Population Health Lab Research Assistantships (supported by the Merck Canada Aboriginal Youth in Health Sciences Fund)

The Population Health Lab Research Assistantships give Aboriginal students the opportunity to be mentored while pursuing population and public health-related degrees at SFU. These assistantships are targeted to students who have completed the Aboriginal Pre-Health Bridge Program at SFU Surrey, although any Aboriginal undergraduate at SFU interested in a career in population and public health is encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will be invited to visit mentor laboratories and/or teams, and then based on feedback from these visits and student career interests the adjudication committee (see details below under ‘Adjudication’) will match students sponsoring population and public health labs.

A total of four students will be supported in part-time research assistantships and training during the fall or spring terms (approximately 10-15 hours per week), and then a similar number for full-time research assistantships in the summer term (approximately 35 hours per week, 10-14 weeks.)

Eligibility

These research assistantships are open to Aboriginal undergraduate and graduate students currently registered in the Faculty of Science or Health Sciences who are:

(a) Enrolled in health sciences courses; and,
(b) In good academic standing.

Adjudication

These research assistantships are adjudicated by a sub-committee of the Merck Aboriginal Youth in Health Sciences Fund Steering Committee ("the Committee"), comprising the Director, Training Aboriginal Youth in Biomedical Labs (TAYBL) Program; the Scientific Director, CIHR Institute for Aboriginal People’s Health; the Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Director, Public Health Practice; and a PhD student selected by this committee.

The Committee selects the recipients using the following criteria:

(a) Relevance of courses, practicum, project or other proposed activity related to population and public health; and,
(b) Relevant academic, professional and volunteer achievements.

Preference may be given to applicants who have completed the Aboriginal Pre-Health Program.

The funds will be administered by the Faculty of Science. Four research assistantships of approximately $7,000 each (totaling $28,000) will be available over a two year period.

Applications
Applications should be sent electronically to Linda Hegland: hegland@sfu.ca

The Population Health Lab Research Assistantships will be disbursed on a first come/first applied for basis. Hence, this is not a competition. Approved Applications received starting on April 1st each fiscal year, will receive the money applied for. Once the $14,000 limit for the year has been reached, these research assistantships will be considered fully disbursed for the year.

The application should include the following:

(a) Copy of the applicant’s most recent transcript (unofficial or provisional transcripts are acceptable);
(b) Proof of Canadian Aboriginal heritage (First Nations, Non-Status, Metis, or Inuit): This could include but is not limited to, Indian or Metis status cards, official Inuit identification, official letters from Aboriginal organizations, or a combination of proofs; and,
(c) a brief (one page) statement of interest; and,
(d) a curriculum vitae.