

## Intercenter Internships

Created in April 2012 by the Fonds de Recherche du Québec – secteur Santé (FRQ), the mission of the **CardioMetabolic Health, Diabetes and Obesity Research Network** is to pursue the development of research into metabolic and cardiovascular health, diabetes and obesity, and to transfer and mobilize knowledge to promote sustainable health among Quebecers.

The network is launching its **Intercenter Internship competition for the year 2026 - 2027**. The competition invites regular CMDO members to propose collaborative projects in the areas of cardiometabolic health, diabetes and obesity and for which a master student/doctoral student/postdoctoral fellow/resident/research professional will complete his training in another laboratory (in another center situated in Quebec, Canada or internationally) than the original one. The amount of the grant is \$5,000 or \$10,000 depending on the length of the internship. The project must involve a regular member of the CMDO Network with one or more collaborators from another research center. Any Quebec collaborator must be a member of the CMDO Network. Collaborators in Canada or abroad are also accepted. Multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral applications or translational aspects oriented towards the patient will be favored. Each year, a minimum of 5 internships corresponding to these criteria will be funded for their excellence.

The eligibility criteria and the method of evaluation are described below. The selected project showing excellent scientific quality and demonstrating a structuring effect for the involved laboratories and for research within the CMDO Network will be funded up to \$5,000 or \$10,000 for one year to allow the establishment of the trainee in the research center of the collaborator or collaborators.

**Deadlines for submitting applications** are as follows:

- 1) **June 25, 2026**, for internships beginning between **September 1, 2026** and **August 31, 2027**.
- 2) **November 10, 2026**, for internships beginning between **January 1, 2027** and **December 31, 2027**.

Women, Aboriginal people, visible minorities, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community are encouraged to apply for funding. For evaluation purposes, we strive to recruit a diverse committee that reflects the profiles of the applicants and ensure an evaluation process that takes into account the particular situations of the applicants, including atypical trajectories.

Applications submitted late, incomplete or not meeting the eligibility criteria will not be evaluated.

### Eligibility and evaluation criteria:

- 1) The Principal Investigator (*the Research Director of the trainee*) must be a regular member of the CMDO Network;
- 2) All researchers and trainees affiliated to research center in the province of Quebec must be member of the CMDO Network before final submission.
- 3) **Only one application per contest in total, as principal investigator** may be submitted for each contest. There is no limit as co-investigator. Unless exceptional circumstances, a maximum of one application per researcher will be funded annually;
- 4) The amount of the grant is defined according to the length of the internship:
  - 3 months or less (less than 13 weeks) - \$ 5,000;
  - more than 3 months (13 weeks or more) - \$ 10,000.
- 5) Provide relevant and integrated training in an intercenter collaborative project;
- 6) Submission must include a research center in Quebec province, represented by at least one researcher regular member of the CMDO network and at least another research center in Quebec, Canada or abroad.
  - Priority will be given to international internships;
- 7) Demonstration of the structuring impact of this collaboration for laboratories involved as well as research in the CMDO Network, according to its objectives (*e.g. setting up multidisciplinary and/or cross-sector collaborations (within the network, internationally, or with patients)*);
- 8) The Principal Investigator must agree to provide a brief progress report at one year post funding period to demonstrate the leverage effect of the program (*i.e. obtaining scholarships and / or external grants*);
- 9) Following the first year of funding, winning teams are asked to provide the CMDO with:  
**1)** a “*Our Teams in Action!*” profile (for information on creating this profile, ask at [info@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:info@rrcmdo.ca)); and, although not mandatory, **2)** a text of up to 300 words or **3)** a 1-minute video (max. 1 min 30 sec) that presents the team’s project/research program in language accessible to the general public and that will be shared with the CMDO’s Citizen Partner Community, in the CMDO newsletter, on the CMDO’s social media platforms, and any other media deemed relevant;

For trainees who will be trained:

- 1) Be a Master student, PhD student, a resident, a postdoctoral fellow or a research professional with a research director regular member of CMDO Network. The supervisor must be a member of the Network CMDO before applying to the competition.

2) Excellence and scientific involvement:

❖ For Master students, PhD students, residents and postdoctoral fellows:

- a. Hold an excellent record of publication and participation / involvement in scientific activities.

❖ To research professionals:

- a. Must be actively involved in structuring activities related to the priorities of the network eg: research platform, multi-centric project, research network at provincial, national or international level.

3) Demonstrate motivation to pursue a career in a research area related to a Network theme: Cardio Metabolic Health, Diabetes and Obesity.

4) Participate at least once (*by submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation*) at the MétaboliQc Conference within two years of the start of funding.

5) Note that a winner of an intercenter internship cannot be awarded more than once for this competition.

***Eligible expenses:***

All expenses connected to the establishment of the trainee in the center of the collaborator and allowable under FRQ research grants rules. Especially:

1. Transport, accommodation and living expenses (if necessary depending on the distance) for the trainee in the collaboration laboratory(ies);
2. Shipping costs between the main laboratory and the collaboration laboratory(ies) in connection with the trainee's stay;
3. Costs related to the research project of the intercentre collaboration (supplies, technical services, etc.);
4. Salary for trainee.

***Non-eligible expenses:***

1. Transport, accommodation and living expenses for the trainee in its main laboratory;
2. Salary for researchers.

**Who can file an application:**

The principal investigator (*regular member of CMDO Network*) is responsible for the nomination.

**Materials required when submitting an application:**

- 1) Completed CMDO Intercenter internship application form (*online, see below*);

- 2) COMPLETE CV (FRQ CV (Descriptive CV) format whenever possible, but we accept all CV formats) of all Quebec participating researchers and trainee that will be trained to evaluate scientific quality. *All CV (PDF format) must be submitted by email at [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca) ;*
- 3) *Optional*: a page containing one or more figure(s) and their respective captions.

### **Application evaluation process:**

All applications are evaluated by a Scientific Committee. Any member with a conflict of interest is excluded from the final decision. If necessary, an external committee may be formed to carry out the evaluation. Competition results will be announced in the weeks following the application deadline.

Applications will be evaluated based on compliance with the contest eligibility criteria and the following criteria:

For principal investigator and collaborators:

- 1) ***Excellence in home and host laboratories (25%)***: Description of performance, scientific contribution and expertise of the laboratories involved in the collaboration;
- 2) ***Relevance and quality of the proposed intercenter training (25%)***: Immediate or potential impact of mentoring for the original laboratory and research within the network, according to its objectives (*Ex. Establishment of new multidisciplinary and / or intersectoral collaborations inside the network or at an international level, knowledge transfer, Patient-oriented research, standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources etc*).
- 3) ***Realism of budget proposition (10%)***: Relevant proposal for use of funding.
- 4) ***Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Vision (5%)***: What are you doing/planning to do to ensure fair and inclusive treatment of those involved in the project? Demonstrate efforts made or planned to be more inclusive and equitable in the work environment and/or participants.

For the trainee (35%):

1.a) For Master students/PhD students, residents and postdoctoral fellows:

- a) ***Excellent of publication and participation / involvement in scientific activities records.***

1.b) For research professionals:

- a) ***Involvement in structuring activities related to the priorities of the network*** as in research platform, multi-centric project, provincial, national or international research network.
- 2) ***Motivation to pursue a career in a research area related to a theme of the network***: cardio metabolic health, diabetes and obesity.

Any request for additional information may be sent to the Research Network on CardioMetabolic health, Diabetes and Obesity (CMDO), Université Laval, École de Nutrition, email: [info@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:info@rrcmdo.ca).

***Description of the electronic form (see next page)***

## Intercenter internships

### *Instructions for the application form*

**[FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE, CLICK HERE](#)**

**The form can be saved to complete it later.**

#### **WARNING :**

- To save your application to complete it later, you must click the *Resume later* icon (a username will be requested and a password), and then quit by closing the program.
- If you have saved your application and click on *Exit and Clear Survey*, all saved data will be erased.

#### **1. GENERAL INFORMATIONS**

**Internship title:** *max. 256 characters including spaces*

**Main theme (choose one):**

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity

**Secondary Theme(s) (if applicable):**

- Cardiometabolic health
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Not applicable

**Axes (multiple choice possible):**

- Basic research and pre-clinical
- Nutrition, physical activity and human pathophysiology (Clinical Research)
- Living habits, risk factors and population interventions through cycles of life (Population Research)
- Organization of care (Health Systems Research), sharing and use of knowledge
- Hypertension and vascular diseases
- Heart disease through the cycles of life
- Metabolic liver diseases

**Principal investigator name (regular member of CMDO Network):** *max. 100 characters*

**Affiliation of principal applicant:** *max. 120 characters*

**Affiliation to other research networks (several possible choices):**

- Another FRQ Network (which one?);
- Diabetes Network Action Canada;
- Obesity Canada Network
- Other.

**Number of collaborators from other centers?** (Possibility of 2 collaborators which may host the trainee)

**Collaborator name in another center:** *max. 100 characters*

Affiliation collaborator: *max. 120 characters*

**Quebec research center(s) directly involved in the project:**

Choose among the research centers.

**Research Center(s) Outside Quebec directly involved in the internship (optional):**

If applicable, indicate the name(s) of the research center(s).

**Name of the Master student/PhD student/postdoctoral fellow/resident/research professional directly involved in the internship:** *max. 100 characters*

Current curriculum and educational level: *max. 150 characters*

Affiliation: *max. 120 characters*

**2. MOTIVATION – TRAINEE:**

The trainee (Master student, PhD student, postdoctoral fellow, resident or research professional) must provide a description of his reasons, related to their career plans, to participate in this intercentre internship.

*max. 2000 characters including spaces*

**3. EXCELLENCE - MAIN AND HOST LABORATORIES:**

Description of performance, scientific contribution and expertise of the laboratories involved in the collaboration;

*max. 2000 characters including spaces*

**4. RELEVANCE AND QUALITY OF THE PROPOSED TRAINING INTEGRATED IN AN INTERCENTER COLLABORATIVE PROJECT**

Description of the proposed training and the immediate or potential impact of this training for the original laboratory and research within the network, according to its objectives (*eg. establishment of new multidisciplinary collaborations and/or cross to the internal network or internationally, knowledge transfer, patient-oriented research, standardization of methods, establishment of a platform or common resources, etc.*).

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The network's objectives are:

- 1) Organize concerted action, meetings, exchanges and scientific cooperation to respond to unmet issues and needs, and establish research priorities;
- 2) Support bold, innovative initiatives and strategic projects that are part of a cross-sectoral, sustainable approach, and enable the establishment of national and international partnerships;
- 3) Foster and promote the development of research talent and increase Quebec's ability to recruit and retain high-performance young researchers, by making a decisive contribution to training and mentoring;
- 4) Organize knowledge mobilization, scientific animation and dissemination activities aimed at different target audiences;
- 5) Support the sharing and development of research resources for all Quebec researchers;
- 6) Evaluate the effectiveness and scope of CMDO programs on an ongoing basis.

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*max. 3000 characters including spaces*

## 5. BUDGETARY CONTEXT

**Start date and end date of the internship, as well as the number of weeks in total:** *max. 250 characters*

### **Budget summary:**

Provide a brief description of the use of funds over one (1) year (\$ 5,000 for less than 13 weeks or \$ 10,000 for over 13 weeks).

*max. 1400 characters including spaces*

**In the event that your project is funded, please provide us with the mailing address and contact details of the person responsible for financial transfers (e.g. administrative technician):**

- Name; *max. 120 characters including spaces*
- Email; *max. 120 characters including spaces*
- Phone number; *max. 120 characters including spaces*
- Postal address; *max. 250 characters including spaces*

## 6. EQUITY/DIVERSITY/INCLUSION VISION

**What are you doing/planning to do to ensure fair and inclusive treatment of those involved in the project?**

Demonstrate efforts made or planned to be more inclusive and equitable in the work environment and/or participants.  
*max. 2800 characters including spaces*

## 7. SELF-IDENTIFICATION (To be completed by the Principal Applicant only)

As with tri-council agency, the purpose of the self-identification form is to collect information so our network can monitor the equity performance of our programs and design new measures to achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion in our research endeavours

**Membership Type** (one choice only):

- Regular Member.
- Student, postdoctoral fellow or resident member
- Other

**If Regular member: Position as a researcher:** What is the start date of the first career position as a researcher in a research center (e.g. Researcher since December 2018 at INAF)?

**Research areas** (multiple choices possible):

- Basic Science/Preclinical
- Clinical
- Health care organization/health system
- Population-based

**Gender** (one choice only):

- Female
- Male
- Trans woman
- Trans man
- Two-spirited person
- Gender fluid
- Non-binary
- Other
- I don't identify with any of these options
- I prefer not to answer.

**Aboriginal People:** Aboriginal people in Canada is a generic term used to refer to Inuit, Métis or First Nations people who live within the boundaries of the territory now known as Canada. We encourage all persons belonging to these nations and communities to indicate their affiliation below.

**I belong to one of the following Aboriginal peoples of Canada (one choice only):**

- First Nations or First Peoples
- Métis
- Inuit
- No
- I prefer not to answer

### **Minority affiliation**

**I belong to the following ethnocultural or racialized community (You may choose the option that best describes your ethnic or regional origin or choose more than one if you consider yourself to be of mixed origin):**

- Canadian Aboriginal Community (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)
- White community or community of European descent
- Central Asian or North Asian community
- Afro-descendant (or Black) community
- Latin American community
- Middle Eastern or North African community
- South Asian community
- Southeast Asian community
- East Asian community
- Aboriginal community outside of Canada
- None of the above
- I prefer not to answer

If you selected "*None of the above*" for the previous question:

***Specifically, I prefer to identify myself using the following terms***  
*max. 500 characters including spaces*

### **Native Language**

**The native language I learned and still understand is (please select all that apply)**

- French
- English
- Other(s)
- I prefer not to answer

If you selected "*Other(s)*" for the previous question:

***You may indicate your native language here:***  
*max. 200 characters including spaces*

### **Commonly used language**

**The language I most commonly use at home is (please select all that apply)**

- French
- English
- Other(s)
- I prefer not to answer

If you selected "*Other(s)*" for the previous question:

***You may indicate your commonly used language here:***  
*max. 200 characters including spaces*

*Comments or questions about the self-identification questionnaire  
max. 1000 characters including spaces*

**DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED IN PDF FORMAT:**

1. COMPLETE CV (FRQ CV (Descriptive CV) format whenever possible, but we accept all CV formats):
  - a. of the principal investigator and all collaborators ;
  - b. of the Master student / PhD student / postdoctoral fellow / resident / professional research;
2. *Optional*: a page containing one or more figure(s) and their respective captions
3. Submit document at [concours@rrcmdo.ca](mailto:concours@rrcmdo.ca).