

Mila EDI Scholarships Program

CATEGORY 3 : SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

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 **Socioeconomic Diversity Scholarships** focus on helping students address a financial emergency or unexpected expenses that might have an impact on their academic careers.

Deadline for applications

At any time.

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

Scholarships amount

Up to a maximum of \$2,000 per academic 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 **Socioeconomic Diversity** category.

A student can be a laureate for both Category 3 (Socioeconomic Diversity) as well as for one of the other two categories of the Mila EDI Scholarships program within the same academic year (Category 1 - Women in AI or Category 2- EDI in Research).

This scholarship is intended to complement and not replace any financial support received separately from its supervisor or from any other source and is intended to cover partially or totally the financial need of the laureates.

Announcement of results

No later than 30 days after the application is filed.

Laureates will be notified by email.

Eligibility Criteria

Are eligible to apply for financial support under Category 3 of the Mila EDI Scholarships Program, **Socioeconomic Diversity**, individuals who meet all of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate the existence of a one-time, urgent need for financial assistance (short-term financial situation) that impacts his/her academic progress¹
- Hold an active HQP (Highly Qualified Personnel) status at Mila² - 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 in one of the following study programs at the time of the application submission:
 - 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 member³
 - 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

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:

- Letter describing the context of the request (financial need, urgency, types of expenses to be covered, impact on academic progress, etc.) (2 pages maximum – Arial 11pt, single-spaced)
- Resume (CV) (3 pages maximum)
- Proof of full-time enrollment in one of the eligible programs at the time of the application submission

Applications evaluation

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Justification of the urgent nature of the financial need
- Impact of the context of the request on the student's academic progress
- Nature of the expenses to be covered by the scholarship amount¹

¹See the "Additional information" section for a non-exhaustive list of eligible expenses within Category 3

² See section 1.3 of policy "[Mila Faculty membership - Rules and procedures](#)"

³ https://mila.quebec/en/team/?cat_id=22

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:

- 1 Mila employee from the Academic Affairs team
- 1 Mila employee from the finance team

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

To be considered eligible, expenses must have been incurred or be in the process of being incurred in the academic year in which the scholarship will be awarded to the student.

Examples of eligible expenses (not exhaustive) :

- Medical expenses
- Dental expenses
- Legal expenses
- Travel expenses (for death/illness)
- Childcare emergency

Examples of ineligible expenses (not exhaustive):

- University registration fees or fees related to research activities
- Expenses that may be covered by the supervisor's research funds
- Purchase or repair of computer equipment

The submission of an application and the satisfaction of one or more of the eligibility criteria do not guarantee an automatic awarding of a scholarship, which depends on a number of factors such as the availability of funds.

It is therefore recommended (if possible) to wait for an official confirmation from Mila that you will be granted a scholarship prior to making any commitments related to your request for financial support.

The scholarship will be paid in full within 30 days of the completion of the "Scholarship Form"⁴. The payment of a scholarship is conditional on the submission of the required documents (SIN, cheque specimen, confirmation of full-time registration, etc.) as well as meeting all eligibility criteria prior to each payment.

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

Mila may refer the student to another support program depending on the nature of the emergency described in the request.

⁴ The form to be completed will be sent by email to the laureates once the analysis of their application is completed and a scholarship is awarded.