

Call for Applications

2019 AVC Veterinary Student Research Awards (VetSRA)

The UPEI-AVC VetSRA is a program intended to enhance the engagement of veterinary students (domestic or international) in research and to complement the NSERC-USRA program. As such, the award is restricted to veterinary students currently enrolled in the DVM program at AVC and can be applied to research conducted under the supervision of a fulltime faculty member from any department at AVC. For faculty eligible for NSERC-USRA supervision students will automatically be included in both the VetSRA and the NSERC-USRA provided that all application criteria for both are met. Students interested in being considered for both VetSRA and NSERC-USRA awards must apply in conjunction with the same supervisor for both programs.

In order to apply, students must have completed (as of start of research award) at least 1 year of DVM program, be available for 12 or more (depending on supervisor) consecutive weeks of research involvement (no holiday time) during the summer of 2019, be able to confirm a willing supervisor (faculty) at AVC, and agree to participate in the AVC Summer Research and Leadership Program (includes producing a scientific poster).

Awards are equivalent to the standard expected income paid to veterinary students (i.e. approx. \$525 per week) working in research laboratories at AVC, the total of \$6300 will be provided as \$4500 from the VetSRA and a minimum top up of \$1800 or more from the supervisor's funds. Prior to the assignment of this award, full funding must be confirmed.

The **adjudication** will consider the applicant's academic performance and their letter of interest outlining their research goals. Only applications with proposed faculty agreement will be considered. Any students requiring assistance in identifying potential research supervisors should consult with Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Office (lhammell@upei.ca or dwakelin@upei.ca) as early in the planning process as possible.

Faculty supervisors are eligible to apply for, and supervise (as primary supervisor), maximum of two VetSRA sponsored students. Supervisors should not agree to more than 2 VetSRA applications. Co-supervision by faculty from different disciplines is encouraged, but a primary supervisor must be identified in the application. All *fulltime* tenure-track and contract faculty at AVC are eligible to be supervisors, adjunct or cross-appointed faculty are not eligible.

Faculty are encouraged to identify external sources for research support (i.e. student stipend top-up and research operating funds). Faculty are also encouraged to extend the student longer than 12 weeks using other sources of funds. Faculty lacking matching funding will indicate this in their support form but it should be recognized that there is a maximum of four fully funded students. If the student is selected lower than the top four for fully funded VetSRA, the award will go to the next student with faculty matching support.

Application process:

1. Visit the AVC SRLP website, download and complete the Application Form Part I (student)
2. Based on your area of interest, approach suitable supervisors and seek information on potential research projects for which you will take an active role in planning and completion to a logical and reasonable endpoint (e.g. that will be suitable for a poster presentation at the end of the program). A student may apply only once to VetSRA 2019.
3. Prepare a letter (max 1 page) outlining your research project objectives and how you would benefit from this research award. In the letter, you should show an understanding of the research project and comment on how this experience will further your veterinary career and professional objectives. Students should also comment on previous research experience and how it has contributed to your scholarly achievements.
4. Have your supervisor complete the Application Form Part II (Supervisor) and submit to Darlene Wakelin, Room 2309 dwakelin@upei.ca , by February 4, 2019 at 8:30 am.
5. Submit the completed application form (Part I, student), your letter of intent, and a CV. These documents and the Supervisor's Form (part II) must be received by the AVC Graduate Studies and Research Office by 4 February 2019 at 8:30 am. You will automatically be included in both the VetSRA and the NSERC-USRA provided that all application and supervisor criteria for both are met. If you are eligible for USRA (i.e. a faculty supervisor with NSERC eligible funding), then you will be asked to submit further documentation at a later date.
6. Adjudication will consider student academic performance and the letter of intent equally. Preference will be for students who have not received VetSRA previously. Once final decisions are made, the student will have 28 days to confirm the supervisor's funding contribution. Failure to secure the additional funding will cancel the award.