



The KRESCENT Summer Studentship Program Guidelines

Background

The Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training (KRESCENT) Program, is a national training program launched in 2005. Originally a partnership between the Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFOC), The Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute for Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (CIHR-INMD), the program was developed with the recognition from the Canadian Research Community of the rising prevalence of kidney disease and the need to train and maintain an increased number of highly skilled kidney research scientists.

KRESCENT continues to be administered and supported by the Kidney Foundation of Canada, supported by CSN and has most recently been the recipient of a Health Research Training Platform grant from CIHR-INMD

KRESCENT has been successful at supporting trainees at the postdoctoral and early career researcher levels, with approximately 2/3 awardees becoming professors at Canadian universities and of those, 70% obtaining national research funding. Many of the remaining 1/3 have gone on to careers in nonprofit and private sectors, with 87% remaining in the kidney health field.

KRESCENT has supported trainees from across Canada with diverse backgrounds; with 47% identifying as women and 28% identifying as a 'visible minority', but only one trainee has identified as Black and none have identified as Indigenous.

During a formal consultation with key stakeholders including patients, nonprofit representatives, private sector, and governmental bodies as well Indigenous scholars, we identified key aims to enhance the proposed "KRESCENT 2.0" training platform. Areas of focus include targeted initiatives to support training for Black and Indigenous scholars, and how to work with racialized groups disproportionately affected by kidney disease.

KRESCENT recognizes that disparities in access to academic exposure and research experience affect students long before the post doctoral stage of training. To that end, KRESCENT has created a Summer Studentship Program to promote and nurture young BIPOC scholars in their undergraduate degrees to help them explore kidney research.

KRESCENT will provide stipend support to supervisors who will be selected by the program to ensure a culturally safe environment for trainees, and key research findings will be presented and tracked, allowing for formalized experience building exercises.

Description

KRESCENT provides a supported Summer Studentship experience for Black and Indigenous undergraduate students to explore kidney research. A set number of fellowships will be available each year. The goals of the Program are:

1. To provide Black and Indigenous undergraduate students who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to engage in research, with the opportunity to do so in a culturally safe and supported environment
2. To remove barriers of locating a supervisor by curating and presenting a list of pre-approved laboratories signed on to the program. (Please note if the student has a supervisor in mind who is not listed, to contact KRESCENT for discussion)
3. To identify and support young Black and Indigenous researchers
4. To help Black and Indigenous students identify and realize their career goals, and to provide a jump start of research experience and networking
5. To increase and support Black and Indigenous representation in the field of kidney research

Several summer studentships are available for undergraduate students to carry out summer research in kidney under the supervision of a KRESCENT approved Principal Investigator (PI). A list of PIs, their area of research and location is provided at the end of this document. Research projects must be carried out in-lab, with the goal of producing a unit of research that can contribute to a publication or presentation.

Please note that if you have a supervisor who is not on this list, to reach out to KRESCENT for consideration. If there is no supervisor listed in your area, please feel free to apply and KRESCENT will make every effort to identify a suitable supervisor within your area.

Principal Investigators participating in this Program will be selected from the broad kidney research community, including past KRESCENT trainees and will be required to undergo cultural sensitivity training if they have not yet done so.

Students will be required to work full-time for a minimum of 12 weeks between May 1 and August 31, 2025. Specific start and end dates are to be arranged directly with the hiring supervisor. Students will be asked to present their research findings virtually at the Fall 2025 KRESCENT workshop.

Mentorship in addition to the local supervisor will be provided by KRESCENT leadership and KRESCENT trainees (post-doctoral and new investigator level)

Opportunities for networking with fellow students in the Program will be provided via a moderated virtual hub.

The student is responsible for logistics of moving to where the supervisor is located if it is necessary. KRESCENT will provide stipend only.

Amount

The student's stipend will be \$750 per week based on a 35-hour work week for a minimum of 12 weeks to a maximum of 16 weeks. **IMPORTANT:** KRESCENT does not pay the student directly. The payments will be made to the supervisor's institution on behalf of the student.

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must self-identify as black or Indigenous
- Canadian Citizen or permanent resident status
- Students must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate program at a Canadian University and returning in the fall to continue their current academic Program.
- Students may not submit more than one application.
- Students may only hold one summer studentship over their academic career

Students Not Eligible to Apply:

- High school students.
- University students who will have completed an undergraduate degree program by the start of the summer studentship program
- Students who are currently enrolled or will be enrolled in a master's or doctoral graduate degree program by May 2025.
- Students enrolled at a university outside of Canada.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be reviewed by an ad hoc review committee that includes at minimum: Representation from the KRESCENT founding partners, the Program Director, Program Curriculum Chair, program EDI champion, 3rd year KRESCENT trainee, a person with Lived experience in kidney disease, and cultural representation from black and indigenous communities. The applications will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Statement of Intent
- Student's accomplishments or attributes relevant to the Summer Studentship application
- Letter of support

Other Terms

- Successful students cannot accept more than one summer studentship regardless of the funding source.
- Cases in which a studentship recipient requests a subsequent change in supervisor or if there is a change in the research project, KRESCENT must be notified as the awarding of the studentship may need to be reconsidered by the review committee.
- Successful applicants must acknowledge support from KRESCENT in relevant presentations, publications and communications arising from the supported research. Failure to acknowledge this support will result in future ineligibility of both the student and supervisor for KRESCENT funding programs.
- Students will be required to submit a final research report to the KRESCENT program
- Supervisors will be required to submit a final financial report to the KRESCENT program

For further information on application submissions, please contact:

Julie Wysocki
Acting Director, Research
Julie.wysocki@kidney.ca