



Grand Challenges Canada®
Grands Défis Canada

2021 Summer Student Program

IMPORTANT PROGRAM INFORMATION

How do I know if I am eligible to apply?

To be eligible for the Summer Student Program, at the time of submitting an application, individuals must be currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution or have graduated within the last year (12 months) from a post-secondary institution.

I am an international student; am I still eligible to apply?

International students are eligible to apply as long as they meet the standard eligibility criteria (above) and are authorized to work in Canada. Costs and arrangements for travel, visas, accommodation and living expenses are the responsibility of the student and will not be arranged or covered by Grand Challenges Canada.

How do I apply to the Summer Student Program?

A complete application includes:

- Summer Student Program Application Form
- Summer Student Program Short Answer Questions Form
- Resume (maximum two pages)

The Application Form and Short Answer Questions Form can be accessed through the [Careers](#) page on Grand Challenges Canada's website. Begin by downloading the Short Answer Questions Form. Once you have completed the Short Answer Questions Form, you must fill out the Application Form online. Through the Application Form web page, you will be able to attach the completed Short Answer Questions Form, and your resume. Once these materials are attached, you will be able to submit your application through the Application Form web page.

Please do not submit a cover letter, reference letters or any additional application material other than what is requested.

Please note that once your application has been submitted, it will no longer be possible to make changes to it.

What if my current or most recent academic institution does not use the Grade Point Average (GPA) system?

Only in the case where your current or most recent academic institution does not use the GPA system, you may self-report your academic average as a letter or numeric value (e.g., as an average of B+ or 80%).



What does the application process entail?

The first-round of applications consists of a written application package (Application Form, Short Answer Questions Form, Resume) submitted to Grand Challenges Canada. These are scored on the basis of the following criteria:

- Relevance of experience and skills to position of interest
- Demonstrated interest in global health
- Program-specific requirements, if applicable.

The top-scoring applicants will be invited for an interview at Grand Challenges Canada's office in Toronto, Ontario. Other arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis for interviewees located outside of Toronto.

What is the timeline for the application process?

Please consult Grand Challenges Canada's website for exact dates. For reference, a general timeline is as follows:

- Application request launch: December 11, 2020
- Application deadline: January 21, 2021 at 4 p.m. ET
- Successful applicants notified: March to April 2021
- Summer student orientation and start: May 3, 2021
- Summer Student Program ends: August 27, 2021

Please note this timeline is subject to change. Any changes will be announced through our website and social media platforms.

How many applicants typically apply? How many do you interview?

The number of applicants that apply to the Summer Student Program varies but is typically high, given the interest in the program. There is no set number of applicants who receive interviews; this number depends on the number and quality of applicants, as well as the needs of the organization for the summer period.

Are these paid positions? If so, how much can I expect to be compensated?

Compensation is aligned with the University Health Network regulations. Costs and arrangements for travel, accommodation and living expenses are the responsibility of the student, and will not be arranged or covered by Grand Challenges Canada.

When do these positions begin and end?

Summer students should be available to work from the first week of May through to August 27, 2021.

Where are these positions located?

Summer students work with Grand Challenges Canada's team at our office in the MaRS Centre, 661 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. *Note: Due to COVID-19, all Grand Challenges Canada staff are required to work remotely for an indefinite period of time. Additional details will be communicated ahead of the program start date.*

What is the typical work schedule?

This is a full-time position (37.5 hours per week) following regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

When and how will I be notified about the status of my application?

Applicants will be notified by email of the status of their application between March and April 2021.

Do I need to have a health background to apply or to be competitive? Are there any specific prerequisites?

Applicants do not need to have a health background (such as a Bachelor of Science) to apply or to be competitive for the Summer Student Program. In line with the principles of Integrated Innovation, Grand Challenges Canada values the experiences and perspectives of diverse disciplines. A demonstrated interest in global health will be considered an asset.

Some positions may require applicants to have specific prerequisites (such as skill sets or academic backgrounds); in these cases, expected prerequisites will be clearly specified in the job description.

What is the best way to learn about Grand Challenges Canada?

The best way to learn about Grand Challenges Canada is through our website. The following documents may be particularly useful in providing background and information on Grand Challenges Canada:

- [About Grand Challenges Canada](#)
- [Discover our Innovations and Results](#)
- [Integrated Innovation](#).

We also encourage you to join our [mailing list](#) and follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#)); in addition to our website and social media platforms, we use the mailing list to announce new programs, job opportunities, events and other news.

To learn more about the Summer Student Program, including information on past students and activities, please refer to [Grand Challenges Canada's blog](#).

If I am offered a position as a summer student, what kind of projects can I expect to work on?

Please consult the summer student job descriptions for an outline of key responsibilities and activities, based on work done by the 2020 Summer Students. Kindly note that these are subject to change, as the actual projects and work of summer students will be based on the needs of Grand Challenges Canada during the summer period.

What is University Health Network and how does it relate to Grand Challenges Canada?
University Health Network (UHN) is a clinical healthcare and scientific research organization in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Summer students of Grand Challenges Canada are hired through UHN.