



# 2024 TRAINEE AWARDS: PROGRAM GUIDELINES

## OVERVIEW

<b>Award Value</b>	Master’s/PhD awards provide \$20,000/year Postdoctoral awards provide \$40,000/year
<b>Award Duration</b>	One year from September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>Trainees must be University of Toronto/TASHN students at the graduate or post-doctoral level during the entire duration of funding.</p> <p>Up to three awards will be reserved for Indigenous graduate students or graduate students from underrepresented student populations.</p> <p>Trainees must be co-supervised by two members of TRANSFORM HF who provide different disciplines and perspectives.</p> <p>Applicants cannot hold a TRANSFORM HF award at the same time as another external funding.</p>
<b>Areas of Focus</b>	<p>Applications must address inequity in heart failure care and improve the lived experience of heart failure through research centered on one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field-ready Point-of-Care Diagnostics</li> <li>• Wearables and Embedded Sensors / Remote Monitoring</li> <li>• Data science innovation in heart failure prevention, treatment, or care</li> <li>• Digital Health Implementation</li> </ul> <p>Regardless of Research Theme, the project must 1) incorporate inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility and anti-racism (IDEAA), and 2) incorporate lived experience and community perspectives where appropriate.</p>
<b>Application Deadline</b>	March 18, 2024 at 5pm EST
<b>Application Submission</b>	Email completed application with all supporting documentation to <a href="mailto:info@transformhf.ca">info@transformhf.ca</a> by the deadline.

## BACKGROUND

TRANSFORM HF is an Institutional Strategic Initiative formed in partnership between the University of Toronto and the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research to address the grand challenge of inequity in heart failure (HF) care. The initiative's ultimate goal is to enable patients to become more active in their own health and change the lived experience of HF care. TRANSFORM HF is committed to co-creating and implementing new approaches and models of care to enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions, with technological advances in digital health at the forefront.

Consult the TRANSFORM HF website for [more information](#) and to view [past Trainee Award recipients](#).

## ELIGIBILITY AND AWARD VALUE

TRANSFORM HF is accepting applications from University of Toronto/TAHSN Master's, PhD, and Postdoctoral (PhD or MD) students for Trainee Awards. Applications must:

- Focus on new approaches and models of care to address heart failure and inequities in care. Specifically, research should explore how technological advances in **digital health** (remote monitoring and consultation; wearables and remote diagnostic sensors/testing), **data science innovation** (machine learning and AI), and **digital health implementation** might enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that empower patients to become more active in their own health.
- Advance health equity by incorporating inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and anti-racism (IDEAA) considerations throughout the research and translation plan.
- Seek to co-create with patients or community partners to arrive at potential solutions that respond to realities of the lived experience of heart failure in a manner of mutual respect and understanding of all parties involved.
- Explore these approaches through the lenses of basic science, clinical practice, data science and artificial technology, Indigenous health, lived experience, health systems, and/or policy change. **More than one lens** must be applied, and applicants must focus on the translational aspects of their research activities.

Awards are offered at two levels: Master's/PhD awards provide \$20,000/year; Postdoctoral awards provide \$40,000/year for trainee salary support. Awards may be renewed once for a second year. Renewal is dependent on progress demonstrated during the first year and continued alignment with TRANSFORM HF's goals.

Trainees must be co-supervised by two TRANSFORM HF members from two different disciplines (e.g., engineering and medicine). Please see TRANSFORM HF's list of [University of Toronto faculty members](#) if you require assistance identifying potential supervisors/confirming your current supervisors' membership. If your current supervisor(s) is not a TRANSFORM HF member, they can join the network by filling out a [form](#). They can learn about the benefits of and criteria for membership on the TRANSFORM HF [website](#).

Up to three awards will be reserved for Indigenous graduate students or students from underrepresented student populations:

- 1 award for a graduate student from the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering.
- 1 award for a graduate student from the Institute of Biomedical Engineering.
- 1 award for a graduate student from any department within the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.

Applicants who receive a TRANSFORM HF award at the same time as another external funding award must declare this award and indicate its start and end date. If they choose to accept another external award, they will be eligible for a small top-up from TRANSFORM HF, as follows:

- The TRANSFORM HF top-up is dependent on the funding amount of the other awards.
- Master's or PhD awardees will be eligible for a maximum top-up of \$5,000, dependent on the value of the other award.
- PDF awardees will be eligible for a maximum top-up of \$10,000, dependent on the value of the other award.

All winning recipients will also receive enrollment in the First Nations Governance Information Centre's Fundamentals of OCAP online course as well as the Ontario Cultural Safety Program as part of their award. If a recipient has already completed these programs, additional training of equal value will be supported by TRANSFORM HF, pursuant to approval of the Director.

The number of awards to be funded depends on the quality of applications received.

Funding will begin in September 2024 and terminate in August 2025.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

[Application forms](#) are available from the TRANSFORM HF [website](#). All sections must be completed and must adhere to the word limits.

### Inclusion of SGBAR, Patients, Community and IDEA

#### *Sex and gender-based analysis and reporting*

Applicants are required to integrate sex and gender-based analysis and reporting (SGBAR) in their project or research design. Any application that does not incorporate SGBAR must provide a rationale why it would not be relevant to the project. All successful applicants must complete appropriate CIHR Institute of Gender and Health training modules: [Online Training Modules](#).

#### *Patient and community engagement*

TRANSFORM HF is committed to engaging patients in their care and in decision-making to improve the quality and safety of care across the hospital. Applicants are required to illustrate how they intend to meaningfully engage patients in their project. Any application that does not engage patients must provide a rationale why it would not be relevant.

Community-oriented initiatives must ensure community engagement in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of health programs and technologies. Initiatives with Indigenous organizations

and communities must develop meaningful relationships, ensuring a sense of accountability and reflexive allyship, and “an ability to step aside and allow Indigenous people to lead.”<sup>1</sup>

### *Inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and anti-racism (IDEAA)*

Applicants must illustrate how their project will align with and potentially advance TRANSFORM HF’s commitment to IDEAA, whether in the composition of the research team, IDEAA training of research team members, or the considerations of IDEAA in research/project design. For more information, consult the [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion resources](#) available through the University of Toronto’s Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation.

## Evaluation Criteria

Each of the applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- 25%** Significance, quality, and impact of the project; alignment with the vision and goals of TRANSFORM HF.
- 20%** Applicant background, accomplishments, and academic and research excellence.
- 20%** Focus on new approaches and models of care to address heart failure and inequities in care. Specifically, exploration of how technological advances in digital health, machine learning, and AI might enable proactive, personalized, and decentralized solutions that empower patients to become more active in their own health.
- 15%** Evidence of collaboration among diverse disciplines, perspectives, and TRANSFORM HF partners in achieving the project through research team, project design, and/or translation plan.
- 15%** Appropriate and explicit incorporation of SGBAR; patient and community engagement; and inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and health equity as appropriate.
- 5%** Plans/activities for translation and/or commercialization of the research findings.

Applications will be reviewed and adjudicated by a panel comprised of TRANSFORM HF research investigators, trainees, and people with lived heart failure experience.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

**Applicants are encouraged to submit applications in advance of the deadline, as applications received after 5:00pm EST on March 18, 2024 will not be accepted.**

Application materials are to be submitted electronically, via email to [info@transformhf.ca](mailto:info@transformhf.ca) in PDF format as **one file**. For information on the materials needed for submission, please see the [Application Form](#).

Receipt of complete/on-time submissions will be acknowledged. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Applicants will be notified of their status in May 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> Hyett S, Marjerrison, S, Gabel, C. Improving health research among Indigenous Peoples in Canada. CMAJ 2018 May 22;190:E616-21. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.171538.