

Decolonial Evaluation Emerging Scholars Fellowship

The Decolonial Evaluation Learning (DEL) team is excited to invite emerging student evaluators to apply to the Decolonial Evaluation Emerging Scholars Fellowship! This award is an opportunity to encourage and focus on ways evaluators can support addressing systemic barriers in the field of evaluation, and bring forward diverse perspectives that broaden our understanding of decolonial practices. The Decolonial Evaluation Emerging Scholars Fellowship aims to support up to 10 graduate students through a small stipend, networking, and mentorship opportunities.

Benefits of the award:

- Opportunity to connect with diverse student evaluators, ECN members, and evaluation scholar-practitioners through a community of practice setting.
- Promote your profile on the Evaluation Capacity Network's (ECN) website.
- Ongoing opportunity to learn, reflect, and engage with each other, with the option to co-create a joint scholarly presentation and/or publication.

To qualify, you must:

- Be enrolled full-time in a course-based or thesis-based graduate program, where your work is connected to evaluation practices.
- Be enrolled at one of the following Universities that partners with the ECN: Lakehead University, McGill University, Queen's University, University of Alberta, University of Manitoba, University of Ottawa, University of Victoria.
- Demonstrate your interest in decolonial evaluation practices and community engagement to show how they can connect/apply to your learning and interests.
- Identify as a member of an equity-deserving group. By this, we refer to the *Community-University Partnership Graduate Student Equity Award* definition: "Equity-deserving communities are groups who face unequal access to opportunities, resources, funding, and support or who experience systemic discrimination and oppression. This includes Black people, people of color, 2SLGBTQ+, Indigenous people, women, racialized people, people with mental or physical disabilities, newcomers, refugees, and more."

Award description:

- **Duration:** 6 months (January 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026).
- **Mentorship, Networking, Learning:** Successful applicants will form a monthly community of practice (1.5 hours per month + 1-2 hours independent learning/reflection -

total commitment is approximately 20-30 hours) to participate in dedicated workshops, connect with each other, and engage with ECN members or expert evaluators. Dates and times of sessions will vary, participants are expected to attend a minimum of 4 of the 6 sessions.

- ***Stipend:*** Successful applicants will receive award funding in the form of a stipend of \$500.

How to apply (Deadline for applications November 3, 2025 @ 11:59 pm MST):

You can apply for the Decolonial Evaluation Emerging Scholars Fellowship using the [online application form](#). The form will ask you to:

- Input your personal and academic information (e.g., name, email, institution, program).
- Briefly explain your identity or intersectional identities and how your interests, experiences, and/or studies focus broadly on decolonial approaches to evaluation. Your explanation may link to the need for diverse perspectives, and/or addressing systemic barriers in the field of evaluation or community engagement in evaluation learning and capacity building (max. 300 words).
- A personal statement that answers the following questions (max. 300 words):
 - What draws you to participate in a community of practice that is rooted in decolonial evaluation learning, perspectives, and practices?
 - What strengths, experiences, and/or perspectives would you contribute to help build a collaborative and inclusive community of practice?
- ***A note about the use of AI:*** We ask applicants not to use AI in the preparation of their text. The purpose of the two statements is to understand who is applying and what their interests are; as such, we want to hear from you, in your own words and voice.

Additional details:

- We will be hosting a [drop-in Q&A session](#) on October 27, 2025 at 11:00am MST.
- A working group will review all applications through a blind screening process (i.e., with identifying information removed) and evaluate each application based on how each question is answered. Up to 10 recipients will be randomly chosen from the pool of eligible applicants.

Contact Information:

We, the Decolonial Evaluation Learning (DEL) team, are excited to hear more about your graduate work, your experience with community engagement, your focus on broadening decolonial perspectives and practices, and the knowledge to be shared.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to our facilitators, Abigail Gallimore (agallimo@ualberta.ca) or Cheryl Lee-Yow (cheryl.leeeyow@queensu.ca).

The DEL Community of Practice (Info in a Nutshell)

What is a Community of Practice?

A ‘Community of Practice’ (CoP) is an educational experience that brings together "a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly” (Wenger et al, 2002) (Take a look at [Research Impact Canada’s explanation](#) to learn more). The DEL Community of Practice will serve as a learning space for those who have similar interests in learning more about systemic barriers in the field of evaluation and to bring forward diverse perspectives that broaden our understanding of decolonial practices.

There are many nuances, complexities, and challenges when engaging with decolonial evaluation. This CoP is meant to be a supportive, reflective, and critical thinking space for developing a deeper understanding of these experiences. Through this CoP, we hope that you will:

- Engage in conversations that build on the theory and experience of community-engaged evaluation.
- Learn as well as actively contribute to the group’s learning process.
- Explore and discuss the nuances of engaged evaluation, including the differences that exist in participants’ experiences.
- Examine ethical challenges through continuous questioning of self and others in the research process.
- Understand and appreciate different epistemological approaches.
- Practice reflexivity.

Who is the DEL team?

We are part of the Evaluation Capacity Network (ECN) housed at the University of Alberta, led by Dr. Rebecca Gokiart. Within the ECN, we are positioned as the Decolonial Evaluation Learning (DEL) team, a collective of students, faculty, and community members who have come together over the past three years to navigate nuances and acknowledge multiple approaches to evaluation. The DEL team strives to foster respectful and responsive relationships within evaluation, develop our ways of knowing, and evolve our understanding of possibilities for decolonial evaluation. We support and facilitate learning in ways that are respectful, relevant, reciprocal, responsible, and reverent of Indigenous and marginalized communities (Patterson et al., 2023).

Participant Contributions:

We are committed to fostering equitable structures and processes that support diverse perspectives and contributions. For the CoP to be successful and supportive in nature, we ask that each recipient demonstrate their commitment to:

- Open dialogue and constructive conversation,
- Intellectual curiosity,
- Desire to learn and to contribute to learning,
- Reflexive practice,
- Honesty,
- Respectful and supportive relationship building.

The goal is for participants to be able to apply their learnings to their evaluation interests and capacity-building practices.

Logistics:

- The CoP will be made up of 10 recipients, 2 facilitators to support the group, and a rotating group of evaluation experts to lead the sessions.
- There will be a total of 4 CoP sessions (December, February, April and June) that will be organized based on the availability of members.
- There are 3 DEL webinar sessions, where recipients will attend and actively engage (January, March, and May). Specific details will be provided during the December CoP orientation session.

Expectations:

As part of the Decolonial Evaluation Emerging Scholars Fellowship, recipients are asked to:

- Attend DEL webinar sessions as active participants. This may include offering a welcome, a presenter introduction, developing and asking questions to engage with facilitators. These sessions will be 1 hour in length.
- Participate in and contribute to the community of practice gatherings (December, February, April, & June). Each session will be 1.5-2 hours in length.
- Sign up to develop and contribute at least one reflection through a DEL Byte, featured in the ECN newsletter (approx. 250-300 words) and DEL team webpage.
- Be part of a collaborative reflection with others in the community of practice. These reflective pieces can be presented in a traditional written format, an infographic, an insight poster, a video, a podcast, etc.

We anticipate that your engagement in these opportunities will support you as you navigate your decolonial learning and community engagement journey, whether it be part of your thesis, coursework, or professional growth.

Attendance of Sessions: Recipients are expected to attend CoP and webinar sessions, which will be held every month from December to June. Please see below for a breakdown of the sessions month-by-month:

Month	Topic/Focus	About
December 18, 2025	CoP Session: Orientation held virtually at 10am PST/ 11am MST/ 1pm EST through Zoom - link to be sent out	This session will be an opportunity for recipients to introduce themselves, learn about expectations and events, and suggest ideas moving forward.
January 2026	DEL Webinar Mini-Series #1 - Approaches to Evaluation: Lessons, Reflections, Advice	This session will be facilitated by an expert within the field of either Anti-racism, trauma-informed, or Indigenous informed evaluation.
February 2026	CoP Session: Career Panel with ECN experts held virtually through Zoom - link to be sent out *date to be confirmed with group	This is an opportunity for recipients to learn more about different career paths within the field of evaluation. The career panel will consist of ECN members and/or their professional connections.
March 2026	DEL Webinar Mini-Series #2 - Approaches to Evaluation: Lessons, Reflections, Advice	This session will be facilitated by an expert within the field of either Anti-racism, trauma-informed, or Indigenous informed evaluation.
April 2026	CoP Session: Arts-Based/Hands-on learning session *date to be confirmed with group	This session will provide recipients with hands-on experience of arts-based evaluation, with the guidance of an expert evaluator.
May 2026	DEL Webinar Mini-Series #3 - Approaches to Evaluation: Lessons, Reflections, Advice	This session will be facilitated by an expert within the field of either Anti-racism, trauma-informed, or Indigenous informed evaluation.
June 2026	CoP Session: Final session - recap, sharing, growing	This session will be an open session that will allow recipients the opportunity to share their learnings (i.e., presentation, panel format, workshop creation).

DEL-bytes:

As part of the DEL team's goals of mobilizing knowledge, we've created the 'DEL-bytes' as a form of sharing our learnings through reflexivity. One of the deliverables from the members of the CoP will be to collaborate to create a reflection on their CoP experience. These reflective outputs could be about your personal development or learning during the tenure of the award, the benefits of the CoP experience to your community engagement practice or research process, and/or a practical example of how the CoP experience and learning have influenced your work moving forward.

The DEL-byte that will be created will be shared through the Evaluation Capacity Network's (ECN) membership and will also be added to the DEL team's annual report.