



VSRN
Vision Sciences
Research Network

STUDENT PROGRAM
VSRN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPLEMENT
(formerly VSRN Excellence Awards)

2026-2027 Competition
Vision Health Research Network

INSTRUCTIONS

Deadline:

August 18*

This date was chosen to allow the scientific committee to evaluate applications early enough for students to benefit from this feedback and use it to improve their scholarship application to major funding agencies.

**If this date falls on a Friday or Saturday, candidates will have until Sunday evening to submit their application.*

Objective

This award aims to help Master's and PhD students conducting vision research perform better in scholarship competitions run by major funding agencies (FRQ, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC or MITACS). Since this competition reuses certain sections required in those scholarship applications, students will benefit from constructive feedback from experienced evaluators, allowing them to strengthen their application and increase their chances of success in these competitions.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the "VSRN Scholarship Supplement" competition:

- The candidate must be enrolled **full-time** no later than **September 30, 2026**, in a **Master's** or **PhD** program under the supervision of an RRSV member.
- The candidate's research project (**Master's or PhD**) must focus on vision health.
- The candidate commits to submitting a scholarship application to one of the FRQ agencies (FRQS, FRQNT or FRQSC) during the current year (fall of the same year).
- In rare cases where the candidate is not eligible for an FRQ Master's or PhD scholarship competition, but is eligible for a CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC competition, the candidate commits to submitting their application to one of these three agencies.
- Where applicable, university pre-selection — required before submitting an application to a major funding agency — is an eligibility criterion for the RRSV performance competition.
- **It is the student's responsibility to ensure their eligibility for the scholarship competition to which they are applying, regardless of the agency.**
- A student may receive only **one (1) RRSV Scholarship Supplement** over the course of their studies (across all levels).

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the quality of the candidate's academic record and their chances of success in the scholarship competition to which they are applying.

Amount and number of awards

The value of the Scholarship Supplement is **\$4,000** for both Master's and PhD levels. It is not renewable.

Commitment

Any recipient of a Scholarship Supplement commits to :

- Acknowledge RRSV support in any presentation (oral or poster) and publication resulting from the project for which the award was granted, using one of the following wordings, depending on language and context :
« The Vision Health Research Network »
- Present the results of their research project at the RRSV annual meeting
- Respond to RRSV follow-up requests after completing their Master's or PhD, in order to help evaluate the Performance Award Program.

Number of awards per competition

The number of awards granted depends on fund availability.

How to apply

Candidates must complete the **VSRN electronic application form** available on the "[VSRN Scholarship Supplement](#)" competition homepage and attach the following documents as a single **combined PDF file** :

1. The following documents :
 - Proof of residency (RAMQ card or proof of university enrollment) ;
 - Official transcripts ;

2. These sections :

Section 1: Project summary in plain language (300 words/language)

Section 2: Program of study and host environment (**MASTER'S ONLY – 1 page**)

Section 3: Distinctions (**1 page**)

Section 4: Integrated presentation of academic path (**1 page**)

Section 5: Interruptions, slowdowns and other special circumstances (optional)

Section 6: Relevant experience and achievements (**2 pages**)

Section 7: Proposed research project (**1 page for Master's / 2 pages for PhD**)

Section 8: Bibliography (**1 page**)

IMPORTANT: Recipients of the *Scholarship Supplement* must **submit confirmation of submission** of their funding application to the FRQ (or CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) within one week of its submission. Please consult the websites of the eligible agencies (mentioned above) for their respective deadlines. Incomplete and/or non-compliant applications will be rejected.

For further information, please contact:

Vision Health Research Network (visionnetwork.ca)

reseau.vision@ircm.qc.ca

Remote: 438-825-1425

Réseau thématique soutenu par le

Fonds de recherche
Santé
Québec 



STEP 1 - IDENTIFICATION

*Candidate :	<i>First name</i>	<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>Email</i>
*Which RRSV competition are you applying to?	☐ VSRN Scholarship Supplement– Master's ☐ VSRN Scholarship Supplement– Doctorate		
*Project title			
*Program of study :	(to be completed)		
*Type of research	<i>Basic, clinical, translational (preclinical), epidemiology, knowledge transfer, technology transfer, social sciences, policy and public health</i>		
*Affiliation	<i>University, research center, institute, etc.</i>		
*Axis	<i>Vision neuroscience, emerging technologies, vision access and participation, vision biology and pathology</i>		
*Sectors concerned	<i>Health, natural sciences and engineering, social sciences and humanities, arts and letters, vision, access and participation</i>		
*Supervisor	<i>First name</i>	<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>Email</i>
Co-supervisor (if applicable)	<i>First name</i>	<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>Email</i>
*Which major funding agency do you plan to submit an application to this fall ?			
☐ FRQS	☐ FRQNT	☐ FRQSC	☐ NSERC
☐ CIHR	☐ SSHRC	☐ PBEEE (FRQ)	☐ MITACS
*Does this project result from the use of an RRSV resource ?			☐ No ☐ Yes
<i>(Programs of the network : shared infrastructure, national and international networking, or other RRSV student funding)</i>			

¹Note : Make sure to fill out the form corresponding to the chosen competition and send a copy to RRSV. You must meet all eligibility criteria for the chosen competition.

**Mandatory fields*

STEP 2 – DOCUMENTS TO ATTACH

Attach all documents and all sections in a single PDF file (see “How to apply ” section) to the electronic form.

MASTER'S	PHD
Proof of residency (e.g., RAMQ card or proof of enrollment)	Proof of residency (e.g., RAMQ card or proof of enrollment)
Transcripts (including grading scale)	Transcripts (including grading scale)
Section 1 Section 2 Section 3 Section 4 Section 5 (optional) Section 6 Section 7 Section 8	Section 1 Section 3 Section 4 Section 5 (optional) Section 6 Section 7 Section 8

Each document must not exceed 30 MB.

Submit

You will receive an email confirming submission of your application.

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 1 : PROJECT SUMMARY (300 words maximum per language)

Summary intended for the general public. Brief description of your program or research project (FRENCH and ENGLISH – where applicable)

FRENCH

ENGLISH

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

MASTER'S ONLY

SECTION 2 : PROGRAM OF STUDY AND HOST ENVIRONMENT (1 page maximum)

Describe your Master's program of study, specifying the objectives, duration, number of course credits, number of research credits, and whether it concludes with a thesis, an essay, or other.

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 3 : DISTINCTIONS (add as many lines as needed)

Describe the scholarships, awards, and distinctions received, as well as their selection criteria.

Funding source	Province, Country	Name of scholarship or distinction	Amount in \$ CAD	Start (YYYY/MM/DD)	End (YYYY/MM/DD)	Recognition obtained through competition (yes or no)

*Add as many lines as needed

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 4 : INTEGRATED PRESENTATION OF ACADEMIC PATH (1 page maximum)

You must present an integrated overview of your path by establishing connections between your experiences and interests, on the one hand, and your choices of direction, training and academic and professional progression, on the other hand. This section should help the evaluation committee clearly understand your path.

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 5 : INTERRUPTIONS, SLOWDOWNS AND OTHER SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES (optional)

This allows candidates who wish to do so to indicate interruptions, slowdowns, or other special circumstances that may have impacted their research and training activities and achievements.

- a) Indicate whether it is an **interruption**, a **slowdown** or **another type of circumstance**.
- b) Indicate the **start and end dates** of the relevant period, if applicable.
- c) Attach a **brief description** of the **impact of the reported situations on activities and achievements** (publications, funding obtained, academic record, conferences, ability to commit, etc.). Candidates do not need to detail sensitive personal information (e.g., it is not necessary to specify the medical condition or type of disability). Include only the information necessary to contextualize the file presented. **This text must not exceed 15 lines.**

Type	Date	Brief description

*Add as many lines as needed

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 6 : RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS (maximum 2 pages)

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE : *Starting with the most recent, this includes teaching, mentoring, teaching assistantships, and participation in research projects or internships. Describe your participation in research projects and training internships during your previous studies. Identify the project and internship supervisors, and indicate the start and end dates.*

Distinguish between mandatory research internships that are part of your university curriculum (e.g., co-op program) and optional or self-initiated (volunteer) internships. Clearly explain the added value of these internships in relation to your program of study and research project.

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS : Publications, conferences and presentations

- **PUBLICATIONS** : Specify the role of each author and estimate your contribution as a percentage. Whether or not you have publications, we invite you to describe factors in your research environment that may have influenced your ability to publish. Indicate how many of the listed publications are : peer-reviewed journal articles : a) as first author (published, in press or accepted), b) as second author or more (published), c) as second author or more (in press or accepted), d) as first author or more (submitted) ; book chapters or edited volumes ; other types of documents.
- **PRESENTATIONS** : Indicate how many were oral presentations : a) institutional, b) regional or provincial, c) national, d) international. Do the same for poster presentations.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL OR SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS (academic or non-academic settings).

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 7 : PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT (maximum 1 page for Master's and 2 pages for PhD)

Describe the proposed research (originality, clarity, coherence), providing an overview of the conceptual framework and methodology elements, in order to demonstrate its relevance.

Candidate (First name LAST NAME) : _____

SECTION 8 - BIBLIOGRAPHY (1 page maximum / 10 references maximum)

List the references of works used in the project description.
