



## The Health Researcher Intensive at UVic Experience (THRIVE) Program Overview

### What?

As part of the [UVic Health Initiative](#) we are launching a new strategic pilot to provide interested scholars with an intensive group and individual development program focused on writing health research grants. We will run the program from September 2022 to March 2023. We expect to select an initial cohort of 5-8 scholars through a competitive application process. This work supports [Aspiration 2030's](#) Health & Wellness Impact Area. This pilot is an early step towards our Research Community aspiration action to create dedicated support programs for early career researchers and individuals from equity-deserving groups.

### Why?

Health research funding is highly and increasingly competitive. Securing a large award such as a Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) Project Grant (average size ~\$750,000) or Michael Smith Health Research British Columbia (MSHRBC) Scholar Award (\$450,000) provides significant resources to an individual's research program, including precious support for trainees and research staff. Especially for early career scholars, receiving such an award can fundamentally change one's career trajectory. For UVic, these awards bring prestige, raise the profile of health research, and additional CIHR funding impacts our allocations of CIHR Canada Graduate Student (CGS) Masters Awards, Vanier CGS Doctoral Awards, and Canada Research Chairs. We want to invest in our scholars to support their health research funding applications to be as competitive as possible.

### Who?

We will support early career researchers and scholars from equity deserving groups at UVic to pursue an application to a CIHR Project Grant and/or MSHRBC Scholar Award in Spring 2023.

We define **early career** as any regular faculty member who is within five years of their initial appointment as an independent researcher (excluding any time on leave). We encourage new faculty hires who are starting imminently to apply.

Scholars from **equity deserving groups** may apply at all career stages. We actively encourage applications from faculty members of [groups with historical and/or current barriers to equity](#), including, but not limited to:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;
- members of groups that commonly experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;
- persons with visible and/or invisible (physical and/or mental) disabilities;
- persons who identify as women; and
- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

## How?

The program is a mix of group learning and individual mentorship. Each THRIVE participant will be assigned a mentor at UVic, who they will meet once a month throughout the program (6-7 times). Group sessions will be held every two weeks on Fridays from 11:30am-2:30pm (lunch provided). Here is a draft schedule and proposed curriculum (subject to change):

- September 9 – Group Introductions and Program Overview (with mentors)
- September 23 – Mock Grant Review & Debrief, Witness the Process
- October 7 – Making the Case, Articulating your Research’s Specific Aims
- October 21 – Verbal Research Pitches by THRIVE Participants (with mentors)
- November 4 – Building a Team, Common CV & CIHR’s Most Significant Contributions
- November 18 – Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis+ and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- December 2 – Persuasive Writing & Effective Writing Strategies
- January 13 – CIHR’s Summary of Progress Document
- January 27 – Research Budgets, Finances and Timeline Planning
- February 10 – Peer Review by THRIVE Participants (with mentors)
- February 24 – Peer Review by THRIVE Participants (with mentors)
- March 10 – Responding to Rejection & Response to Reviewers
- March 24 – Group Closing and Program Evaluation

Wherever possible, these educational resources will be recorded and made available to others.

## Where?

The program will be run in-person on UVic campus, adhering and adapting as needed to all public health orders.

## What’s provided?

Each selected THRIVE participant will have an associated \$10,000 budget. The applicant and their supervisor (Chair/Director/Dean) must determine how these funds will be used to best support the applicant; this must be clearly outlined in the Supervisor Letter (see application form). There is flexibility in how these funds are allocated, recognizing varying needs and realities of faculty members and units across campus. Potential expenses include replacement sessional instructor costs associated with a teaching release for the applicant, research assistant funding for the applicant to assist with grant application preparations (e.g. application systems, CVs, lit review, letters of support), or salary for teaching assistant support for the applicant.

Selected THRIVE applicants will be encouraged and supported to connect with and secure in-kind supports from a [UVic research centre](#).

THRIVE mentors will receive a \$100 gift card to support monthly coffee/tea/snack sessions together with the THRIVE participant.



## The Health Researcher Intensive at UVic Experience (THRIVE) Application Form

Interested faculty members should submit a complete application package (including this form and the documents detailed below) to Nathan Lachowsky ([specialadvisorhealth@uvic.ca](mailto:specialadvisorhealth@uvic.ca)) by **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. This should be submitted as **one** combined PDF file named “THRIVE\_LastName(s)\_FirstName(s)”.

**Applicant Full Name:**

**Applicant Affiliation(s):** Department/School, Faculty, Research Centre(s)

**Applicant Email:**

**Supervisor Name:**

**Supervisor Email:**

**Which THRIVE applicant group(s) are you a part of? (check all that apply)**

*For definitions, please consult the Program Overview document (bottom of page 1)*

- Early Career Researcher
- Scholar from an [Equity-Deserving Group](#)

**Which funding applications do you plan to prepare/submit as part of THRIVE? (check all that apply)**

- CIHR Project Grant – Spring 2023
- MSHRBC Scholar Award

Please also append the following in your application package:

- **Applicant Letter—2 pages max**, which should describe:
  - your interests in the program
  - why you are competitive for the program
  - the research project/program application you hope to develop through the program
  - your current research environment (e.g. other scholars, space, equipment)
- **Signed Supervisor Letter (e.g., Dept. Chair/School Director)—1 page max**, which should detail:
  - why the applicant is competitive for the program
  - how the unit is supporting the applicant
  - details of how the \$10,000 of funding will be used (e.g. teaching release, TA/RA hours)
  - confirmation that no service or teaching commitments will be scheduled during the program’s Friday sessions (11:30am-2:30pm)
- **Applicant’s Full Curriculum Vitae**, in any format, but UVic format preferred. No page limit.