
Autism Edmonton and the Autism Research Centre 2027 Graduate Student Grants

The 2027 Graduate Student Grants will support graduate students conducting thesis research in any field related to Autism to begin January 1, 2027 and are to be completed by December 31, 2027. These grants are jointly funded by Autism Edmonton, and the Autism Research Centre at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital (with support from the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation Chair in Autism). The maximum funding available per grant of **\$2,500.00** is to be applied towards the operating costs of the successful applicant(s)'s graduate research project (***Funds awarded are not a scholarship, funds cannot be utilized to support the grant recipient's salary/coverage of time***). Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and originality of the proposed project, and on the potential of the research to contribute to the well-being of autistic people and their families. Each successful applicant will provide a written progress report at 6 months and a final report and presentation of study findings (see below) at the conclusion of the project. Successful applicant(s) must submit documentation to set up a University research Project Account through their project supervisor to receive funding. ***NOTE: Project Account unable to be held by award recipient – only the graduate supervisor.***

Deadline to apply is Monday, September 14, 2026

Funding for 12 month period – **January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027**. NOTE: **One no-cost extension** of up to 1 year (to December 31, 2028) can be requested after submission of the mid-term report. NOTE: *For approved 1 year no-cost extension -the Final report and presentation at Autism Research Rounds can be delayed.*

Application procedure:

To qualify, the student must be enrolled in a graduate level university program (Master's or PhD) in the Edmonton area and be attending a graduate studies program as a full-time student in the fall of 2026. Students who are about to begin their 1st year of a graduate studies program must include a copy of their letter of acceptance into a relevant graduate program for the fall semester.

To be considered for the review process, the student must submit **ALL of the following documents via email in ONE PDF file by Monday, September 14, 2026** to: Carol Wilson, Research Manager, Autism Research Centre at carol.wilson@albertahealthservices.ca (*Note: Please let us know if you or your student are planning to apply and so we can watch for your application. As well, let us know if you have any questions about the application process.*)

Application Review Criteria:

The application will be scored using the following parameters:

- Academic Record
- Letters of Reference
- Supervisor/Research Environment
- Scientific Strengths of the Research Project
- Overall Feasibility of the Research Project
- Overall Relevance of the Project to Autism Edmonton

Please submit in the following order in ONE PDF:

- **Cover page with all of the following information:**
 - Name of Applicant
 - Mailing address
 - Email address
 - Telephone number (daytime)
 - Department and Institution where the applicant is a registered student
 - Degree program (MA, MSc, PhD)
 - Name of research supervisor and his/her professional contact information
- **Complete CV of applicant**
- **Complete University or College transcripts including undergraduate transcripts.** Official transcripts not required; a photocopy is acceptable.
- **Description of the proposed research (4 pages maximum, single-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins).** The application is to include the following sections:
 - Background and Rationale;
 - Research questions (or objectives);
 - Hypotheses (if applicable), Design/Methodology and Analytic approach;
 - Feasibility of undertaking the proposed research with supervisor support
 - Knowledge translation and exchange plans;
 - Relevance and anticipated impacts: discuss how the proposed research will help improve the lives of autistic people and their families.
- **Lay abstract** (1/2 page in a publishable format) that will outline the title, objectives, prior research approval, and expected outcomes of the research. Ensure your lay abstract is written in plain English.
- **One page description of the applicant's previous research and/or work experience and graduate studies and expected career goals.** Discuss how previous work is relevant to ASD and the current application, and how the pilot grant experience will help the applicant achieve the goals of their graduate studies and future career plans.
- **Letter of support from the supervising researcher** that describes the strengths including research potential of the applicant, the training and mentorship plan, the relevance of the proposed research to the overall goals of the student's research training and career development and indicating any supplementary funds to be provided to support the proposed research.

- **Two-page CV from the supervising researcher (including confirmation that the supervising researcher is able to hold research funds (if the applicant is successful)).**
- **Letter of support** from another faculty member familiar with the candidate's academic and/or research performance.
- **Detailed budget and budget justification.** Please utilize the template provided. Note the following limit - A maximum of \$500 can be used to support attendance at a scientific conference to present the results of the study findings (may include airfare, meals, accommodations and conference registration fees).

Each successful grant recipient will provide:

1. **By June 1, 2027** A mid-term report (template will be provided) which includes a brief financial summary;
2. **By September 1, 2027** - submission of a one-page article (750-1000 words maximum and written in an engaging, reader-friendly style) that will be published on Autism Edmonton blog
<https://www.autismedmonton.org/about-autism/>
3. **By October 1, 2027** - a presentation to Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital, Autism Research Rounds at the conclusion of the project and;
- 4.. **By December 31, 2027** - submission of a two-page final report (including financial summary).

For additional information, please visit the AE website at <https://www.autismedmonton.org> or email: carol.wilson@albertahealthservices.ca