

McMaster Midwifery Research Centre (MMRC) 2024 Research Grant Program – Full Grant Call

Background

The McMaster Midwifery Research Centre (MMRC) is dedicated to excellence in midwifery research that informs policy, practice and education and improves the outcomes for pregnant and birthing families and their infants. Our aim is to promote excellence in maternal and child health and healthcare through the generation of evidence that optimizes the impact of midwifery care.

The MMRC Research Grant Program periodically offers research funding to support, build and promote midwifery research knowledge, capacity, and growth within McMaster University. The grant program offers a variety of funding opportunities for students and researchers at various career stages.

Established in 2014, the McMaster Midwifery Research Fund (MMRF) is designed to support research in the field of midwifery at McMaster University and to help build research capacity and translate knowledge in the field. The funding for the MMRC Research Grant program is provided by the McMaster Midwifery Research Fund that is administered by the MMRC Scientific Advisory Committee Executive Sub-Committee and the McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences Administrations and Trusts.

Eligible applications will be reviewed and adjudicated for their contribution to the MMRC’s mission and vision, research and knowledge translation priorities, and MMRF requirements.

- Full grant information and links to the Notice of Intent and Application portals are available at: <https://mmrc.mcmaster.ca/research/mmrc-research-grant-program/>
- For questions regarding grant eligibility criteria, application details, eligible expenses, financial arrangements, or other requirements, please contact the MMRC Research Manager at mmrc@mcmaster.ca
- MMRC Scientists available for mentorship and research grant account opening include: Dr. Beth Murray-Davis, Associate Professor bmurray@mcmaster.ca and Dr. Liz Darling, Associate Professor darlinek@mcmaster.ca, both with the McMaster University Midwifery Education Program and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. You must identify and discuss your project with a MMRC Scientist to submit a full grant application.

Please read the application and instructions carefully. It is your responsibility to ensure that the application and all supporting documentation are complete and submitted on time.

Grant Timelines

<u>Deliverable</u>	<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Instructions</u>
Notice of Intent	November 15, 2023, 2359h	Submit through the MMRC Research Grant Notice of Intent Portal: https://redcap.link/1dwu0q2m
Application	January 15, 2024, 2359h	Submit through MMRC Research Grant Application Portal: https://redcap.link/ws9yyre0
Decision	March 1, 2024	All Primary Applicants will be notified of grant decisions by email following the decision date.
Grant end date	Variable	See grant period for each specific grant end date.
Final grant report	3 months after grant end date	Includes financial expense report - see final grant report template with grant agreement, submit to mmrc@mcmaster.ca .



MMRC Grant Program – Available Grants 2024

The research grants being offered are described below. Maximum award amounts, specific eligibility criteria, grant due dates, and grant end dates are indicated for each grant.

1. Graduate Research Award (\$25,000)

Purpose: To support a graduate student research trainee undertaking a research project that focuses on an aspect of midwifery with a McMaster midwifery senior scientist supervisor/mentor.

Specific Eligibility Requirements:

- A) Primary Applicant is enrolled full-time in the Master of Midwifery (Thesis Stream) at McMaster University at the time of application submission.
OR
- B) Primary Applicant is enrolled full-time in a Master's or Doctoral degree program at a Canadian university.
- Letter of Support (LOS) from Primary Applicant's graduate supervisor is required in all cases.
- Primary Applicant must have a named MMRC Scientist research mentor.

Eligible expenses:

- \$23,000 Scholarship stipend - Wage and any fringe benefit support
- \$2,000 for project expenses, such as:
 - a. Research expenses (transcription, software)
 - b. Travel expenses (local travel, e.g. bus, taxi, parking fees) required to conduct research
 - c. Publication fees for an academic journal
 - d. Printing, stationary, software purchases
 - e. Study participant incentive fees, e.g. gift cards, parking

Grant Period: 2 years from date of grant award letter.

2. Early Career Researcher Award (\$30,000)

Purpose: To support an Early Career midwifery researcher within 5 years since attaining their graduate degree or their first academic appointment who is conducting a midwifery focused project and is mentored by a MMRC Scientist.

Specific Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicant must be actively registered as a Registered Midwife in their midwifery provincial professional regulatory body at the time of grant submission.
- Applicant must be within 5 years since attaining their graduate degree or within 5 years of their first academic appointment.
- Primary Applicant must have a named MMRC Scientist research mentor.

Eligible expenses:

- Salary and any fringe benefits for Primary Applicant or a research assistant
- Research expenses, e.g. transcription, software
- Travel expenses (local travel, e.g. bus, taxi, parking fees) required to conduct research
- Publication fees for an academic journal
- Printing, stationary, software purchases
- Study participant incentive fees, e.g. gift cards, parking

Grant Period: 2 years, beginning on grant award letter date.

3. How to Apply

The following materials must be submitted by the stated deadline:

1. Complete a Notice of Intent using the **MMRC Research Grant Notice of Intent Portal**: <https://redcap.link/z12zh23h>.
2. Complete the online grant application form using the **MMRC Research Grant Application Portal**: <https://redcap.link/ws9yyre0>, and upload the requested documents below, i.e. CV of Primary Applicant, letter of support from graduate supervisor (only for Graduate Research Award applications), study protocol, and study budget form.
3. For Graduate Research Award applications only: Upload letter of support (LOS) from Primary Applicant's Graduate supervisor, indicating how they will support the proposed research project, how it is relevant to the Primary Applicant's course of graduate work, and the Primary Applicant's capacity to complete the proposed research project. Please save filename as: **Applicant'sLastName-YourBriefProjectName-LOS-dd_mon_yyyy.docx**, and upload it to the MMRC Research Grant Application Portal where prompted.
4. Upload Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Primary Applicant, with document name: **Applicant'sLastName-YourBriefProjectName-CV-dd_mon_yyyy.docx**, and upload it to the MMRC Research Grant Application Portal where prompted.
5. Upload Structured study protocol, including:
 - Maximum 5 pages (excluding references, figures, and tables), single spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman font, minimum 1" page margins, numbered pages, to include the following sections:
 - Introduction/background/ literature review
 - Study objective(s), hypotheses
 - Study relevance to midwifery
 - Methodology. Indicate the research question, methodological approach, and the study population. Include quantitative and/or qualitative methods to be used. If you plan to use human subjects, please outline how you will obtain ethics approval.
 - Importance of the proposed research and hypothesized results. Include description of plans for knowledge translation and dissemination, and publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
 - Equity considerations. Describe how the proposed research plan takes into consideration equity-deserving groups.
 - Description of research team and research setting
 - Proposed Timeline. Demonstrate how you will complete this project within the stated grant period.
 - References, and any tables, charts, figures and graphs may be submitted as an appendix as part of the study protocol and are not considered part of the five page limit.
 - Please save study protocol filename as: **Applicant'sLastName-YourBriefProjectName-StudyProtocol-dd_mon_yyyy.docx**, and upload it in the MMRC Research Grant Application Portal where prompted.
 - Study budget form: Please download the MMRC Research Grant Program – Application Budget Template form from the [MMRC Research Grant Program Website](#). Once completed, save budget filename as: **Applicant'sLastName-YourBriefProjectName-Budget-dd_mon_yyyy.docx**, and upload it to the MMRC Research Grant Application Portal where prompted.

General Grant Eligibility Requirements

- Primary Applicant must have a named MMRC Scientist research mentor.
- Applications must be congruent with MMRC's Mission, Vision, and MMRF criteria which are: To conduct excellent, high-quality research that informs policy, practice and education, to improve outcomes for pregnant and birthing families and their infants.
- Applications must:
 - Fit with the priorities of the MMRC
 - Have potential impact on practice and outcomes
 - Have potential for leveraged funding (e.g. External, peer-reviewed funds)
 - Reflect a high quality of the individual/group leading the research (i.e. track record of publications, grants/fellowships, references and potential for independence)
- Projects from teams of investigators are welcomed where applicable. The team must identify a single person as Primary Applicant to whom all correspondence will be directed. The Primary Applicant will be accountable to the MMRC for compliance with the conditions of the award and for the provision of reports, financial statements, and all other grant requirements.
- All grant applications materials must be submitted by the grant deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Grant Financial Arrangements

- All grants awarded must have a research account opened at McMaster University Health Sciences Research Finance in the name of one of MMRC Scientists in compliance with university regulations, through whom funding is administered with grant recipients.
- An accounting of research expenses is required, including all expense receipts upon request at any time, and at the end of the grant period, from the Primary Applicant. Where applicable, review and approval from an institutional research ethics board for the project is required prior to release of funds. Expenses eligible for funding vary with each grant described below.
- Any person receiving grant money for salary and fringe benefit may need to be set up as a temporary/casual employee supervised by the named MMRC Scientist at McMaster University, with personal income taxes deducted at source at McMaster University per Revenue Canada regulations.
- Any unspent grant funding at the grant period end date must be returned to the MMRC.

Grant Application Adjudication Process and Criteria

The adjudication will consist of the following:

1. Application screening to ensure eligibility and completeness.
2. Review by MMRC members with knowledge of the subject matter and methods who will assess:
 - Merit and relevance of the application to the grant category
 - Relevance to midwifery
 - Qualifications of the research team
 - The research concept
 - Design and methods
 - Potential impact of the findings
 - Appropriate study budget

- Study feasibility within grant period

General Conditions Upon Receiving Grant

- Successful grant recipients must sign a letter of agreement with MMRC and McMaster University.
- Funded projects are non-renewable.
- Grant recipients will be required to present their research results after the end of their grant period at an MMRC research event (e.g. MMRC Research Symposium, rounds, or another research forum).
- All publications and presentations resulting from the project must acknowledge the McMaster Midwifery Research Centre as having financially supported the research.
- A final grant report must be submitted by the Primary Applicant to the MMRC 3 months after the end of the grant period.
- Unless an extension has been approved, any unspent grant funding at the end of the grant period must be returned to the MMRC.