



2025 McGill Centre for Microbiome Research Fellowship Program - Call for Proposals

Strategic objectives and alignment. This fellowship program is designed to leverage the resources of the McGill Centre for Microbiome Research to advance the field of microbiome research by supporting the next generation of microbiome researchers. Specifically, this fellowship provides funds to support a research project related to microbiome sciences that will generate evidence-based knowledge benefiting medicine and public health.

Program structure and eligibility criteria. By submitting an application to this program, applicants acknowledge and agree to the terms and conditions outlined herein. Failure to comply may result in the withdrawal or forfeiture of funding:

- Eligibility: MSc or PhD students in their **first year** of enrollment at McGill University, under the primary supervision of a Centre member appointed at McGill University.
- Funding availability: 1 year, non-renewable, non-extendable.
- Number of fellowships per year: \$25,000 each, up to 4 annually. Selection is based on funding availability and merit.
- Terms of use: The funding structure is intended to support student stipends and the use of platform-based research capabilities associated the Centre. The fellowship award includes a total of **\$25,000**, to be allocated as follows: **\$15,000** is designated as a student stipend and the remaining **\$10,000** must be used to cover expenses one of the Centre's affiliated fee-for-service platforms to advance the proposed research project:
 - o **Microbial Genomics Platform:** eligible services include DNA extractions, high-throughput sequencing, bioinformatics analysis, and anaerobic culturing.
 - o **Gnotobiotic Animal Research Platform:** eligible services include access to germ-free or gnotobiotic mouse models for experimental studies.
- Commitment to EDI: The program encourages applications from individuals of diverse backgrounds and marginalized groups to foster an inclusive research environment as per McGill guidelines.

Governance and oversight. A dedicated Selection Committee comprised of the McGill Centre for Microbiome Centre leadership and affiliated faculty will oversee the fellowship program including the selection process and the research outputs of the award.

- Selection Process: Applications will be reviewed based on academic merit, research proposal quality, and alignment with the Centre's objectives, ensuring a transparent and equitable selection process.
- Project reporting: At the end of the year, the student is required to submit a one-pager report and present a poster or a conference at a symposium or seminar event organized by the Centre.



- Financial reporting: An outline of forecasted and actual expenses.

Application requirements. To be considered by the Selection Committee, each application must include the following required documentation and information:

- Document formatting:
 - o Letter page size (8.5" x 11"), 1-inch (2.54 cm) margins on all sides
 - o Times New Roman font, 12 pt, single-spaced, justified text
- Project proposal (two-page limit, including figures):
 - o Title of the research project
 - o Background and rationale
 - o Objectives and hypotheses
 - o Methodology and timeline
 - o Expected outcomes and impact
 - o References – not included in page limit
 - o Breakdown of budget (Template – Appendix I) – not included in page limit
- Curriculum vitae
- Letter of support from primary supervisor

Submission timeline. The application period will be open from July 31 to September 30, 2025. Applications must be sent to the Centre's email address: microbiome.centre@mcgill.ca. Funding awarded through this program will be made available to the successful candidate(s) as of Fall 2025. Recipients of the fellowships will receive an official letter of award and a formal announcement will be shared through the Centre's communication channels to inform the McGill community and our broader scientific network.

Conflict of interest. In order to foster applicant diversity during the inaugural year of the program, students affiliated with the labs of the Centre Directors will not be eligible to apply. Additionally, Centre members will not participate in the review of applications. An independent panel of external reviewers will be appointed for this purpose.