Education Program Application Guidelines

Last updated October 2026

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Description	The Summer Student Research Program (SSRP) complements the hands-on research experience of undergraduate and medical students completing a summer research placement with a BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR) Investigator. Throughout June and July, students engage in professional development workshops, career exploration, and networking opportunities designed to enhance their research experience and support their growth as emerging child health researchers.
Stipend	N/A – No funding is associated with this application.
Deadline	Friday, April 30, 2027, 11:59 pm OR until the program reaches full capacity.
Application Form	https://www.bcchr.ca/our-programs/education-program/
Questions	reseduc@bcchr.ca

Reminder: The SSRP is intended for students who have limited research experience and are looking to build foundational research skills. Applicants who already have extensive research experience may not find this program applicable. *Review our self-assessment to help determine whether the SSRP aligns with your experience and goals.*

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Summer Student Research Program has two components:

1. **Research Placement**: An opportunity to work with a BCCHR Investigator on a research project. During your placement, you will become part of a research team, contribute to ongoing research activities, and gain hands-on experience under the guidance of your supervisor. Learn more about securing a research placement.

2. **Education Program**: An 8-week program that complements the research placement with workshops, seminars and networking events. Students develop research, academic, and professional skills while connecting with peers and researchers. The program concludes with Poster Day**,** where students get the chance to present their summer project during a moderated poster presentation event.

On top of the demands of the research placement, students are expected to complete a minimum of **8 hours of the education program by 11:59 pm on Friday, July 23, 2027.**

What does this look like?

- Eligible activities include all workshops, seminars, networking events, and other sessions listed on the program calendar.
- Each eligible activity is worth 1 hour towards the 8-hour attendance requirement.
- Program hours may be earned by attending eligible activities in-person, virtually, or by viewing session recordings at a later date (if available). Students must watch at least 80% of the recorded session in order to have it count.
- Attendance is recorded for all eligible program activities. Students can monitor their completed hours online to ensure they are on track to meet the program requirements.

Program Milestone: To encourage consistent engagement, students are expected to complete at least 4 of the required 8 hours by June 30, 2027.

Only students who have completed at least 8 hours of program activities by 11:59 pm on Friday, July 23, 2027 will be eligible to:

- Present their research at Poster Day.
- Receive a Program Certificate.

ELIGIBILITY

Part #1: Student Eligibility

- Be enrolled in an undergraduate or medical degree program at a recognized Canadian or international university.
- **New for 2027: Was not previously enrolled in the 2026 Summer Student Research Program.**
- Have the availability to actively participate in the education program — this includes completing at least 8 hours of eligible activities by 11:59 pm on Friday, July 23, 2027.

Notes:

- The following students are not eligible: 1) master's students and 2) individuals who recently completed their undergraduate program, but are not currently enrolled in a medical degree program and 3) high school students.
- International students are eligible provided they are legally authorized to participate in research activities in Canada.
- Students participating in a work learn, co-op, INSPIRE, or other research training program are eligible.
- Volunteers, participants working on a part-time basis, or remote/hybrid participants are eligible assuming their schedule allows them to complete at least 8 hours of the education program by 11:59 pm on Friday, July 23, 2027.

Part #2: Supervisor Eligibility

- Supervised by a BCCHR Investigator at BC Children's Hospital whose area of investigation has direct relevance to improving the health of children. *BCCHR Affiliate and Emeritus Investigator's are not eligible to supervise students in the Summer Student Researc*h Program

Part #2: Research Placement Eligibility

1. Have a confirmed research project focused on improving the health of children and families. Students are responsible for identifying and connecting with a potential supervisor and confirming their research placement before applying.

2. Conducting research that is connected to BC Children's Hospital. Remote research activities are permitted if they are directly connected to a research project based at BC Children's Hospital.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Student Information	Research Placement Information
• Name & Email • Academic Status • University, Academic Program, Year of Study • Project Title • Funding Source (if applicable)	• Supervisor Name & Email • Project Title • Research Placement Start & End Date

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

The application will be posted on the Education Program Application website in early April.

The application can be submitted by the BCCHR Investigator, Research Team or the applicant.

Deadline: Applications will be accepted until 11:59 pm on Friday, April 30, 2027, OR until the program reaches full capacity. Once the program is full, additional applicants will be placed on a waitlist.

Notification of Results: Results of the Education Program Application will be sent to the applicant and primary supervisor by early May.

The Education Program Application is not a competitive process. Applications are reviewed for eligibility, and spaces are offered until the program reaches full capacity.

APPENDIX: PROJECT RELEVANCE

The Summer Student Research Program is funded by the *BC Children's Hospital Foundation*. To be eligible to participate, the application must demonstrate the project has **direct relevance to improving the health of children (individuals 0–18 years of age) and their families.**

Applications that do not adequately demonstrate the project relevance to improving the health of children and their families will be INELIGIBLE for the SSRP. All decisions on criteria eligibility will be made by BCCHR Leadership and considered final.

Can you adequately demonstrate that the project meets at least one of the following criteria?

- Striving to improve treatments or find cures for a childhood disease or disorder.
- Studying the social effects of disease on the family.
- Studying the developmental origins of childhood health and disease.
- Advancing knowledge of child health and development.
- Helping to inform policy and practices that impacts children and their families.
- Working to develop breakthrough technologies that will improve the well-being of children.
- Improving health outcomes for children.
- Enabling children and families to live a healthier life.
- Examining a sample or population that includes children and/or families with children.

Relevant project examples

Below is a list of research projects that typically meet the program criteria. If you are unsure if your research project has direct relevance to improving the health of children and their families, contact reseduc@bcchr.ca for more information.

- Research projects that adequately demonstrate improving the mental health or wellbeing of children.
- Research projects that adequately address the social impacts on families with children 0-18 years of age.
- Research projects that address gaps in healthcare access/clinical knowledge, injury prevention or social structures that directly impact children.
- Research projects on maternal or fetal health that adequately address how early development plays a critical role in the health of children later in life.
- Research projects on reproductive health that adequately address the origins of childhood health and disease.
- Global health research projects that work to improve children's health world-wide with potential implications for local children and their families.
- Research projects that adequately demonstrate how genetic, biological, social, and environmental factors are determinants of child health before birth and in childhood.

Projects that will NOT be considered

- ***Research projects focused on*** → ***that do not adequately address***
  - adult health disorders or disease (i.e., Parkinson's, Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, etc.)
  - women's health issues (i.e., contraception, pregnancy management, abortion, endometriosis, etc.)
  - adult substance abuse problems

  - the social effects of the disorder or disease on children 0–18 years of age OR
  - how uncovering mechanisms of the disease or a deeper understanding of the disease may lead to developing new testing/diagnoses for childhood diseases or disorders in the future.

- Research projects focused on environmental concerns that do not adequately address the relevant impacts on health outcomes for children or their families.
- Research projects focused on an adult community/adult data set that do not adequately address the relevant impacts on health outcomes for children.
- Research projects focused on reproductive health that do not adequately address developmental origins or the relevant impacts on health outcomes for children.