



RUTH A. GARDNER RESEARCH AWARD DESCRIPTION

History

Ruth A. Gardner was a Victoria psychologist and social worker who devoted her life to helping others. She gave her support to several young people, assisting them in achieving their educational goals.

As a result of a bequest to the Greater Victoria Eldercare Foundation (Eldercare Foundation) by the late Ruth A. Gardner, an endowment fund was created to provide students with clinical or applied research experience within the field of gerontology, with an emphasis on individuals with chronic conditions.

Purpose and Support

The Ruth A. Gardner Research Award supports graduate students who are undertaking a clinical or applied research project designed to enhance and advance care for individuals with chronic conditions (e.g., Multiple Sclerosis, Early Onset Dementia, Parkinson's Disease) who are aging.

Financial support for research projects is provided by the Ruth A. Gardner Research Award Fund. Funds are held by and administered through the Eldercare Foundation. Research support is provided by the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health (IALH) at the University of Victoria (UVic).

Eligibility

- I. Applicants must be a graduate student registered in an educational program offered by UVic.
 - (a) Graduate students may be at any stage in their studies.
 - (b) The educational program may exist within a wide range of departments including, but not limited to: Education, Engineering (Assistive Technologies), Health Information Science, Medical Sciences, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work or Sociology.

2. Applicants must be willing to use the funding to conduct a clinical or an applied research project.
3. Applicants must identify a UVic faculty member who will be responsible for supervising their research and must include a letter of support from their supervisor.
4. Applicants must be formally affiliated with the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health at the University of Victoria by the end of the application submission period. Applicants may apply to become an IALH affiliate within the application submission period.

Expectations

1. Applicants must provide a short description (up to 5 pages) of the research to be conducted with the funding. The description must be approved by the applicant's supervisor.
2. If the proposed research involves the study of human participants, applicants must apply for ethics approval from the University of Victoria once they have received notification of award (if they have not already done so). Funding will not be released until ethics approval has been obtained.
3. Successful applicants must provide written progress reports midway through the project and annually (if applicable). A final project report must also be submitted.
4. Successful applicants will, at a minimum, be expected to provide written summaries of the research to both the Eldercare Foundation and the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health for inclusion in their newsletters.
5. Successful applicants may also be asked to present their research at one or more public events supported by the Eldercare Foundation (e.g., as part of Embrace Aging Month or International Day of Older Persons).
6. Any published work must recognize the financial support of the Ruth A. Gardner Research Award and the Eldercare Foundation as well as the research support of the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health at the University of Victoria.

Funding

1. One award of up to \$10,000 will be granted annually.
2. Funding will be available for applicants working on new clinical or applied research projects as well as those working on one or more components of an established clinical or applied research project.
3. If the proposed research involves the study of human participants, funding will not be released until ethics approval has been obtained.

4. Successful applicants may apply more than once for funding, but the above noted criteria and expectations will still apply.
5. Funding may be used for:
 - (a) Stipends
 - (b) Participant honorariums
 - (c) Research related equipment and supplies
 - (d) Costs associated with knowledge dissemination activities (e.g., publications)
 - (e) Registration, travel and associated costs related to presenting at conferences

NOTE: Eldercare award funds cannot be used to provide institutional support and no indirect costs or overhead will be provided.

Application Process

1. Applications for the Ruth A. Gardner Research Award should be submitted to the Eldercare Foundation between **January 1 and February 29, 2024**.
2. The application package should include:
 - (a) A completed application form
 - (b) A short (up to 5 page) document which describes the research to be conducted with the funding (approved by the applicant's supervisor)
 - (c) A description of COVID-19 Protocols
 - (d) A description of the study team and any partnerships
 - (e) A study budget
 - (f) A knowledge dissemination plan
 - (g) A letter of support from the applicant's supervisor
 - (h) A copy of the applicant's CV
3. Funds will be released by the Eldercare Foundation once Human Research Ethics Board approval has been obtained from the University of Victoria (if applicable).

For More Information

For more information on the Ruth A. Gardner Research Award Fund, or the types of research supported by the fund, contact :

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