THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

Internal Call for Proposals:
Mitacs Research Training Award (RTA)

Application deadline: June 12, 2020

Value: 2 awards at $6,000 each

Overview

In partnership with Mitacs, Thompson Rivers University is launching the **Mitacs Research Training Award (RTA)**. The award will provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to undertake a short-term (12- to 16-week) paid research training internship. Students receive an opportunity to enhance their skills through interaction with faculty and hands-on research and training experience. These projects are intended to provide opportunities for students over the summer months, starting between **June 1** and **August 31, 2020**.

Two Research Training Awards are available through Thompson Rivers University.

The primary goals of the program are to:

- Enable students to develop connections/collaborations with faculty members/researchers;

- Provide students with hands-on research and training experience;

- Build students' research skills, project management skills, and subject/technical knowledge;

- Increase awareness of potential educational and career pathways for students;

- Identify new research connections or directions, potential for further collaboration, or project continuation through other Mitacs programming.

Program details:

- Projects are to be designed and led by the student.

- The award will provide a grant of $6,000 per student (Mitacs and Thompson Rivers University each contribute $3,000 towards the total award).

- The award will cover research projects of 12-16 weeks duration.

- Each project will require supervision to oversee the work and the student.

- Students are expected to meet weekly with their supervisor to report on the progress of their project – virtual meetings are acceptable.

- Students are required to submit mid-term and final reports to the university.

- Both students and supervisors will be required to complete a Mitacs exit survey at the end of the program reporting on skills developed and providing feedback on the program experience.

- Projects proposals will be reviewed and adjudicated by the host institution prior to submission to Mitacs.

- Projects submitted to Mitacs will be evaluated internally to confirm eligibility with the program (eligibility requirements below).

- Students must complete a final report and deliver a final presentation summarizing the work that was completed to their supervisor during the last week of the award term.

- Supplemental online training will be provided to the students through the Mitacs learning management system.

Eligibility Requirements

Students must:

- Be a registered undergraduate or graduate student at Thompson Rivers University.

- Students may not concurrently hold other Mitacs funding, CGS-M, or internal TRU research awards, including, Apprentices, UREAP, USRA, and BC Graduate Scholarships.

Supervisors must:

- Be a faculty member eligible to hold Tri-Council funding.

Proposal Format and Submission Instructions

1. Research supervisors identify an eligible student. The student and research supervisor complete a project proposal using the **Application Template**

2. The student emails the completed Application Template as an attachment to **studentresearch@tru.ca** **no later than June 12, 2020.**

   The research supervisor must be copied in the email submission.

   Use the following format for both the email subject line and the file name for the attachment: Mitacs RTA – [Student Last Name] – [Supervisor Last Name]

3. Applications are reviewed by an adjudication committee convened by the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Applications are adjudicated based solely on merit.

4. Successful nominees are then invited to submit their applications through the Mitacs

portal (in development).

5. Award winners are notified by Mitacs and contracts with the institution are signed.

6. Depending on Mitacs' processing time, awards can begin the week of **June 1**, or when the contract is signed (whichever is later).

Adjudication Criteria

The following adjudication criteria (with reference to specific parts of the Application Template) will be used to determine which projects will be invited to submit to Mitacs:

1. **Quality of student research description (Part 2)** (e.g., originality, writing quality, linkage to industry/community, conversion of project/student into other Mitacs funding opportunities) – **50%**

2. **Skills Enhancement (Part 3.1)** (e.g., identification of skills, practicality in enhancing those skills given the workplan, alignment with student statement of interest) – **25%**

3. **Interaction and Deliverables** (e.g., quality of interaction with supervisor, presentation of realistic deliverables and timeline, appropriate access to university resources given pandemic constraints) – **25%**

Additional COVID-19 Criteria

The student and supervisor must attest on the application that the project is in compliance with TRU's current constraints on access to research facilities/sites and restrictions on research involving human subjects, as posted here:

https://www.tru.ca/research/covid-19-research-impacts.html

Due to the start date limitations imposed by Mitacs, projects that do not meet current COVID-19 constraints **cannot** be deferred in hopes that such constraints will be relaxed in the future.

Additional Information

Inquiries about the program may be directed to studentresearch@tru.ca.