



ONE CHILD EVERY CHILD EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards (Clinical Research Fellowships for
Post-Graduate Medical Education Scholars – PGME)

Award Guidelines

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I. One Child Every Child

[One Child Every Child](#) (OCEC) is a Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF)-funded, Canada-first research initiative designed to prioritize the health and wellness of all children. The vision of OCEC is for every child to thrive. OCEC aims to transform child health research in Canada with global impact, promote Indigenous-led knowledge creation and self-determination, and drive discovery and innovation. Our interdisciplinary teams tackle various factors influencing child health, ranging from biomedical to social, societal, economic, and structural determinants. We are pushing boundaries to uniquely train our future leaders in health research. OCEC focuses on three themes situated at the intersections of greatest need and opportunity for discovery and impact:

- **Better Beginnings** concentrates on enhancing maternal and perinatal health;
- **Precision Health and Wellness** aims to develop innovative diagnostic, therapeutic, and targeted interventions; and
- **Vulnerable to Thriving** To improve the trajectories of vulnerable children through social and structural systems, policies and programs that allow children to thrive.

OCEC is committed to creating evidence that embraces the diversity of needs, social and medical circumstances, and systemic barriers facing children and families. This involves integrating Indigenous knowledge, prioritizing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), utilizing comprehensive data, offering transdisciplinary training, and leveraging technology solutions. We are focused on evaluating and mobilizing knowledge for the greatest Impact – with the support of the cross-cutting Accelerators to achieve key objectives and projected OCEC outcomes.

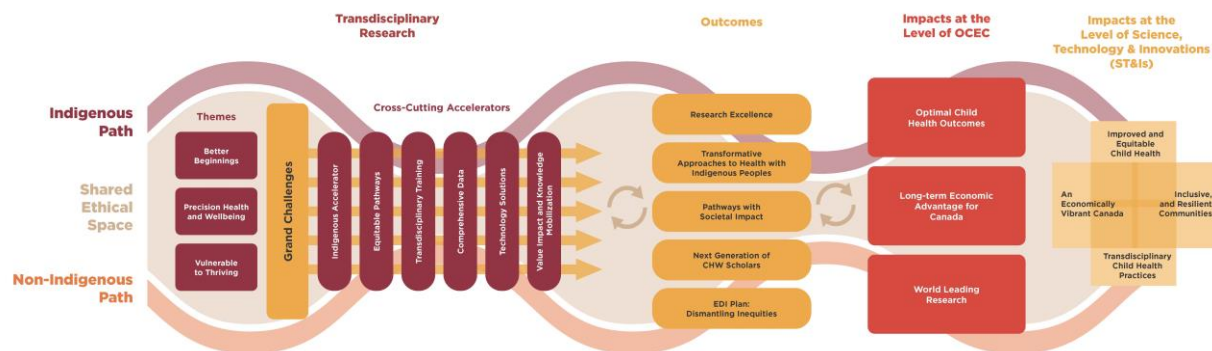


Figure 1: One Child Every Child Themes and Accelerators

2. One Child Every Child Excellence Awards Overview

The One Child Every Child (OCEC) Excellence Awards are competitive stipend awards funded through the OCEC Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator. This Accelerator is designed to foster collaborations through which diverse perspectives, knowledge, skills, and methodologies from various disciplines and fields, including the four research pillars (Biomedical, Clinical, Health Services, and Social, Cultural, Environmental, and Population Health) of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), converge to create a more comprehensive understanding of child health.

The primary criteria for funding consideration are scientific merit and alignment with the vision, mission, and strategic goals of OCEC, outlined in the previous section. The proposed research project should have a transdisciplinary focus, which is defined as the integration of knowledge across and beyond traditional disciplines. This integration may occur in partnership with non-academic partners and communities to address societal challenges and facilitate collaboration, shared learning experiences, and the evolution of knowledge through diverse perspectives.

2.1 Objectives

The key objectives of the OCEC Excellence Awards are as follows:

- To increase research training capacity within the PGME program.
- To attract and retain the best and brightest talents both nationally and internationally.
- To develop scholars' leadership potential and catalyze transformational, transdisciplinary research so that innovation can be scaled and spread to benefit children across Canada and beyond.

2.2 Scope

The OCEC Program-based Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards (PGME) are intended to provide clinical programs with salary support for clinical fellows pursuing research training during their residency or fellowship years. Programs successful in these competitions will receive funding for three years (\$90,000 per year). Up to three Fellows can be supported by the program (one fellow per year), with a single fellow receiving no more than two years of funding.

3. Eligibility Criteria

The OCEC Program-based Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards (PGME) aim to provide clinical programs with salary support for clinician-scholars seeking research training during their medical residency or fellowship years. The three-year awarded funding would allow clinical programs to have advanced assurance of funding, allowing adequate time for advertising, recruiting, and guiding selected candidates through immigration, provincial, and hospital administrative processes.

Eligibility criteria for programs and candidates for the Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards include the following:

- **Programs:**

- The program must be affiliated with one of the UCalgary Cumming School of Medicine or UAlberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and recognized by the institution's Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) office.
- The clinical program must demonstrate a track record of clinical excellence aligned with research excellence. This includes measurable factors such as specialized clinics, unique clinical opportunities, and successful supervisor research grants and publications.
- Programs must have potential research ideas/research plans.
- The program must ensure that the clinician-scholar fellow has at least 70 percent of protected research time for their fellowship funded through the OCEC Clinical Transformative Excellence award.
- The program's identified clinical supervisor must be a member of a formally recognized and accredited Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada/College of Family Physicians of Canada and a faculty member at the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary.
- Clinical programs must have the support of their program director or department head to participate in the research training and to fulfill the requirements of the award.

- **Fellowship Candidates:**

- Dedicated clinical research residents and fellows recruited through the Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards stream should be physicians, including residents and fellows, and may be (preferred) enrolled in a Master's, PhD, or certification program (e.g., Clinician Investigator Program, Canadian College of Medical Geneticists (CCMG)).
- Candidates must hold a medical degree recognized by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) and must be enrolled in or have completed a residency training program or equivalent, either in Canada or elsewhere, with training acceptable to the Department or clinical service supporting their clinical research fellowship.
- Candidates must be eligible for registration with the PGME office at their host institute and meet all CPSA registration requirements, including English Language Proficiency for international applicants.
- International scholars recruited by the clinical programs must ensure they have appropriate visa or immigration status to participate in the research program for the duration of the award period.
- They must agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award, as outlined in Section 4.

Programs are encouraged to ensure that the scholars receive adequate supervision for both the clinical and research components of their training.

4. Terms and Conditions

- Programs, including PGME awardees and their supervisors, must adhere to the current local policies of PGME concerning Clinical Research Fellowships. Please refer to the PGME policies of your host institution.
- The program-based PGME fellowship support for the clinical program is three years. This can be divided into three fellows (one per year), or a single fellow may receive the award internally for

- up to 2 years if applicable (e.g., to complete a Master's degree).
- Clinical programs should ensure that the scholars they recruit with the OCEC Excellence funding demonstrate a strong interest and commitment to pursuing clinical research during their residency or fellowship training.
- Acceptance of the OCEC Excellence Awards award is conditional on being registered as a PGME fellow in either the University of Alberta or the University of Calgary at the time of the award.
- The awards are non-transferable and cannot be used for purposes other than stipend support. Recipients must notify the Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator of any changes to their academic status, supervisor, program, or other circumstances affecting their training.
- Recipients are responsible for reporting any additional awards to the Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator. Tuition and other fees are the awardee's responsibility. Award disbursement is provided monthly, subject to pro-rating.
- OCEC excellence awards may not be held in conjunction with another award. Should the recipient of an OCEC Excellence Award successfully obtain another external or internal scholarship or fellowship support during their OCEC Excellence Award period, they will be expected to choose one award only.
- Applicants cannot hold or be on leave from a faculty position.
- Each scholar may only receive the award once in a lifetime.

5. Travel Allowance

As an added benefit, all scholars who receive an OCEC Excellence Award will be eligible for a one-time allowance of \$1,000 for research-related travel. This allowance can be utilized for purposes such as attending scientific meetings, courses relevant to their research or field of study, or travelling to partner laboratories to learn a new technique. This travel allowance is non-transferrable to the awardee's supervisor or another scholar and must be used by the end date of the OCEC Excellence Award.

6. Application Deadlines

New and renewal applications are due in Fall, however, the exact deadlines are listed on the OCEC Scholar Funding webpage. Late applications will not be accepted.

7. Application Instructions

7.1 New Applicants

Applicants to the OCEC Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards are clinical programs. Eligible applicants must be affiliated with an accredited clinical program at the University of Calgary or University of Alberta. Applicants are encouraged to engage with an interdisciplinary group of collaborators. At the time of the application, programs may or may not have identified a suitable PGME Scholar to be funded through this stream. Following the approval of the program's application for an OCEC Clinical Transformative Excellence Award, recruitment and selection of Scholars should follow the host institution's guidelines for PGME Fellowship competitions. Successful Scholars should be registered with the Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) program to ensure appropriate credit for their training issued by their home institution's PGME office.

To apply for an OCEC Clinical Transformative Excellence Award, programs must submit an online

application found on the OCEC website, which includes the following sections:

- Applicant program information (e.g., clinical program lead's CCV, clinical/research track records);
- List of 3 clinical research projects or priority areas for which PGME fellows will be recruited in short paragraph form;
- A brief plan to ensure the presence/readiness of a Year One fellow
- Alignment and Impact (alignment with OCEC, statement on transdisciplinarity of proposed projects; statement on impact, excellence and innovation); and
- Proposed training environment and expected outcomes of training.

Following the program's deadline for submitting the OCEC application, the OCEC Excellence Awards Review Committee (please see Section 8) will adjudicate all submitted applications.

Following approval to receive funding for OCEC Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards for their program, programs will initiate recruitment of eligible candidates. The program will conduct the selection process at this stage via supervisors and the program director and should be based on academic merit, previous experience, proposed clinical and research training goals, and alignment with OCEC goals.

Candidates who successfully pass the initial **recruitment phase by the program** will be contacted to proceed to the next stage of the fellowship intake process, which will include finalizing the supervisory committee, securing a supervisor for the research component and potential revisions of the research proposal, if needed, based on the candidate's clinical and research expertise and interests. For this stage of the application, candidates will be asked to complete an abbreviated OCEC fellowship application form to capture candidate's personal information, their education and/ or research experience, proposed supervisor(s) information, final research project proposal, mentorship plan, and reference letters. Additional information may be requested by OCEC Training Accelerator team for OCEC reporting purposes.

7.2 Renewing Applicants

To renew their OCEC Excellence Awards for a second year of support, applicants must submit:

- Progress Report, available on the OCEC website, completed by the scholar applicant.
- One letter of reference submitted by the applicant's supervisor via email describing and confirming the progress of the scholar and approving the renewal application at training.ocec@ucalgary.ca.

8. Review Committee

All eligible applications are adjudicated by the OCEC Excellence Awards Review Committee using the Award evaluation rubric (please see Appendix A or visit our website.)

The OCEC Excellence Awards Review Committee consists of a diverse group of researchers, clinicians, and practitioners with expertise in various domains of child health, as well as representatives from the following groups:

- Community representatives (e.g., community organizations, advocacy groups, Indigenous communities, families);
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) specialists.
- Methodologists, statisticians, health economists and data analysts.
- Public and patient involvement representatives (e.g., individuals with lived experience as patients, caregivers, or advocates for children's health).
- Trainee/scholar representatives (e.g., graduate students, postdocs, clinical fellows, and early career researchers).

Reviewers for each competition will be selected from the OCEC College of Reviewers in alignment with applications/projects submitted to the competitions. Additionally, reviewers may include representatives from each OCEC theme and Accelerator. **Please Note:** Since applications are evaluated by a multidisciplinary group of reviewers who may not have in-depth knowledge of all research areas of submitted proposals, applicants must ensure that their project proposals are understandable to non-specialist reviewers.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Applications submitted for OCEC Clinical Transformative Awards (PGME) will be adjudicated based on the following criteria:

- **Program's Clinical Excellence Track Record (20%)**
- **Program's Research/Academic Excellence Track Record (30%)**
- **Training Environment (40%)**
 - Infrastructure (15%)
 - Potential Supervisors (15%)
 - Presence/Readiness of a Year One Fellow (10%)
- **Program's Potential Research Ideas/Research Plan (10%)**

For details on each criterion, please see Appendix A (OCEC Excellence Awards Criteria and Evaluation Form).

10. Adjudication Process

Submitted applications will undergo initial screening for eligibility, following which they will be reviewed by the OCEC Excellence Awards Review Committee (see section 8 above, for details). The members of this Review Committee will be selected from the OCEC College of Reviewers, which includes representatives from all four core partner institutions of OCEC, in collaboration with the OCEC Transdisciplinary Training Awards Committee.

11. Competition Results

All applicants to the OCEC Excellence Awards competitions will be notified of the outcome of their application via email. The names of successful applicants will be listed on the OCEC website and other communication channels. Feedback will be provided to all applicants to support their ongoing research endeavors. Additionally, we invite feedback on the competition process and outcomes to ensure ongoing improvement and inclusivity within our program.

12. Obligations of OCEC Excellence Awards Holders

During the term of their OCEC Excellence Award, awarded scholars and their supervisors agree to certain obligations, including but not limited to:

- PGME programs applying for the award must commit to fulfilling all reporting and evaluation requirements associated with the award, including regular progress updates and participation in OCEC-sponsored events or activities and continuously seeking external funding support. OCEC award holders are encouraged to apply for other awards for which they are eligible, including those from provincial or national agencies. Scholars who receive another award must promptly inform the OCEC Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator and their home institution's Office or Program of the new award. Eligibility for ongoing funding through the OCEC Excellence Award programs will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis per the rules and regulations of the award holder's home institution.
- Clinical programs must support their scholars in developing a clear research proposal or project plan that aligns with the goals and priorities of the OCEC Program-based Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards and has a transdisciplinary focus.
- Acknowledging OCEC in all publications, presentations, communications, and marketing materials associated with the funded research project.
- Programs must ensure that awardees participate in training activities offered by OCEC, such as courses, workshops, and professional development opportunities to foster a deeper understanding of research with Indigenous peoples and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion principles in the context of child health research. Award holders will be notified and encouraged to complete relevant training as opportunities become available.
- The program must ensure that awardees participate and present at the OCEC Scholar Research Symposium, along with other Child Health and Wellness research symposia and retreats and relevant educational activities organized by OCEC.
- As required, submit progress reports, final reports, and other documentation promptly.

13. Contact Information

With any questions, please contact the Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator team at: training.ocec@ucalgary.ca.

Appendix A: One Child Every Child Excellence Awards Evaluation Form

OCEC Program-based Clinical Transformative Excellence Awards (PGME)

CRITERION	WEIGHT	SCORE
<u>Program's Clinical Excellence Track Record:</u> ○ Description of the clinical fellowship program. ○ Factors that make your program excellent in terms of clinical experience.	20%	
<u>Program's Research/Academic Excellence Track Record</u> ○ Description of the academic output of your program over the last 5 years. ○ 2 citations/abstracts of your program's proudest academic achievements in the last 5 years (preferably authored by a research fellow). ○ Description of what makes your program excellent in terms of academics (research).	30%	
<u>Training Environment:</u> ○ Infrastructure (15%) ○ Potential Supervisors (15%) ○ Presence/Readiness of a Year One Fellow (10%)	40%	
<u>Program's Potential Research Ideas/Research Plan</u> ○ 3 ideas/projects which will serve as the research fellows' thesis or central project. How are they aligned with One Child Every Child. ○ Commitment to EDIA. ○ Declaration of protected research time: the program must ensure that the clinician-scholar fellow has at least 70 percent of protected research time for their fellowship.	10%	