

Dr. Jim McDonald Scholarship for Northern Research

1. The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Research (ACUNS), with the support of the family of the late Dr. Jim McDonald, is sponsoring one scholarship valued at **\$5,000** for Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada currently enrolled in **graduate studies** in the social sciences and humanities as these pertain to Canada's north and its inhabitants. Community-based-research, interdisciplinary research and local Indigenous collaboration will be given special consideration, as will those that can demonstrate a specific focus to their project.
2. Proposals are invited from candidates working in the social sciences and humanities:
 - (a) engage in research culminating in a thesis or other such document;
 - (b) whose program makes a contribution to the North; and,
 - (c) who demonstrate leadership in northern scholarship.
3. The research project must involve a northern fieldwork component that is conducted in northern Canada or the circumpolar north ([see Northern Boundary line](#)), between May of the year the scholarship is granted and the following March.
4. The selection committee will be guided by the following considerations:
 - academic record
 - the quality of the written application
 - the potential benefits of the proposed research
 - the referee's reports, and
 - the applicant's leadership skills, interest in and commitment to northern scholarship.



AT A GLANCE

Dr. Jim McDonald Scholarship for Northern Research

Value of award	\$5,000
Number of available awards	1
Discipline	Social sciences and humanities as these pertain to the north in Canada and its inhabitants
Program	Enrolled in a graduate program at a Canadian university
Individual award criteria	(1) include direct northern field research or experience as part of their studies
	(2) community-based-research, interdisciplinary research and local Indigenous collaboration will be given special consideration
	(3) project demonstrates specific focus to their project
	(4) research culminating in a thesis or other such document
	(5) program makes a contribution to the North
	(6) demonstrate leadership in northern scholarship
Selection criteria	Academic record
	Quality of the application
	Referee reports
	Individual award criteria
	Applicants' interest in, and commitment to, the North and northern studies



General Criteria

You must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- be enrolled full-time in college or university at the time of application AND over the tenure of the award;
- not concurrently hold two ACUNS awards, but you may hold other awards and financial support while holding an ACUNS award;
- include a northern fieldwork component in your research that is conducted between May (in the year you receive your award) and the following March or May (depending on specific award); and
- conduct your research project in the North as defined here: <http://acuns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Interactive-Northern-Boundary-Map-Google-Chrome-2019-10-30-110102-AM.jpg>



Application Instructions

There are three parts to an ACUNS award application: the application form, referee reports, and transcripts. **All three parts must be received by ACUNS by January 31.**

a) Application

Please read award guidelines and instructions carefully before completing the form. In order to apply, you will be required to create an ACUNS account by clicking the [ACUNS Online Application Site](https://acuns.ca/students-post-docs/application-instructions/) button on our website (acuns.ca/students-post-docs/application-instructions/). Once you have registered, you will receive an email to confirm. Your ACUNS account will allow you to save your application and track the progress of your application(s), referee reports and transcripts.

b) Referee Reports

For this award, applicants must have **two referees** complete the online referee's report. The first must be from an instructor or supervisor of the directed study. The second report should be from the community partner acknowledging the relevance of the project and describe the contribution of the planned outreach activity to the community partner. During the application process, you will need to enter the names and email addresses of the individuals whom you have chosen to serve as referees in support of your application. Referees will receive an email directly from the online application site which will include the report to be completed. **If you are applying to more than one ACUNS award, your referee is required to complete a separate form for each application.** Upon submission of the report, your ACUNS account will be updated to reflect its completion.

c) Transcripts

Electronic copies of official transcripts may be sent to awards@acuns.ca. Only your **most up-to-date graduate transcript** is necessary. Please note that it can take several weeks to have official transcripts ordered and delivered. It is highly recommended that you order these well in advance of the application deadline.

If sending paper transcripts by mail, please send one copy of all required official grade transcripts, in a single package to:

**ACUNS Awards Program
c/o ACUNS
P.O. Box 30017
Ottawa, ON K2H 1A3**



General Award Information

- For projects including field research outside of Canada, the relevance and benefit of the circumpolar (Finland, Greenland (Denmark), Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the USA-Alaska) fieldwork to Canadian northern scholarship must be clearly indicated.
- Applications are reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee; technical jargon should be kept to a minimum.
- Applications to more than one ACUNS award require each referee to complete a separate form for each application.
- Award recipients are identified in late-May. Only successful candidates will be notified.
- Payment will be issued in instalments and is to be used as a stipend.
- If you have any questions, please visit our website, [Students: Frequently Asked Questions](#), or email our office at awards@acuns.ca.