



ONE CHILD EVERY CHILD EXCELLENCE AWARDS Postdoctoral Future Leaders Awards

Award Guidelines

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1. 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:** To investigate the health and wellbeing of mothers and children, giving babies and pre-schoolers the best start in life.
Goals:
 - Understanding risk factors for preterm birth and pregnancy complications, and improving outcomes following these events.
 - Invest in discovery science as it relates to understanding key mechanisms related to fetal growth, development and parturition.
- **Precision Health and Wellness:** To improve diagnosis and treatment for children with chronic and medically complex illnesses.
Goals:
 - Reduce the burden of medical complexity through precision health-informed biomedical and social approaches to genetic and chronic disease.
 - Deliver risk reduction strategies to address co-morbidities to achieve optimal trajectories.
- **Vulnerable to Thriving:** To improve the trajectories of vulnerable children through social and structural systems, policies and programs that allow children to thrive.
Goals:
 - Better monitoring of child and youth health and well-being.
 - Greater upstream wholistic health and well-being promotion and prevention.

OCEC is committed to creating evidence that embraces the diversity of needs, social and medical circumstances, as well as 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 enable the achievement of key objectives and projected OCEC outcomes.

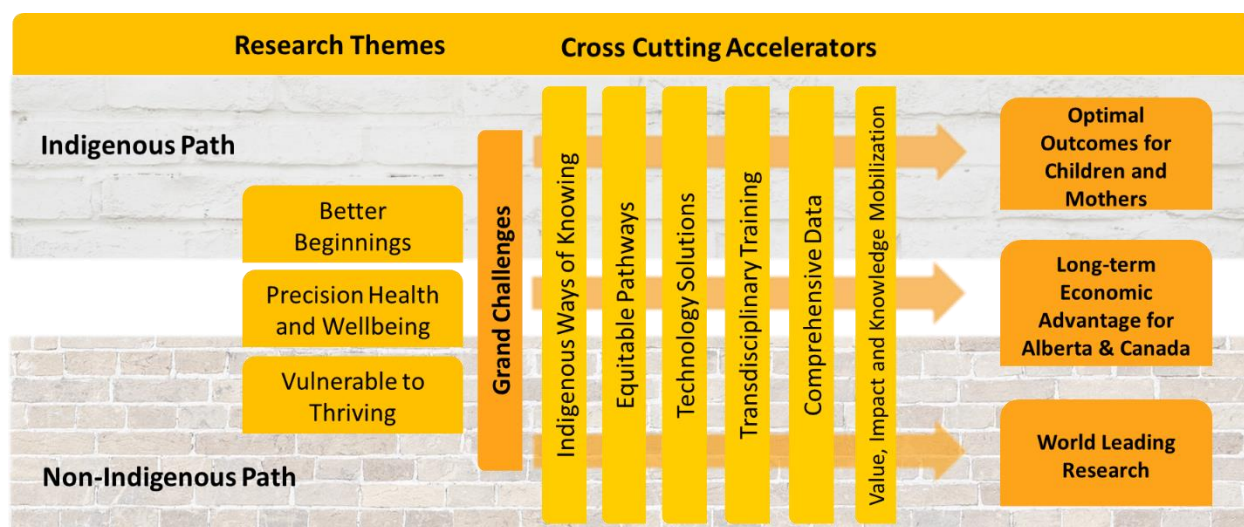


Figure 1: One Child Every Child Themes and Accelerators

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 OCEC Excellence Awards are intended to support graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and postgraduate medical fellows/clinical fellows, henceforth referred to as “Scholars”, who are engaged in transdisciplinary research focused on child health and wellness that align with the goals and priorities of OCEC. **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 applicant’s research proposal should have a transdisciplinary focus, defined as integrating 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 attract and retain the best and brightest talents both nationally and internationally.
- To develop their leadership potential and catalyze transformational, transdisciplinary research so that innovation can be scaled and spread to benefit children across Canada and beyond.
- To position scholars for success as research leaders of tomorrow.

2.2 Scope

Postdoctoral Future Leader Awards: \$80,000 (inclusive of health benefits) per year for 2 years

Please note that fellows in clinical domains who do not hold MD degrees (e.g., Audiology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Psychology, Social Work, etc.), are eligible for OCEC Excellence Awards in the Postdoctoral category.

3. Eligibility Criteria

The OCEC Excellence Awards are open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and foreign citizens/international scholars. Eligible candidates must meet the following criteria:

- To qualify for the OCEC Postdoctoral Future Leaders Award, scholars must meet the definition of a postdoctoral scholar as defined by their host institution. Typically, this entails the candidate having been awarded a PhD or equivalent within a specific number of years immediately preceding the end date of a postdoctoral appointment, or within ten years from the completion of an MD, DDS, DVM, or equivalent degree, excluding any time taken for leaves or other circumstances. Please note that successful applicants must produce evidence of completion of a graduate degree before the fellowship commences. Please confirm your status with your current university.
- Candidates are eligible to apply if they are being recruited for or currently hold a postdoctoral research position at University of Calgary or one of OCEC's institutional partners (the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge, or Athabasca University).
- Their research project must align with one of the Themes and at least one of the Accelerators of OCEC.
- Their research proposal should have a transdisciplinary focus, as defined in the section above.
- At the time of application, they must have identified a strong supervisor or co-supervisor affiliated with one of the core partner institutions of OCEC (i.e., University of Calgary, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, or Athabasca University).
- They must agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions of the award, as outlined in Section 4.

OCEC and the Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator are committed to ensuring all scholars have equitable access to research funding and career support. Applicants from Indigenous and Equity-Deserving groups are highly encouraged to apply. Applicants from other jurisdictions, including from out-of-province and international candidates, are strongly encouraged to apply.

4. Terms and Conditions

The following conditions apply to all recipients of the OCEC Excellence Awards:

- OCEC Postdoctoral Future Leaders Excellence Award is governed by the postdoctoral regulations of the awardee's home institution. Please refer to the postdoc policies of your host institution.
- OCEC Postdoctoral Future Leaders Awards may be offered to applicants remaining at the same institution or within the same research environment where they completed their PhD, PhD-equivalent, or health professional degree, only under exceptional circumstances. In such cases, applicants must provide a compelling justification in the Special Circumstances section of the

application form, along with supervision approval.

- Acceptance of the OCEC Excellence Awards award is conditional on being an enrolled student or fellow at one of the OCEC partner institutions at the time of the award.
- The awards are initially granted for a minimum of 12 months, with the possibility of extension for an additional 12 months contingent on satisfactory progress, completion of a supervisor-approved progress report, participation in the OCEC training activities and events, and efforts to secure external scholarships. The maximum duration of the OCEC Excellence Award is 24 months for the postdoctoral stream.
- 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.
- Each recipient may only receive the award once in a lifetime, within each scholar category.
- OCEC Excellence Awards may not be held simultaneously with other awards (internal or external).
- Current holders of other internal and external awards (e.g., CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC scholarships and fellowships) may apply for an OCEC Excellence Award only if their current funding ends within 12 months from the application deadline. However, early termination of the agency-specific awards to apply and to receive an OCEC Excellence Award is not permitted.
- Recipients must complete their training under the primary supervisor who sponsored their application, however, change of supervisor will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The supervisor must have a record of a productive research program, sufficient resources to support the research, and provide direct supervision and mentorship.
- Multiple applicants from the same supervisor or lab may submit their Intent to Apply Form, which is the first phase of the competition. However, only two applications from each lab will advance to the second phase, where a complete application form is required. In each competition, only two applicants from any single lab can be awarded funding. Renewing applicants do not count towards the total number of awards available for the same supervisor or lab.
- Applicants cannot hold or be on leave from a faculty position.

5. Travel Allowance

As an added benefit, all recipients of the OCEC Excellence Award will receive 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-transferable to the awardee's supervisor or another scholar and must be used by the end date of the OCEC Excellence Award.

6. Application Deadlines

Deadlines for new and renewal applications are listed on the OCEC Scholar Funding webpage. Late applications will not be accepted.

7. Application Instructions

7.1 New Applicants

To apply, candidates must submit the OCEC Excellence Award Application available online using the Good Grants platform. The application process will consist of two phases:

Phase 1:

Candidates must complete the "Intent to Apply Form". This form will be open for approximately 3 weeks, and the primary evaluation criteria will focus on how well the research project aligns with at least one theme and one accelerator of OCEC. The description of the themes and accelerators will be available online and on the application form.

The "Intent to Apply Form" will include the following components:

- Applicant's demographic information.
- Project title.
- Project description (maximum two pages).
- Details about how the project aligns with OCEC themes and accelerators.
- Information on the primary supervisor.

Phase 2:

Only the selected candidates from Phase 1 will be eligible to proceed to the second phase and submit the full application. These candidates will have approximately 4 weeks to complete the online application form.

The full application will include the following components:

- Applicant's demographic information, academic record, previous experience, and awards.
- Current CV in Tri-Agency format (maximum five pages).
- University transcripts (unofficial copies are accepted).
- Research outputs (publications, presentations, other).
- Proposed research project.
- Alignment and Impact (alignment with OCEC, a statement regarding the transdisciplinarity of the proposed project; statement on impact, excellence and innovation).
- Personal Statement.
- Proposed Training Environment and Expected Outcomes of Training.
- Two letters of reference submitted by the referees. One of the letters must be from the proposed supervisor. If the applicant has co-supervisors, one of the letters should be written by one of the supervisors or both (as a joint letter). The second letter may come from another referee. The two references will receive an automated email prompting them to submit reference letters through the OCEC central application platform, Good Grants.
 - The proposed supervisor must complete a form regarding the training environment and provide a letter of reference directly on the platform.
 - The second referee is only required to submit a letter of reference.

It is the responsibility of the applicant and their supervisor to ensure all application documents are complete and submitted on time. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. If the application is deemed non-compliant (e.g., does not follow application instructions as stated; supporting documents exceed page limit, etc.), reviewers have the right to reject the application.

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.cec@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 Theme and Accelerator of OCEC. **Please Note:** Since applications are evaluated by a multi-disciplinary 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 Postdoctoral Future Leaders Awards will be adjudicated based on the following criteria:

- **Candidate (40%)**
 - i. Candidate's history of Excellence (20%)
 - Academic
 - Research
 - Leadership
 - ii. Candidate's Diversity or other Related Lived/Living with Experience (20%)
 - Personal Statement: Clarity, motivation, career goals, development plans and alignment with OCEC program objectives and if appropriate the diversity and lived experience. (10%)
 - Candidate's contributions to equity, diversity and inclusion. (10%)
- **Proposed Transdisciplinary Project Plan (40%)**
 - i. Research Proposal (20%)
 - Transdisciplinary Approach
 - ii. Alignment with OCEC and Impact (20%)
 - Knowledge Mobilization/Community Engagement.
- **Training Environment (20%)**
 - i. Infrastructure (5%)
 - ii. Supervisor's Productivity (5%)
 - iii. Training and Mentorship 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 Training and Education 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:

- Acknowledging OCEC in all publications, presentations, communications, and marketing materials associated with the funded research project.
- Participating in training activities offered by OCEC, such as courses, workshops, and professional development opportunities aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of research with Indigenous peoples and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion principles in the context of child health research. As opportunities become available, award holders will be notified and encouraged to complete relevant training.
- Participating in and presenting at the OCEC Scholar Research Symposium, along with other Child Health and Wellness research symposia and retreats, and relevant educational activities organized by OCEC.
- Submitting progress reports, final reports, and other documentation promptly, as required.
- 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.

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

1. Postdoctoral Future Leaders Awards

CRITERION	WEIGHT	SCORE
Candidate:	40%	
○ <u>Candidates' history of excellence:</u> evaluation of expertise and track record of the applicant. • <u>Academic excellence:</u> Past academic results (GPA), Academic awards, honors and distinctions. • <u>Research excellence:</u> Research experience, publications, conference publications, research awards. • <u>Leadership:</u> Leadership roles, community involvement, extracurricular activities and leadership qualities. Consideration of the capacity to meaningfully contribute to child health research based on relevant professional experience and transferable skills (e.g., leadership, communication, project management, problem-solving, work experience, teamwork, adaptability, resilience).	20%	
○ <u>Personal Statement, Diversity, or Lived Experience</u> • Personal Statement: Clarity, motivation, career goals, development plans and alignment with OCEC program objectives and if appropriate the diversity and lived experience. (10%) • Candidate's contributions to equity, diversity and inclusion. (10%) The candidate will be assessed on their commitment as demonstrated by research outputs or the potential impact of research training on their career trajectory, along with letters of reference.	20%	
Proposed Transdisciplinary Project Plan:	40%	
○ <u>Research Proposal:</u> Significance, Quality, and Feasibility of the proposed project. This also includes clarity, coherence, and quality of the plan, objectives, hypothesis, experimental approach, significance, methodology, timeline, milestones, anticipated outcomes, alignment with program objectives and public engagement. • Transdisciplinary Approach: Assessment of the integration of diverse perspectives, methodologies, and disciplines to address complex child health issues.	20%	

○ <u>Alignment with OCEC and Impact:</u> • Alignment with OCEC Mandates. Assessment of the proposed project's alignment with the mandates of OCEC and the Transdisciplinary Training Accelerator. • All proposals must align with at least one theme and one accelerator. • Promotion of EDIA, Diversity of Perspectives, and/or Indigenous Engagement. Consideration of efforts to promote equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility, including engagement with Indigenous communities, where appropriate. ○ <u>Knowledge Mobilization/Community Engagement.</u> • Review of strategies for disseminating and translating research into practice, policy or community impact. • Innovation and Impact. Evaluation of the potential to advance knowledge, improve child health outcomes, and contribute to positive societal change.	20%	
Training Environment:	20%	
○ <u>Infrastructure.</u> Facilities, equipment, databases, and resources available, as well as the benefits of this environment to the applicant's development.	5%	
○ <u>Supervisor's Productivity.</u> Evaluation of the supervisor's research productivity, including publications, grant support, experience in scholar supervision, and excellence in mentorship.	5%	
○ <u>Training and Mentorship Plan.</u> Assessment of the quality and relevance of the proposed training to the applicant's outcomes, skills, career goals, development needs, including the supervisor's/co-supervisor's role, collaboration opportunities, and networking support.	10%	