Mila EDI Scholarships Program

CATEGORY 1 : EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS - WOMEN IN AI

Mila believes in the critical significance and the immense richness of a diversified and inclusive community. It is in this spirit that the **Mila EDI Scholarships Program** has been developed. This initiative aims to provide increased financial support to foster the development of talent from historically underrepresented groups within the AI ecosystem as well as the implementation of equity, diversity, and inclusion values in AI research.

Since women are particularly underrepresented in graduate studies, the **Excellence Scholarships - Women in AI** category is intended to be an attraction and retention lever to ensure strong participation of women in Mila and in the broader AI ecosystem.

Mila recognizes that women's identities may be multifaceted, and our institute will take into account issues of intersectionality in awarding the scholarships in this category.

Deadline for applications

Wednesday, February 15 2023, 11:59 PM EST.

Only complete applications submitted via the application form will be evaluated. Incomplete applications or those submitted by email will be considered ineligible.

Scholarships amount

Master's level:
$5,000/year for up to 2 years
Target of 7 new laureates per year

Doctorate level:
$8,000/year for up to 3 years
Target of 7 new laureates per year

Students may apply at any time during their academic career. Laureates will be awarded one scholarship per academic year up to the maximum prescribed by their level of study as long as they meet the eligibility criteria of the **Women in AI** category.

Candidates are eligible to receive a scholarship for each of the levels of study described above (e.g., a student may be a laureate during her master's studies and may be a laureate again during her PhD). However, a student may not be awarded more than one scholarship of this Category for the same level of study.

A student may not be a laureate, for the same level of study, for both Category 1 (Women in AI) and Category 2 (EDI in Research) of the Mila EDI Scholarships program. However, she can be a laureate for Category 1 and Category 3 (Socioeconomic Diversity) for the same level of study.

Announcement of results

No later than Friday, March 10, 2023 4:00 PM EST.

Laureates will be notified by email.

Eligibility Criteria

Are eligible to apply for financial support under Category 1 of the Mila EDI Scholarships Program, **Women in AI**, individuals who fall into either of the following 2 categories and meet all criteria listed under each category:

1.) Students currently enrolled and active in a study program
- Self-identify as a woman
- Hold an active HQP (Highly Qualified Personnel) status at Mila[1] - Are defined by the term "HQP" students enrolled at affiliated universities and non-independent researchers such as post-docs and interns supervised by a Mila member
- Be enrolled full-time for the Winter 2023 term in one of the following study programs
  - Masters (M.Sc) - Research
  - Professional Masters (M.Sc) in machine learning at UdeM (DIRO)
  - PhD
- The M.Sc Research or PhD student must be supervised by a core academic member[2]
  - OR   Be co-supervised by a core academic member
  - OR   Be supervised by an associate academic member and have been sponsored by a core academic member for "Core HQP" access[1]
  - OR   Be supervised or co-supervised by an associate academic member holder of a Mila CIFAR Chair

2.) Prospective students applying for admission to a study program beginning in the Fall 2023 term
- Self-identify as a woman
- Prospective M.Sc Research or PhD students must have received a supervision or co-supervision offer from a core academic member[2]
  - OR   have received a supervision or co-supervision offer by an associate academic member holder of a Mila CIFAR Chair
- Prospective students in the Professional Masters (M.Sc) in machine learning program at UdeM (DIRO) must have been selected by Mila for admission to this program for the Fall 2023 term

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[1] See section 1.3 of policy "Mila Faculty membership - Rules and procedures"
[2] https://mila.quebec/en/team/?cat_id=22

Applications submission

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the online application form. **Incomplete applications or applications submitted by email will be considered ineligible**.

The following documents must be attached to the online form when submitting the application:
- Motivation letter (1 page maximum - Arial 11pt, single spaced)
- Resume (CV) (3 pages maximum)
- University transcripts (unofficial copies are accepted)
  - Master's Level Scholarship: transcripts of all completed university degrees & Current Master's transcript (including Fall 2022 semester)
  - PhD Level Scholarship: transcripts of all completed university degrees & current PhD transcript (if applicable)
- Proof of enrollment in a study program
  - Currently enrolled and active students: proof of full-time enrollment for the Winter 2023 semester
  - Prospective students: copy of a supervision offer extended by a Mila academic member OR copy of the selection confirmation by Mila for a Fall 2023 admission to the Professional Masters (M.Sc) in machine learning program at UdeM (DIRO)

Applications evaluation

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
- Excellence of academic record
- Belonging to more than one underrepresented group (intersectionality)
- Links between the issues faced by the student and a situation of marginalization related to belonging to one or more underrepresented groups (e.g., student-parent, caregiver, medical issue, ethno-cultural diversity, learning disabilities, etc.)
- Participation in and/or organization of events and initiatives in order to promote EDI in the community and/or in the university environment
- Links between the student's described involvement in the community and/or academic environment and EDI principles and values
- Overall relevance and impact in promoting EDI principles and values within Mila and the broader AI ecosystem

In order to preserve the confidentiality of the students' self-identification data, all applications will be anonymized by a Mila employee before being submitted to the Evaluation Committee.

Composition of the Evaluation Committee:
- 2 members of the Mila EDI committee (1 professor and 1 post-doctoral fellow)
- 1 professor external to Mila
- 1 Mila employee from the AI for Humanity Team
- 1 Mila employee from the Academic Affairs or Strategic Initiatives and Support to Scientific Direction teams

Mila is committed to building a diverse and inclusive Evaluation Committee representative of the diversity of our society.

Under no circumstances will the results of the evaluation of applications be disclosed. Due to the confidential nature and the sensitivity of the information submitted in this call for applications, the names of the laureates will not be shared with the community.

Additional information

Scholarships will be paid annually according to the following schedule:

1.) Currently enrolled and active students
- March/April 2023 - Year 1 Payment
- November 2023 - Year 2 Payment (if applicable)
- November 2024 - Year 3 Payment (if applicable)

2.) Prospective students newly admitted in the Fall 2023 term
- November 2023 - Year 1 Payment
- November 2024 - Year 2 Payment (if applicable)
- November 2025 - Year 3 Payment (if applicable)

Payment of scholarships is conditional upon completion of the "Scholarships Form"[3], submission of the required documents (SIN, specimen check, confirmation of full-time enrollment after the deadline for dropping courses with fees, etc.), and meeting all eligibility criteria prior to each annual payment.

Scholarship payments are subject to taxes as per applicable laws. Laureates will receive the associated tax slips annually (T4A-Federal, Relevé 1-Provincial).

Thank you to our partners !

The **Mila EDI Scholarships Program** would not have been possible without the generous support of our partners:

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[3] The form to be completed will be emailed to the laureates once the competition is over.