and wish to undertake a second may submit an application provided that the second master's is in another discipline and that the first master's was not funded by the FRQ through its training scholarship competitions. Applicants must demonstrate that the funding application for the second master's will be assessed by a committee different from the one that would have assessed the application for the first master's. This demonstration must be attached to the "Research title and field" section of the form. The list of evaluation committees is available in the toolbox. In the absence of this demonstration, the Fonds reserves the right to refuse an application if it considers that there are too many similarities between the two master's programs.

3.3.2 Exception measures

- **Extension.** Applicants who interrupted or delayed their studies 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.** An individual 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 set out 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 6 terms at the master's level.

The request for an exception, along with supporting documents indicating the date and duration of the interruption and, where applicable, the rate of reduction in activities, 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 program officer before submitting the application form. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse any insufficiently justified request for the application of exception measures.

3.4 Restrictions

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

In the same year, applicants may submit **only one scholarship application to one of the following programs, regardless of the target sector:**

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

In accordance with section 3.1 of the CGR, multiple FRQ training scholarships cannot be held concurrently.

Applicants who have received or are currently receiving a research scholarship from a Québec or Canadian funding agency (for example FRQ, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) for the program covered by the application or for any other master's-level training program, and whose total value is equal to or greater than the total value of the Fonds scholarship, are not eligible for this competition.

Applicants requesting a scholarship to complete preparatory studies are not eligible.

4. Application

The electronic application form for the master's research scholarship for medical students 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 under the Documentation tab in the upper right corner of the FRQnet portal. See in particular the [FRQnet portal user guide for applicants to funding programs](#).

Applicants are entirely responsible for selecting:

- 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 evaluation committee to another.

Applicants who wish to submit an application must ensure that they obtain all required documents and submit the form within the prescribed deadlines. They must also take into account the high volume of support requests received by the Fonds near the end of the competition, 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 evaluation 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 blank, or contains only a QR code or any other type of link that makes it rely solely on content available online and 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.

Applicants are fully responsible for their file. It must be complete and meet each of the program requirements. If any required document is missing, the application will be deemed ineligible. No document received after the competition deadline will be considered and no update to the application will be possible. No document that is not required will be submitted to the evaluation 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 be attached 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 that is valid on the competition deadline date,

or

- proof that a card has been requested from the RAMQ and will be valid on the competition deadline date,

or

- if the applicant is in the process of renewing their RAMQ card on the competition deadline date, proof that a new card has been requested from the RAMQ and a copy of the 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 program of study at a Québec university institution,

or

- a consent form from the person supervising the research at a Québec university institution, according to the procedure described in section 4.2

4.1.2 History of part-time terms or terms without enrolment and other special situations related to enrolment

Applicants who have been enrolled part time or were not enrolled for one or more terms 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 terms, or any other official document issued by a competent authority of the university institution specifying the terms completed part time or without enrolment.

Other special situations related to enrolment in the training program for which the scholarship is requested, and that may affect the eligibility period or the maximum number of eligible payments, must also be certified 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:

- **Program of study** (maximum 1 page): applicants must describe their master's program of study, specifying its objectives, duration, the number of credits devoted to coursework, the number of credits devoted to research, and whether it leads to a thesis, essay or other requirement.
- **Awards and distinctions** (maximum 1 page): applicants must, where applicable, describe the scholarships, prizes and distinctions they have received, as well as the terms under which they were awarded, specifying in particular whether they were awarded following an excellence-based competition process or on another basis.
- **Relevant experience and achievements** (maximum 2 pages): applicants must present and describe experiences and achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) that are relevant in light of the proposed research and their background.
- **Proposed research** (maximum 1 page): applicants must describe the proposed research (originality, clarity and coherence), the overview of the conceptual framework and the methodology elements, in order to demonstrate its relevance. It is recommended that the research be presented clearly and simply, without jargon or undefined acronyms.
- **Bibliography** (maximum 1 page): applicants must list the full 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, in the manner of bibliographic references, when relevant.
- **Document for a second master's degree in another discipline** (maximum 1 page, where applicable): applicants who have obtained a first research master's degree in another discipline must demonstrate that the project covered by the application will be evaluated by an evaluation committee different from the one that would have evaluated the previous project, in accordance with section 3.3.1. This demonstration must be attached to the "Research title and field" section of the form.

4.1.4 Documents for exception measures

Applicants who wish to avail themselves of an **exception measure concerning the eligibility period** (see section 3.3.2) must provide:

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

4.2 Documents required from the person supervising the research

This requirement applies only to applicants who must complete their training at a Québec university institution and who are unable to provide proof of admission to a program of study at a university institution. For all other applicants, this document is not mandatory. If funding is 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 that person a consent request by clicking the “Send a consent request” button **(that 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 follow up at any time in the Application Area of the FRQnet portal, in the Funding section, by clicking the “Consent” button for the scholarship application concerned. The consent status in the FRQnet portal must indicate “Yes” and include a consent date. Otherwise, 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 person supervising the research with the necessary instructions for creating 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 will no longer be possible to make changes to it.

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.

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)

- Awards and distinctions (prizes, distinctions and scholarships received)
- Achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) and relevant experience (related to the proposed research or background)

Interest and potential of the proposed research (45 points)

- Originality, clarity and coherence of the proposed research
- Relevance of the overview of the conceptual framework and methodology elements

General presentation of the file (5 points)

Total (100 points)

Only applications that receive a score of 70% or higher may be recommended for the awarding of a training scholarship. However, obtaining a score of 70% does not guarantee that a scholarship will be awarded.

6. Partnerships

The scholarship may be offered in partnership. To do so, applicants must select, in the “Partnerships” section of the application form, one or more partners whose research areas correspond to their research topic. They must also ensure that they meet the conditions stated in the partner description, where applicable. If funding is awarded, the Fonds will send the selected partners the information needed to assess the relevance of the partnership in light of their strategic and research priorities (project title, summary, research fields 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.

6.1 Health sector partners

Partner	Description
Pediatric Research Foundation	Childhood diseases Training scholarships in pediatric research, primarily in the field of diagnosis of childhood diseases. Scholarship amount: \$22,500 per year

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Society (ALS)	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis ALS Quebec aims to support the funding of research projects focused on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.
Quebec Support Unit for the Learning Health System (LHS) (the SPOR National Training Entity)	Patient-oriented research with and for patients in a learning health system approach The Quebec Support Unit for the Learning Health System (LHS) 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 Quebec'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-based work, the integration of science and innovations, and change facilitation. Its Quebec-wide team deploys its expertise by offering training, consultation, tools, facilitation and networking: • It builds scientific and experiential knowledge • It offers customized 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 sustain the capacity of a partnership-based, collaborative and interdisciplinary patient-oriented research environment. The NTE provides responses to evolving health care questions, thereby helping to improve the patient experience. The scholarships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the National Training Entity allow award holders to 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

The competition results are announced in late April. In accordance with section 5.2 of the CGR, an individual 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. Start date of the scholarship

The scholarship must begin **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 authorized.

9. Rules for using the scholarship

To learn about the rules that apply if funding is awarded, the individual who receives a scholarship offer must consult the [FRQ scholarship rules of use](#). However, the applicant must read them when applying for the scholarship and keep them for future reference if funding is awarded. To retain the scholarship, the award holder must fully comply with the eligibility requirements and the rules in effect at the time the application was submitted.

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