



Michael Smith  
**Health  
Research BC**



# Health Research BC and Mitacs Industry-Based Funding Opportunity 2023-2024

---

## DEADLINES

Application Timeline: January 24 - December 20, 2024

Stage 1: LOI: January 24 - December 1, 2024

Stage 2: Full Application: December 20, 2024

Project Start Date: anytime between March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2025

Michael Smith Health Research BC (Health Research BC) and Mitacs are partnering through the Mitacs Accelerate and Mitacs Elevate programs to support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows across British Columbia to gain experience working with BC's life sciences sector.

Both partnered programs enable trainees to apply their research knowledge and expertise to address complex challenges by co-developing a research project with a life sciences company in need of high-level expertise. The Elevate program has an additional professional development curriculum that prepares postdoctoral fellows for success as leaders in research and industry. Trainees divide their time (eight to 24 months) between their academic institutions and companies.

The partnered funding opportunity provides multiple benefits to trainees, academic supervisors, and life sciences companies:

- Trainees can apply (research) skills in a non-academic environment and gain work experience in the life sciences, build their CV with peer-reviewed research, broaden their professional network, and earn a stipend.
- Academic supervisors build flexible research partnerships with companies and secure funding for trainees.
- Life sciences companies can grow their research and development capacity at a reduced cost by tapping into the expertise of highly skilled research talent to address their research challenges and advance their innovation goals.

The partnership fosters connections between BC's academic and life sciences sector to provide high-quality opportunities for early career health researchers. We are building research talent that bridges the gap between academic and life sciences business skillsets.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows interested in a placement will contribute to a research project that addresses a complex challenge at a life sciences company. Mitacs is available to facilitate connections between interested trainees, academic supervisors and life sciences companies.

Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until December 1, 2024, with placements starting between March 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025. Through this partnership, there are 20 placements available in each of the Accelerate and Elevate programs. The application period may end earlier if all Mitacs-Health Research BC funding has been committed.

## Who Should Apply

**Trainees and/or their academic supervisors**

The partnered Mitacs Accelerate placement opportunity is open to BC-based full-time or part-time students in master's and PhD programs. The partnered Mitacs Elevate program is open to BC-based postdoctoral fellows.

**Life sciences companies**

The partnership is intended for small- and medium-sized life sciences companies in BC that are interested in mentoring and hosting a research trainee to address their research challenges and advance their innovation goals.

## Objectives

- Provide trainees with opportunities to develop business and other non-academic focused skillsets to help bridge academic and life sciences career paths.
- Train highly qualified personnel to be scientific and industry leaders supporting BC's life sciences industry.
- Help advance [BC's life sciences and biomanufacturing strategy](#) by contributing to pillar 1 - improving access to talent. This funding opportunity reduces the barrier to finding the right people with applied research skills combined with business skills.

<p>Dates and Key Details</p>	<p>Applications to both Stage 1 and Stage 2 will be reviewed as they are received; and funding decisions will be made on a rolling basis. The application period may close earlier if all placements are filled before the stated deadlines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1: January 24-December 1, 2024: Letters of intent (LOI) to be submitted to Health Research BC</li> <li>• Stage 2: December 20, 2024: deadline for full applications to be submitted to Mitacs</li> </ul> <p>Placements are expected to start between March 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025.</p>
<p>Eligibility: Trainees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This opportunity is open to current full-time and part-time students in master's or PhD programs and postdoctoral fellows. Trainees must be based at a BC university or research institute.</li> <li>• Applicants must be legally permitted to reside and work in Canada by the funding start date. There are no citizenship requirements for this opportunity.</li> <li>• Note: Postdoctoral fellows applying to the Mitacs Elevate program must be within <a href="#">five years of graduating from the PhD program</a>.</li> <li>• Applications from persons with disabilities or members of minority groups underrepresented in the sciences are encouraged.</li> <li>• Trainees may be required to travel to participate in this opportunity (see below for financial details).</li> <li>• Applicants must meet all other Mitacs <a href="#">eligibility criteria</a>.</li> </ul>
<p>Eligibility: Private Sector Organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This opportunity is intended to support BC-based small and medium- sized for-profit, private sector life sciences companies focused on improving human health.</li> <li>• A maximum of two placements (8-24 months each) will be accepted per company.</li> <li>• Companies must provide each trainee with a dedicated mentor and provide a description of the training environment.</li> <li>• Companies are required to provide 25% of the funding amount (see details below), along with space and relevant materials required to fulfill the placement.</li> </ul>
<p>Trainee/Supervisor and Industry Matching</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The application process includes a pre-requisite step to create a match between the trainee/supervisor and life sciences company. Together, they will co-develop a research project for the application. To assist with matching,</li> </ul>

	<p>Mitacs can facilitate connections based on company needs. Mitacs contact information is available at the bottom of the page.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>If you are a trainee</u>, work with your academic supervisor and Mitacs to identify a BC-based life sciences company partner.</li> <li>• <u>If you are an academic supervisor</u>, identify a BC-based life sciences company partner and work with Mitacs to confirm the funding structure. Note: trainees do not need to be identified for Stage 1 applications.</li> <li>• <u>If you are a life sciences company</u>, work with Mitacs to identify an academic institution-based supervisor and/or graduate student or postdoctoral fellow. Note: Trainees do not need to be identified for Stage 1 applications.</li> </ul>
<p>How to Apply</p>	<p>Applications for the Mitacs-Health Research BC opportunity is a two-stage process:</p> <p><u>Stage 1</u>: Letters of intent are due to Health Research BC between January 24 and December 1, 2024.</p> <p><u>Stage 2</u>: Full applications for Mitacs Accelerate or Mitacs Elevate are due to Mitacs by December 20, 2024.</p> <p><b>Stage 1</b></p> <p>Letters of intent (LOI) will be accepted by Health Research BC between January 24 and December 1, 2024, and may be submitted by either academic (trainee/supervisor) or industry company applicants. LOIs will be reviewed by Health Research BC based on eligibility criteria (listed above) and funding conditions (noted below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOI application period: January 24 and December 1, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Health Research BC review will occur on a rolling basis as applications are received</li> <li>▪ Allow approximately three weeks for the review process</li> <li>▪ Once the review process is complete, applicants will be notified if they can move to Stage 2</li> <li>▪ The application period may close early if/when all placements are funded</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Applicants must submit an LOI through Health Research BC's ApplyNet system. LOIs will be accepted from the trainee, academic supervisor and/or company.</li> <li>• The partner company and academic institution must be identified at the LOI stage. Applicants must identify if they will be applying for a Mitacs-Health Research BC Accelerate or Elevate placement.</li> <li>• If an application is submitted by the academic supervisor or company, the trainee does not need to be identified at this stage.</li> <li>• Health Research BC requires that the company identify a mentor for the trainee to facilitate career development. The mentor may or may not be the same as the individual who will supervise the day-to-day activities of the trainee. A description of the mentorship and training environment will need to be submitted, either with the LOI application or emailed directly to Marc Saunders at <a href="mailto:msaunders@healthresearchbc.ca">msaunders@healthresearchbc.ca</a> before the Stage 2 application is submitted to Mitacs.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Stage 2</b></p> <p>Successful eligible applicants from Stage 1 will be invited to submit either a Mitacs Accelerate or Mitacs Elevate application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 20, 2024: Deadline for submission of full applications to Mitacs</li> <li>March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025: Mitacs review process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurs on a rolling basis as applications are received</li> <li>Allow approximately eight weeks for the Mitacs peer review process</li> </ul> </li> <li>Applicants will be notified of the funding decision once peer review is complete</li> </ul> <p>Placements are expected to start between March 1, 2024 and March 1, 2025.</p>
<p>Conditions, funding, and term</p>	<p>The academic supervisor and/or trainee will co-develop the research project with a life sciences company to address a complex challenge and/or advance innovation.</p> <p><u>Mitacs Accelerate: Master's and PhD students</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible applications can receive funding for a minimum of two, and up to six four-month terms (24-month maximum).</li> <li>Each four-month term is valued at \$15,000 and breaks down as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$13,500 towards the trainee stipend</li> <li>\$1,500 towards a research and travel allowance (see Appendix A)</li> </ul> </li> <li>The company is required to provide \$3,750 + tax towards the full amount for each four-month term. The balance \$11,250 is covered by Health Research BC and Mitacs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum funding for one Mitacs Accelerate placement is \$90,000 per 24-month term.</li> <li>The maximum company investment is \$22,500 per 24-month term.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Mitacs Elevate: Postdoctoral Fellows</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible applications can receive funding for a minimum of one, and up to two 12-month terms (24-months maximum).</li> <li>Each 12-month term is valued at \$64,500 and breaks down as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$60,000 towards the trainee stipend</li> <li>\$4,500 towards a research and travel allowance (see Appendix A)</li> </ul> </li> <li>The company is required to provide \$15,000 towards the total amount, for each 12-month term. The balance \$49,500 is covered by Health Research BC and Mitacs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The maximum funding for one Mitacs Elevate placement is \$129,000 per 24-month term.</li> <li>The maximum company investment is \$30,000 per 24-month term.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Reporting requirements</p>	<p>In addition to Mitacs' reporting requirements, placements funded through the Mitacs-Health Research BC partnership must meet the following additional Health Research BC reporting requirements at both the half-way mark and at the end of the funding term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of a project progress report</li> <li>Submission of a placement progress report (submitted by each of the trainee, supervisor and company)</li> </ul>

	<p>Health Research BC may reach out at any time for a face-to-face discussion. Health Research BC may contact awardees up to five years after their placement is complete to gather impact data regarding the program.</p> <p>By applying to the program, applicants agree to provide Health Research BC with the above reports as requested.</p>
--	---

<p>About the Partners</p>	<p><b>Health Research BC</b>  Michael Smith Health Research BC is British Columbia's health research agency. We are working toward a future where BC is recognized worldwide for its vibrant, coherent, inclusive and globally competitive health research system that improves the health of British Columbians, the health system and the economy. We are partnering with Mitacs to offer placement opportunities that support graduate students and postdoctoral fellows across BC to gain business skills and experience in the life sciences sector. The partnership also supports small- and medium-sized life sciences companies to host and mentor trainees to advance projects that drive innovation and address current challenges.</p> <p><b>Mitacs</b>  Mitacs was founded in 1999 as a Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence, dedicated to supporting applied and industrial research in mathematical sciences and associated disciplines. In 2003, we launched a research internship program designed to increase deployment of highly educated graduates into the private sector. Open to all disciplines since 2007, Mitacs has expanded in response to the needs of academic institutions and Canada's economy. Fully independent since 2011, Mitacs remains committed to its core vision of supporting evidence-based innovation and continues to work closely with partners in industry, academia, and government.</p>
---------------------------	---

For questions about the partnered program or application process, please contact:

**Marc Saunders**

**Partnerships Lead**

Michael Smith Health Research BC

[msaunders@healthresearchbc.ca](mailto:msaunders@healthresearchbc.ca)

For questions about Mitacs funding processes, please contact the dedicated Mitacs advisor for your institution: <https://www.mitacs.ca/about/mitacs-advisors>.

## Appendix A: Research and Travel Allowance

### Payments and Usage

The research and travel allowance fund is equivalent to \$4,500 per year. All expenses must be approved by the academic supervisor and are subject to the travel and expenses reimbursement policies of both Mitacs and the institution. Award recipients should review the eligible expenses section (below) and discuss the eligibility of expenses with their supervisor before expenses are incurred. Award recipients must submit receipts to the academic supervisor.

### Eligible Expenses

**The research and travel allowance may only be used for expenses that are directly related to the funded trainee's research project.**

All expenses must be approved by the academic supervisor and are subject to the travel and expenses reimbursement policies of the host institution. Trainees should discuss the eligibility of expenses with their supervisor before expenses are incurred. Eligible expenses may include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Costs associated with knowledge translation, including dissemination of research results (e.g. costs of attending a conference to present the research, page charges and the costs of preparing a research manuscript for publication, development and maintenance of web-based information, videos, toolkits, translation, etc.).
- Costs of attending career development events and activities, including training to accommodate diverse populations (e.g. cultural safety training for religious or ethnic minority populations).
- Costs of membership in professional associations or scientific societies, or those required to maintain compliance with provincial regulations when directly related to the research project.
- Purchase/lease and extended warranty of home office furniture, cell phones, tablets, computers, and other hardware and software required for the research (the host institution's policy on ownership of equipment will apply).