



Water Health CREATE

water.usask.ca/waterhealth-create

Information for Applicants

Introduction to the Water Health CREATE

The Water Health CREATE is a training program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Manitoba, and McMaster University. Its goal is to train internationally-oriented problem solvers who are uniquely prepared to develop solutions and future policies in Water Health that are required by industry, governments and communities in Canada and internationally.

The Water Health CREATE seeks applications from future trainees to form the next cohort in this unique program. If you would like to be part of this opportunity, here is what you need to know to apply.

Information for Water Health Trainees

You are a future Water Health trainee if:

- ✓ You seek to gain a transdisciplinary and global understanding of the diverse and interwoven issues in water security and aquatic ecosystem health.
- ✓ You are an entering or continuing graduate student at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba, or McMaster University with a CREATE co-supervisor from your home institution.
- ✓ Your current or proposed research interests includes intersecting themes in freshwater research.

Themes can include how water quantity and quality, biodiversity, and human health/wellbeing are impacted by physical, chemical, climatic, and biological stressors.

- ✓ You value internship and professional development opportunities.
- ✓ You embrace an equitable, inclusive, and diverse training environment.

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis depending on research project availability.



Program components for Water Health Trainees:



- Research
 - Your research aligns with any of these themes:
 - Freshwater ecology & environmental toxicology
 - Hydrological assessment & modeling
 - Socio-economic & cultural drivers of water health
 - National & international regulations & policies
- Water Health courses and other learning opportunities
 - Introductory course in water health
 - Summer & cultural schools
 - Personalized courses tailored to individual programs
 - Professional skills development certificate
 - Training series in equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI)
- Additional Opportunities
 - Exchanges: Complete research in national and international collaborator laboratories
 - Internships: Apply for internships with private and public sector partners
 - Networking: Qualify for a travel subsidy to attend conferences

Information for Water Health Supervisors

You are a future Water Health supervisor if:

- ✓ Your research includes the integration of water quality and quantity with human and ecological systems.
- ✓ You embrace an interdisciplinary community and are interested in networking with researchers and trainees outside of your discipline.
- ✓ You support your trainees' engagement in professional development and other supplementary opportunities.
- ✓ You embrace an equitable, inclusive, and diverse training environment.
- ✓ You are interested in contributing to the Water Health program beyond student supervision.

Eligibility of Water Health supervisors

As a multi-university initiative, Water Health follows NSERC guidelines specifying that each of the co-applicant universities that will be involved in the grant must have at least one co-applicant listed in the proposal. The funds will be administered by the co-applicant regardless of whether or not the trainee(s) at their university are under their direct supervision.

Any faculty member from participating institutions is eligible to receive Water Health matching funding to support MSc or PhD trainees. A co-supervisor is encouraged but not required and does not necessarily need to be a faculty member, following institutional guidance.



Responsibilities of Water Health Supervisors



- Advise trainees in the planning and execution of meaningful research.
- Promote trainee engagement with professional development opportunities.
- Participate in core EDI training and incorporate its principles to foster an inclusive training and research environments.
- Engage with the Water Health network, attend, and contribute to program workshops and other training activities.
- Acknowledge Water Health in publications and presentations resulting from any work involving the program. Items should be reported through the annual reporting form. The following are suggested:
 - [Name] is a trainee in the Water Health NSERC CREATE.
 - [Name] acknowledges financial support from the Water Health NSERC CREATE.

Funding Opportunities for Water Health Trainees

Program Level	Minimum Annual Stipend	Maximum Payable by Water Health (/year)	Minimum Matching Funds Required (/year)	Maximum Duration of Funding	*Other Funding Available
Master's	\$23,000	\$11,500	\$11,500	2 Years	\$1,500
PhD	\$26,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	4 Years	\$1,500

*Funding available per student for conference attendance.

- Matching Funding Position: Water Health will award 50% of a standard stipend to admitted trainees. These funds must be matched by the supervisor(s) from another source at the time of admittance. If other scholarships are received worth more than 100% of a standard stipend, the Water Health contribution will be zero. Any changes to funding must be reported promptly. Awards are contingent on fulfillment of program requirements and submission of annual progress reports.

Prospective trainees seeking funding should have a good academic track record, with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 80%. This requirement may be reviewed by the admissions committee on a case by case basis for students with extenuating circumstances.

- Zero Funding Position: Candidates with full funding elsewhere may apply to become a Water Health trainee. If admitted, they are expected to fulfill all requirements of Water Health trainees. The minimum GPA may be waived if other criteria are deemed acceptable.



How to Apply



1. If a trainee has connected with a supervisor with an accepted or proposed research project, they will submit a collaborative application to Water Health.
2. If a trainee is interested in the Water Health program and is seeking a supervisor, they can send their background and interests to water.health@usask.ca and the team will circulate your inquiry to prospective supervisors.

Instructions for Submission

Email a complete application document as a PDF file to water.health@usask.ca, including all of the following components:

- Completed “Application for Trainee Position” form
- Trainee CV
- Copy of trainee’s unofficial transcripts

The trainee must also complete an application to the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies or equivalent at their home institution. The trainee must satisfy all admission requirements identified by their home institution.

Admissions Committee Decisions

Applications will be considered by the Water Health Admissions Committee. The committee will determine trainee suitability based on proposed research alignment with Water Health objectives and quality of the applicant. Inter- and transdisciplinary research focus is considered a strength.

Candidate selection for funding will prioritize diversity across research areas, disciplines and backgrounds. The Admissions Committee members will be composed of individuals with varied perspectives that have unconscious bias training. Water Health is committed to reducing barriers to equity, diversity and inclusivity, recognizing that these efforts enrich the program and contribute to excellence. We are dedicated to supporting the success of all trainees, with a particular focus on including members of underrepresented groups. Trainee applicants and their supervisors are invited to self-identify as a confidential part of their application form. Data on representation will be monitored to guide and improve of future recruitment processes.

For more information regarding the program or application, email water.health@usask.ca.

