

Mila EDI Scholarships Program

CATEGORY 2 : EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS - EDI IN RESEARCH

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.

The **Excellence Scholarships - EDI in Research** category is designed to support students whose work contributes to the application of EDI values in research as well as to encourage diversity as a lever for innovation while playing a key role in countering research bias.

EDI in research can be discussed in different ways:

- **EDI as a research topic.** For example: algorithms for unconscious bias detection, AI to serve first peoples and facilitate their inclusion, transparent (i.e. understandable) and ethical AI development with responsible use of data, promoting the inclusive recognition of language (e.g., robust to different accents), etc.
- **EDI in methodology.** For example: data collection and/or analysis and interpretation of results from a diverse angle (sex, gender, visible minority, ethnic minority), impact of EDI parameters (visible or non-visible disability, demographic origin) on the phenomenon being studied, etc
- **EDI in the dissemination of results.** For example: disseminating results to underrepresented groups affected by the research that is conducted by the applicant, thinking about the impact of research on targeted communities and ways to measure it, etc.

Slide 35 from the [Mila workshop on EDI in Research Methodology](#) provides further thoughts on the various ways to include EDI in research

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 2 new laureates per year

Doctorate level:

\$8,000/year for up to 3 years

Target of 3 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 **EDI in Research** 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 his/her master's studies and may be a laureate again during his/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, a student can be a laureate for Category 2 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

- Hold an active HQP (Highly Qualified Personnel) status at Mila¹- 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
 - PhD
- Be supervised by a core academic member²
 - OR Be co-supervised by a core academic member
 - OR Be supervised by an associate academic member and have been sponsored by a by a core academic member for "Core HQP" access¹
 - 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

- Prospective M.Sc Research or PhD students must have received a supervision or co-supervision offer from a core academic member²
 - OR Have received a supervision or co-supervision offer by an associate academic member holder of a Mila CIFAR Chair

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)
- Description of research project (1 page maximum - Arial 11pt, single spaced)
- Resume (CV) (3 pages maximum)
- University transcripts (unofficial copies are accepted)
 - Master's Level Scholarship: transcript of all completed university degrees & Current Master's transcript (including Fall 2022 semester)
 - PhD Level Scholarship: transcript 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

Applications evaluation

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Links between the student's research work and EDI principles and values
- Overall relevance of the application and impact in promoting EDI principles and values within Mila and the broader AI ecosystem
- Participation in and/or organization of events and initiatives in order to promote EDI in the community and/or in the university environment
- Excellence of academic record

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
- 1 external EDI expert

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:



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