

OPEN MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION RESEARCH GRANT (MSERG)

2019 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



The Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) is excited to announce the fourth annual Medical Student Education Research Grant (MSERG) Call for Applications in partnership with OMA Insurance, the CMA, and MD Financial Management. The 2019 MSERG will provide grants valued at \$5,000 each to fund nine projects designed by Ontario medical students. This will enable students to conduct research projects in medical education; **three** of these nine awards will be granted in the Open Stream. Of the nine MSERG awards, at least one award will go to a student project from each of the six Ontario medical schools, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria. **Please note that the MSERG is a scholarship for the student. The grant is not intended to fund the project itself, although you are free to do so if you choose.**

Funding for the 2019 Open MSERG is being generously provided by the CMA and MD Financial Management, and OMA Insurance.

Please visit the following link to access frequently asked questions about the MSERG: omsa.ca/en/mserg.

PROGRAM GOALS

OMSA works to support Ontario's medical students. OMSA is the student section of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), in which all of Ontario's medical students have membership. OMSA creates opportunities to provide organizational and financial support to students across the province to assist with the personal and professional development of Ontario's medical students. More information on OMSA is available at www.omsa.ca.

In keeping with the goals of OMSA, the Open MSERG will fund medical students engaged with university faculty to perform research **with a focus on medical education**. For 2019, \$5,000 in financial support will be provided to **three** Ontario medical students in the Open MSERG stream.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, all of the following criteria must be met:

Criterion	Remarks
Student affiliation	The applicant must be an undergraduate member (any year) of the Ontario Medical Association (i.e. matriculated to a program leading to the M.D. degree at a medical school in Ontario). IMPORTANT: Applications are limited to a maximum of TWO co-applicants. Individual application is encouraged, however, two applicants may be included on an application.

Principal Investigator affiliation	Hold a faculty position with a publicly funded college, university, academic hospital or other recognized health service organization (e.g. emergency medical services) in Ontario.
Principal Investigator credentials	Hold a health professional degree and/or a Master's/Ph.D. in educational research (or a related and relevant field, such as engineering or psychology).
Nature of project	Research topics can be varied and may include learning interventions, assessment, mentorship, student wellness, and CanMEDS roles (e.g. advocate, collaborator), among others. The only firm requirement is that the proposed research be focused on medical education. This can be at the undergraduate, residency, or practicing physician level.
Status of project	Eligible projects include new projects (i.e. not started) and projects in progress (on the condition that findings have not been presented at a conference or published). Completed research projects or projects that have already been presented are NOT eligible for this award.
Funding	The research team is expected to have enough funding available to cover the expected costs of the proposed research project. Confirmation of funding to support the project must be included in the Principal Investigator's letter of support.

Please note that OMSA Executive members and members of the OMSA Education Committee are not eligible for the MSERG.

ETHICAL REVIEW

It is not necessary for projects to be submitted for ethical review prior to application for MSERG funding. However, for a successful proposal requiring ethical review (according to the Principal Investigator's local Research Ethics Board and/or the Tri-Council Policy), the protocol must be approved by a Research Ethics Board (REB) before funds will be released. **Approval MUST be obtained by May 14th, 2019.**

To ensure that your project, if successful, will be funded, we strongly recommend submitting the protocol to your REB early enough to receive approval by May 14th, 2019. This may mean submitting your protocol before we have announced the grant program results.

PEER REVIEW AND SCORING

All applications will undergo a standardized peer-review and scoring process. Applications must be anonymized by the applicant upon submission; however, the Director of Education will also ensure any identifiers have been removed prior to review. **Points may be deducted if applications are not properly de-identified.** The Grant Committee will consist of representatives from the OMSA Education Committee. External OMSA reviewers may also be included in the review process. All applications will be scored and ranked according to the criteria outlined below. Decisions made by the Grant Committee are final and not eligible for appeal.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The MSERG is meant to support high-level education research. Achieving research at this level ensures that the voices of Ontario's medical students will be heard by educators and researchers throughout the province. Research of this level aspires to publication in peer-reviewed journals. To be published in such journals requires the researcher to ask sophisticated questions about medical education research practices. These questions attempt to move beyond outcomes research of single-use innovations by

asking questions that press into the nature of what it means to learn medicine, to become a physician, and to practice medicine.

For more information on writing for publication, please see:

Norman, G., & van Berkel, H. Instructions for Authors. *Advances in Health Sciences Education*. **7**: 243-250, 2002 ([link](#))

Durning, S., & Carline, J., eds. *Review Criteria for Research Manuscripts*, 2nd ed. Association of American Medical Colleges, 2015 ([link](#))

Grant applications will be evaluated and scored according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Remarks
Relevance	Clear relevance to medical education.
Originality	Targets an identified gap in education or knowledge related to medical training.
Potential impact	Potential to lead to the creation of important new knowledge/interventions/methods that will affect medical education. This program will target projects that emphasize an impact on patient care, social responsibility, and/or a meaningful change in thinking in the field.
Objective	The hypothesis, research question, or research goal is clear and of appropriate scope.
Methods	The method is valid for testing the hypothesis or appropriate for answering the research questions. The sample population, sample size, metrics, and analysis methods are appropriate. No preference will be given to qualitative vs. quantitative approaches.
Applicants	The project team includes investigators with qualifications, experience and expertise in domains relevant to the project. All named team members have a clear role in the project. The student applicant(s) must demonstrate a clear and substantial role in the project.
Feasibility	Appropriate human and physical resources are available, the ethical implications are acceptable, there is sufficient funding to support the research, and the timeline is adequate to successfully complete the project. Feasibility to publish/present results in one year from time of completion.
Content	Proper sentence structure, grammar, and punctuation are necessary for reader understanding. The applicant should be able to write in a clear, concise manner and will be scored based on appropriate formatting and adherence to word limits. The applicant should also be sure to properly de-identify their application (not including the CV or letter of support, which should be sent in separate files).

IMPORTANT DATES

10 Mar 2019	MSERG Application deadline
14 Apr 2019	Decisions made and applicants informed
28 Apr 2019	Signed funding agreement deadline
14 May 2019	Ethics approval deadline (if applicable)
28 May 2019	Funds released
01 Jun 2019	Project start date

01 Sep 2019	Latest acceptable project end date
01 Oct 2019	Final report due

Funds will be released to the successful applicant once the funding agreement has been signed and evidence of approval by an REB (if applicable) is provided to the Grant Committee. Successful applicants who have not submitted proof of REB approval by May 14th, 2019 may have to forfeit funding.

RECIPIENT OBLIGATIONS

Recipients will be required to submit a final report after completion of the project, no later than October 1st 2019. The final report should be no longer than 300 words and of sufficient quality for publication in *Scrub-In*, the magazine for Ontario's medical students; however, this does not guarantee publication in the magazine. Please include in the final report any abstracts or manuscripts submitted by the grant recipients that pertain to the supported research.

Failure to submit this report will disqualify the investigators from future OMSA funding opportunities until a satisfactory report has been submitted.

Financial support from "The 2019 Ontario Medical Student Association (OMSA) Medical Student Education Research Grant" must be acknowledged in all publications and presentations resulting from this funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted using the relevant application form. In addition to this form, applicants must submit:

- A current Curriculum Vitae for the applicant (please limit to three pages and include school affiliation, education/qualifications, research experience, recent grants received, and recent publications, if applicable);
- A letter of support from the Principal Investigator. This letter must include confirmation that sufficient research funds are available to cover the expected cost of the project. The applicant should submit the letter of support with their application (i.e., it should not be sent separately by the PI).

Please send all documents by email to mserg@omsa.ca, using the subject line "OMSA Open MSERG application - [Applicant Name]". **Applications are due by 23:59 EST on March 10th, 2019.** Applications submitted past the deadline will not be accepted.

Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent within three business days.