



Richard and Edith Strauss **Fellowships in Rehabilitation Science**

Deadline

Completed applications must reach the Student Affairs Administrator by October 24, 4 pm.

Goals and Purpose of the Awards

The goals of the Richard and Edith Strauss Fellowships in Rehabilitation Science are to help ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained occupational and physical therapy scientists is available to teach and conduct research in areas that address the needs of people with chronic musculoskeletal conditions by:

- Prevention of disease and/or disability
- Reduction/amelioration of symptom impact
- Optimization of physical, social, and emotional function

The purpose of the Strauss Awards is to support the first two years of doctoral education of occupational and physical therapists (preferentially but other award worthy candidates will be considered) who have made a commitment to learn skills and focus their research on issues related to chronic musculoskeletal conditions.

Applicants must provide a convincing case that the proposed coursework, mentored research experience, and combination of other unique activities available to McGill Doctoral Rehabilitation Program students will enable them to better address the needs of individuals with chronic musculoskeletal conditions. Each student's proposed program must be tailored to meet the individual needs of the candidate. The candidate and primary supervisor are jointly responsible for the preparation of the proposed study and research plan and must discuss how the proposed research addresses the needs of individuals with chronic musculoskeletal conditions. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of the rich and vast research resources, the training environment, graduate coursework and secondary supervisors throughout McGill and beyond who can serve as part of a supervisory team throughout the doctoral studies.

Value of the Awards

Each funding year there will usually be 2 new awards available valued at \$35,000 each. However in unusual circumstances, up to 4 awards of \$17,500 each may be offered per funding year. Awards are renewable once based upon an evaluation by the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy Selection Committee. **Note:** The Fellowships are accompanied by an allowance for research expenses of up to \$5000 (fund pro-rated in the case of more than 2 Fellowships) over the period of the fellowship. This allowance may be used for equipment (which will become the property of the School) or to cover travel to major national or international conferences.

Eligibility

- Awardees must be full-time Ph.D. students in the Rehabilitation Science Program at McGill.
- Preference will be given to students who have received an occupational or physical therapy diploma or degree from a World Federation recognized program.
- Awardees must notify the Director of the Graduate Program if offered external funding or additional internal funding.
- Awardees must accept external funds and surrender their Strauss Fellowship at the earliest instance. Awardees in receipt of **additional internal university fellowship** are not entitled to retain their full Fellowship. The Strauss Fellowship funds will be reduced by the amount of the internal award.
- Awardees are expected to maintain satisfactory academic performance throughout the tenure of their award.
- Since the fellowship is renewable, awardees must, if eligible, continue to apply annually for external funding offered by at least one major Canadian granting agency (e.g., NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR) and if eligible, one Quebec agency (FQRNT, FQRSC or FRSQ). If successful, the awardees agree to accept the external funds as soon as possible.

Documents Required in Application

1. Statement by Candidate (maximum 3 pages)

Describe your rationale and commitment to an academic career in rehabilitation research. Provide a description of all previous education and professional responsibilities in relation to the proposed activities incorporated in your proposed Ph.D. study plan, including:

- Evidence of your ability to interact and collaborate with other scientists.
- Prior training and how it relates to your Ph.D. objectives and long-term career plans.
- Your research experience to this point, including any publications, prior research interests and experience.
- Your proposed study plan including didactic, laboratory, interdisciplinary research experiences, seminars, etc. The career development study plan must demonstrate how the proposed training will provide the candidate with the use of relevant research, educational resources, and qualified faculty at McGill and beyond to become a productive rehabilitation investigator and teacher.
- Evidence that your proposed research will directly address the needs of individuals with chronic musculoskeletal conditions by
 - Prevention of disease and/or disability
 - Reducing/ameliorating symptom impact
 - Optimizing physical, social and emotional function
- A statement that you will commit at least 75% effort to the proposed training program and related career development activities. Your primary supervisor must agree and provide a statement in the application documenting that this percent of your time will be protected.
- A timeline for submission of applications for additional sources of training support, including potential funding agencies.

2. Statement(s) by Supervisors/Experts/Collaborators (maximum 2 pages)

The primary supervisor, together with the applicant, is responsible for the planning, direction, and execution of the proposed study program. Additional co-supervisors and experts may be included as appropriate to the goals of the research training program.

- The application must include a statement from the primary supervisor providing: 1) information on experience as a Ph.D. supervisor (all former Ph.D. students, time to graduation, current positions) and training environment; 2) a mentoring plan describing in detail the nature of the supervision and mentoring that will occur and 3) a detailed timeline with milestones and plan for ensuring completion of degree requirements, including the thesis, during a reasonable time.
- The supervisors must agree to provide an evaluation of the candidate's progress during the year as part of the required annual progress report.
- Similar information should be provided in letters written by co-supervisors. The respective areas of expertise and responsibility of each should be described. Co-supervisors should clearly describe how they will coordinate the mentoring of the candidate.

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of the Director of the Graduate Program and two members of the Graduate Program Committee. All committee members must be '*at arms length*' with the applicant and their proposed research supervisor. The committee will obtain one external evaluation from a faculty member external to the School, one from a member of the Graduate Committee and one from a member internal to the School but not on the Graduate Committee. These evaluations will form the base on which the committee will make its decision.

Announcement of Results

Correspondence announcing the competition results will be sent by the Graduate Program Director to successful applicants and their supervisors by November 9th. A formal presentation of the award will occur at the convocation celebration.

Payment of the Award

The award payment period will be from January 1-December 31.

Richard and Edith Strauss Fellowships in Rehabilitation Science

Application Checklist for 2014
(please include with application)

Required Documents:

1. Candidate's Statement

- ☐ Candidate's statement (maximum 3 pages)

2. Statement(s) By Supervisors/Experts/Collaborators (maximum 2 pages each)

- ☐ Statement by Supervisor (maximum 2 pages)

- ☐ Statement by Co-supervisor ☐ Not Applicable

- ☐ Statement by Expert ☐ Not Applicable

- ☐ Statement by Collaborator ☐ Not Applicable

Completed applications must be received by the Student Affairs Administrator of the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy (Davis House, Rm. 4) no later than **October 24, 2014 at 4 pm.**

Received date & time:_____ Initials:_____