

2025 Guidelines:

2025 Atlantic Veterinary College Veterinary Student Research Awards (AVC VetSRA)

The UPEI-AVC VetSRA is a program intended to enhance the engagement of veterinary students (domestic or international) in research. 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 full-time faculty member from any department at AVC. The interested student should approach the faculty member to see if they are interested in mentoring the student and applying for AVC VetSRA funding. Faculty members may receive VetSRA funding for no more than 2 students. If multiple students approach the faculty member, the faculty member has the final decision on who they choose. The student completes the "Application Form- Part 1", letter of interest and CV; and the supervisor completes the "Application Form-Part 2" and submits by the deadline. Students interested in being considered for both VetSRA and NSERC-USRA awards must apply in conjunction with the same supervisor for both programs.

Eligibility: Students must have completed (as of start of the research award) at least 1 year of DVM program, be available for 12 or more (depending on supervisor) consecutive weeks of research involvement during the summer of 2025, be able to confirm a willing faculty supervisor at AVC and agree to participate in the AVC Summer Research and Leadership Program (includes submitting an abstract and presenting a scientific poster).

Awards are equivalent to approximately \$618.75 per week. The total of \$7,425.00 will be provided as \$5,275.00 from AVC VetSRA and a minimum top up of \$2,150.00 from the supervisor's funds. Prior to the assignment of this award, full funding support from the supervisor must be confirmed.

The adjudication will consider the applicant's academic performance and their letter of interest outlining their research interests and goals. Only applications with proposed faculty agreement will be considered. Any students requiring assistance in identifying potential research supervisors should consult with Sunny Hartwig, AVC Coordinator of Undergraduate Veterinary Research (shartwig@upei.ca or scpineau@upei.ca) as early in the planning process as possible.

Faculty supervisors are eligible to apply for, and supervise (as primary supervisor), a maximum of two VetSRA sponsored students. Supervisors should not agree to more than two VetSRA applications. For arrangements to have more than two VetSRA-supported students (or no more than three when combined with the SJDAWC VetSRA), please discuss this with the AVC Coordinator of Undergraduate Veterinary Research early in the planning process. 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.

2025 Application process:

1. 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).
2. Visit the AVC SRLP website, download and complete the Application Form Part 1 (student). A student may apply only once to VetSRA 2025. Recipients of VetSRA funding in 2024 are eligible to apply for VetSRA 2025 assuming other eligibility criteria are met.
3. Prepare a letter of interest (max 1 page) in which you describe:
 - a. How your research interests relate to your proposed project.
 - b. Brief project background that demonstrates your understanding of the research question.
 - c. Project objective(s).
 - d. How this experience will further your veterinary career and professional goals.
4. Prepare an updated curriculum vitae (CV).
5. Submit the CV along with the completed application form (Part I, student) and your letter of interest to Sherri Pineau, scpineau@upei.ca, by Monday, January 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
6. Have your supervisor complete the application Form (Part II, supervisor) and submit to Sherri Pineau, scpineau@upei.ca, by Monday, January 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.
7. Adjudication will consider student academic performance and the letter of interest. Preference will be for students who have not received VetSRA previously. Once final decisions are made, the student will have two weeks to confirm the supervisor's funding contribution. Failure to secure the additional funding will cancel the award.