

From: [EVPSR Office](#)
To: [All Users - UHN](#)
Subject: EVP Science and Research Update: Federal Attestation Requirements; CIHR Equalization; STAR Program; Youth Outreach Update
Date: June 18, 2024 12:59:46 PM



New Researcher Attestation Requirements for Federal Grant Applications



The Government of Canada recently published the [Tri-Agency Guidance on the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#), providing information about new processes to support the [STRAC Policy](#) implementation. According to these guidelines, grant applications involving research that *advances* a [sensitive technology research area](#) must attest that all researchers involved in the activities of the grant are not affiliated with or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from any institute on the list of [Named Research Organizations](#).

Beginning May 2024, **Tri-Agency and Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant applications that propose to *advance* a named sensitive technology research area require each researcher with a named role on the application to submit [research attestation forms](#).**

UHN principal investigators and research teams must submit the attestation forms to the [Research Grants](#) team **at least two business days before the grant submission deadline**. The two-day period will enable the institution to check the application for completeness before submission; missing forms and incomplete applications could result in exclusion from peer review.

Please contact [Research Grants](#) with any questions about the new requirements and application process.

Promoting Inclusive Canadian Health Research



The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has been committed to achieving a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive Canadian health research enterprise. As part of this commitment, it has announced [new equalization measures](#) for the *Project Grant* program.

Beginning with the Fall 2024 Project Grant competition, CIHR will equalize applications from nominated principal investigators who self-identify as a racialized person or person with a disability. This equalization ensures that the proportion of funded grants awarded to these groups is at least equal to the proportion of applications received from them.

Expansion of the equalization measures was identified in CIHR's recently published [Research Excellence Framework](#), which supports the agency's commitment to advancing more inclusive research excellence.

We encourage all grant applicants to complete the [Tri-Agency Self-Identification Questionnaire](#) to support the new equalization measures and ensure inclusive funding decisions. To learn more about equalization and the new measures, visit the CIHR [website](#).

Summer Student Training and Research Program



The [UHN Office of Research Trainees \(ORT\)](#) is excited to offer the [Summer Training and Research \(STAR\) program](#) to all UHN summer research students (including those in paid, co-op, and volunteer positions). The STAR program allows students to enhance their research and professional skills through in-person, interactive learning sessions, including a research day. Participants also have an opportunity to receive a certificate of program completion.

Upcoming STAR learning sessions are as follows:

- **July 5, 2024** – Scientific Storytelling: Enhancing Your Communication and Presentation Skills
- **July 19, 2024** – Navigating Futures: Exploring Diverse Careers in Science and Healthcare
- **August 2, 2024** – Advance Your Academics: Key Insights into Graduate School
- **August 13, 2024** – STAR Research Day

We ask principal investigators to encourage their summer students to register with the ORT [here](#) to participate in this valuable training opportunity.

For more information about the program and recordings of past sessions, visit the [ORT webpage](#) or contact ortadmin@uhn.ca.

Celebrating Two Years of Youth STEM Outreach



Last month, we celebrated the second anniversary of the launch of [UHN STEM Pathways](#)—UHN's outreach program to foster a passion and love of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in youth.

Since launching this initiative, UHN STEM Pathways has hosted over 200 virtual and in-person events, facilitating over 15,000 interactions with youth across Canada and around the world.

This milestone would not have been possible without the tremendous support of the UHN Research Institutes and 330 TeamUHN members who have volunteered over 3,000 hours. Several programs and events were also developed in close collaboration with community partners, including the Toronto District School Board, Visions of Science, the MINA Project, and many other educators and local organizations.

With plans to expand, UHN STEM Pathways would like to invite all members of TeamUHN to consider getting involved and to encourage UHN departments to explore opportunities for collaboration. For more information, visit the UHN STEM Pathways [website](#) or contact stempathways@uhn.ca.

Thank you to all who have supported this initiative and its continued investment in the future of STEM. We look forward to continuing to inspire the next generation of scientists.

Thanks for reading,
Brad

To read previous issues, click [here](#) (internal connection required) or navigate to the research intranet > "Newsletters" page > "Research Update" page