



Canadian Association for Dental Research – Advisership & Student Training in Academic Research Program (CA-STAR Program)

The Canadian Association for Dental Research (CADR) invites applications from DDS / DMD / Bachelor's Dental Hygiene degree students for the CA-STAR Program. CA-STAR is a one-year program including a summer research project in a Canadian Faculty of Dentistry combined with at least two virtual meetings for an intensive mentorship program with leading Clinician Scientists / Scientists in Dentistry from a Canadian institution. The program provides a broad interdisciplinary research experience for exceptionally motivated trainees in a research-intensive academic Oral Health research environment. The trainees would successfully address the growing prospects in Canada's educational, dental, oral and craniofacial research.

The objective of this award is to inspire and to nurture the next generation of oral health clinician-scientists. Thus, in addition to the research program grounded in **translational** science, supported by the research supervisor at the host institution, the award aims to connect aspiring student clinician scientists with the broader Canadian oral health research community.

The CA-STAR Program will offer **one** trainee: (1) an independent research opportunity in translational science, (2) an opportunity to discuss Cranio-facial Dental, Oral Health, Public Health, Educational or Oral Biology topics and (3) the opportunity to receive academic and career guidance from CADR core advisors.

CA-STAR Program Details:

- CA-STAR trainee should be a registered DMD / DDS / Bachelor's Dental Hygiene degree student (Year 1 or 2) at any Canadian Institution.
- The CA-STAR program will start in January 2027 and end in December 2027.
- The proposed research project should be in the topic of translational science related to Cranio-facial Dental, Oral Health, Public Health, Educational or Oral Biology.
- CA-STAR trainees will receive \$2,500 as a one-time stipend, in March 2027.
- The proposed research supervisor and advisors must be active CADR members.
- **One** CA-STAR trainee will be selected.
- Separate to their research supervision and project, CA-STAR trainees will meet with the CADR advisors in-person or virtually at least twice yearly. The trainee is responsible for reaching out and setting up the meeting times.

CA-STAR Application Package Details:

A complete application package consisting of:

- (1) a cover letter highlighting how this program would benefit you;
- (2) a one-page research proposal (excluding references);
- (3) a 250-word summary proposal on the proposed training expectations, environment and anticipated research outputs;
- (4) a support letter from the Vice Dean, Research or the Associate Dean Undergraduate Program or designate from an institutional member of the CADR;
- (5) a letter of support from the proposed research supervisor; and
- (6) each CA-STAR mentee can propose up to FOUR advisors from any Canadian Faculty of Dentistry (in addition to the research supervisor) or request the CADR to assign advisors.

The complete application package, as one PDF document, should be emailed to Melissa O'Connor, CADR Operations Manager (mgrigg2@uwo.ca) no later than November 15, 2026.

CA-STAR Final Deliverables:

- CA-STAR trainees are required to submit a 2-page report (excluding references) at the end of the program.
- CA-STAR trainees are required to provide a virtual presentation (15 min) at the end of the program (December 2027).
- CA-STAR trainees are strongly encouraged to submit applications to the Canadian Oral Health Summit (COHS) Biennial Meeting and/or IADR/AAODCR/CADR Annual General Meetings.
- CA-STAR trainees are strongly encouraged to submit applications to the CADR-NCOHR Student Research Award competitions.

Deadline for applications: November 15, 2026

For more information email Melissa O'Connor, CADR Operations Manager (mgrigg2@uwo.ca)