

Major Student Research Award Terms of Reference

The Major Student Research Awards have the goal of celebrating health research excellence at the University of Manitoba in partnership with the Manitoba Student Health Research Forum (MSHRF) and its major sponsors. These awards are meant to recognize and support scientists of the future in the biomedical and health sectors.

There shall be annual field-specific awards presented to doctoral students who, in the view of an appropriately constituted Major Student Research Awards committee, have performed the best research in one of the defined areas, which are subject to change. In addition, there shall be major awards for Master's and Ph.D. students which are not specific to any research field.

In years where students qualify¹, there shall also be one major prize known as the **E.L. Drewry Memorial Award**, for which the awardee will be selected from the recipients of one (or more) of the following Major Student Research Awards:

- Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba Inc. Award for Research in Child Health;
- Health Sciences Centre Research Foundation Inc. Award for Research in Neurobiology or Infectious Diseases;
- Manitoba Medical Service Foundation Awards for Research Excellence;
- St. Boniface Hospital Research Foundation Inc. Award for Research in Cardiovascular Biology.

The awards are subject to change depending on available partnering funding.

To choose the recipient of the **E.L. Drewry Memorial Award**, the chair will announce the recipients of the Major Student Research Awards, then the committee will again deliberate and rank the eligible candidates¹. The eligible candidate receiving the highest average rating will be declared the awardee. The recipient of the **E.L. Drewry Memorial Award** is normally expected to receive the award in person as well as to deliver a faculty-wide lecture on their research. The travel cost incurred by the recipient to present the lecture, should they have already left the University of Manitoba, will be reimbursed to a predetermined maximum.

The Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate and Post-Doctoral Office shall be responsible for announcing annually the submission deadlines, and receive, on behalf of the committee, all applications for consideration.

The Major Student Research Awards committee shall consist of a non-voting chair and normally one member from each of the research areas represented by the Major Student Research Awards. The chair shall constitute the membership of the awards committee. The faculty advisor of a student being considered for a major award shall be excluded from membership on the Major Student Research Awards committee. Vetting of the applications received will be at the discretion of the Major Student Research Awards committee.

Eligibility

- 1) applicants must be doctoral students in good standing (except for the Master's award specified);
- 2) the applicant must have been enrolled in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences within the current academic year; Ph.D. students enrolled in the Applied Health Sciences program may also be eligible, provided they are supervised by a primary advisor whose primary appointment is within the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences;
- 3) the applicant's advisor must have been appointed in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences within the current academic year;
- 4) applications by a student who has already received a major award shall be solely on the basis of new research conducted after the previous award;
- 5) applicants shall not be disqualified based on their research area not "fitting" into a given award subject area.

Application details

All awards shall be based primarily on the excellence of research. Documentation considered relevant by the Major Student Research Awards committee includes the following:

- i) a cover letter from the student summarizing their research accomplishments,
- ii) an abstract of the thesis (if available),
- iii) reprints of publications (published manuscripts or “in press”),
- iv) *curriculum vitae* of the student, and
- v) letters of support from the student’s advisor and one other individual knowledgeable of the student’s research accomplishments.

The support letters shall clearly outline the merits of the student’s research and briefly describe other research-related merits of the student. The committee may also seek further information (for example, through personal interview). Note: a transcript should not be included.

The submission of documents for consideration by the Major Student Research Awards committee shall be made by the student in consultation with the student’s advisor. The submission shall be accompanied by an indication of the research area in which the student wishes to compete, though the committee retains jurisdiction in this matter.

When there is more than one student recommended from the same laboratory, the advisor shall rank them.

Application by a student who has already received a Major Student Research Award must declare this in their cover letter and shall be judged solely based on new research conducted since receiving the previous award.

¹ The Major Student Research Award competition is open to eligible students in the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. The E.L. Drewry Memorial Award competition is only open for eligible students in the Max Rady College of Medicine, as defined by its terms of reference, and according to donor intent.