

Call for Applications for Queen Elizabeth Scholarships – Outgoing Interns

The McMaster Health Forum offers graduate and undergraduate students the chance to do field work in Commonwealth countries (other than Canada) and non-Commonwealth low- and middle-income countries and benefit from remarkable training, mentoring and networking opportunities, which can be taken for course credit. The Forum is an inter-faculty initiative that strives to be a leading hub for improving health and social outcomes through collective problem solving. Operating at the regional/provincial level and at national levels, we harness information, convene stakeholders and prepare action-oriented leaders to meet pressing health and social issues creatively. The Forum acts as an agent of change by empowering stakeholders to set agendas, take well-considered actions and communicate the rationale for actions effectively.

As part of our commitment to prepare action-oriented leaders in addressing pressing health and social challenges creatively, we are proud to have been selected as one of 20 Canadian institutions to be a host site for the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships programs which will run from 2018 to 2021 inclusive (**now extended to the end of 2023**). Through this program, McMaster University will participate in activating a dynamic community of young global leaders across the globe to create lasting impacts on health and social systems both at home and abroad through cross-cultural exchanges encompassing international education, discovery and inquiry, and professional experiences.

About the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship opportunity for outgoing interns

Queen Elizabeth Scholars will have the opportunity to contribute to strengthening health and social systems in any of more than 140 Commonwealth and low- and middle-income countries where the Forum, and its partners, have robust relationships focused on health- and social-system strengthening. Scholars will become part of our large and growing network of health- and social-system leaders.

Eligible McMaster programs from which outgoing interns can be drawn include the Health Policy PhD program, Health Research Methodology MSc or PhD program, Master of Public Health program, Global Health MSc program, eHealth MSc program, BHSc undergraduate program, and Arts and Science undergraduate program.

Our seven core partners who can serve as hosts to outgoing interns, include: [Africa Centre for Evidence](#) in South Africa; [Caribbean Public Health Agency](#) in Trinidad and Tobago; [Institute for Health Systems Research at the Ministry of Health](#) in Malaysia; [Knowledge to Policy Center at the American University of Beirut](#) in Lebanon; [REACH Policy](#) in Uganda; [Sax Institute](#) in Australia; and [School of Medicine at the Universidad de Antioquia](#) in Colombia.

Queen Elizabeth Scholars will:

- participate actively in all training, mentoring and networking opportunities, either face-to-face or online, as well as in all evaluations of such opportunities, during their period as a Queen Elizabeth Scholar;
- provide appropriate receipts for all travel-related financial support requested from the program;
- adhere to all reporting requirements, which includes tracking all additional travel-related expenses that they cover themselves or through other means (which is required for the Forum's reporting);
- identify opportunities for experimentation in the program and lead the development and evaluation of any 'experiments'; and
- participate actively mentoring and networking as an alumni of the program.

Eligibility requirements

Outgoing interns need to:

- 1) hold Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status;
- 2) be a senior-level student (undergraduate year 3 or higher, graduate student) in an eligible McMaster program at the time of the internship/scholarship; and
- 3) be aged 35 or younger at the time of application.

Selection process

A selection committee, made up of McMaster Health Forum faculty and staff will evaluate all scholarship candidates based on their:

- 1) potential for real-world impact in strengthening health and social systems globally;
- 2) past experience with community engagement, both in Canada and in other countries.
- 3) academic track record; and
- 4) alignment of their proposed internship or graduate degree on health- or social-system strengthening with priorities identified by a country with which the McMaster Health Forum or one of its seven core partners has strong relationships.

How to apply

- 1) Queen Elizabeth Scholarship opportunities and application timelines will be posted on the Forum site – <https://www.mcmasterforum.org/learn-how/experiential-learning/queen-elizabeth-scholarships/how-and-when-to-apply-qes>
- 2) Applications must be submitted electronically to the McMaster Health Forum at forum@mcmaster.ca quoting “QES outgoing intern application” in the subject. Applications must be combined into one PDF file with the contents appearing in the order presented in the “Application requirements”, and the file name must be in the format of: lastname_QES_outgoing_intern.

Application requirements

- 1) two-page cover letter that describes:
 - what you would bring to the Forum and the Queen Elizabeth Scholar program (in terms of knowledge, skills and experiences),
 - how your work during the internship will benefit the host organization and/or country, and
 - what you would gain from the internship;
- 2) confirmation of the scholarship period for which you are applying;
- 3) resume (including your date of birth); and
- 4) transcript (please note that a PDF of the unofficial transcript is acceptable at the time of application; short-listed candidates will be required to provide an official transcript).

Terms of the scholarship

Recipients of the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship for outgoing interns will receive:

- 1) \$2,000 travel expenses (return airfare and visa costs)
- 2) \$4,000 living expenses (food, accommodation, health insurance and an installation allowance)

These funds are to help cover expenses that are directly related to the scholarship. The minimum period to be spent in the host country is **90 days**. It is expected that all outgoing interns will commit at least 12 months to the McMaster Health Forum including at least one semester prior to going abroad and at least one semester after returning from going abroad. You must be a registered McMaster student throughout the scholarship.

The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) is managed through a unique partnership of Universities Canada, the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF), Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) and Canadian universities. This program is made possible with financial support from the Government of Canada, provincial governments and the private sector.