



# 2026 SBME Synergy Summer Studentship: Application Guidelines

*Last updated February 2, 2026*

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Before applying for an SBME Synergy Summer Studentship, we recommend you:

- 1. Review the application guidelines.** Ensure you meet the eligibility criteria.
- 2. Consider your availability from May to August, 2026.** Award recipients are required to participate in the Synergy Summer Research Program and attend all sessions. Studentships may be withdrawn if this participation requirement is not met. Sessions will be scheduled on Tuesdays from 2 – 5pm when possible. Final schedule will be made available at time of award notification.
- 3. Identify a potential supervisor to support your application.** Supervisors must be affiliated with at least one partner group: School of Biomedical Engineering, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Genome Science and Technology (GSAT), Care Anywhere, ICORD, or the Edwin S. H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging. Supervisors may be a Principal Investigator (PI), Research Associate (RA), or Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF) over the summer period (May 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026).

<b>Award Description</b>	Synergy Summer Studentship Awards at SBME are intended to support highly qualified undergraduate and medical students interested in completing a research project under the supervision of an SBME, DMCBH, GSAT, Care Anywhere, ICORD, or Edwin S. H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging supervisor.
<b>Stipend</b>	16 weeks, base stipend \$9,500
<b>Deadline</b>	March 31, 2026; 11:59PM PT
<b>Award Term</b>	May to August 2026
<b>Application Form</b>	<a href="https://ubc.ca/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhTxxNfjL3PSe46">https://ubc.ca/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dhTxxNfjL3PSe46</a>
<b>Questions</b>	Melody Salehzadeh, Research Manager, SBME melody.salehzadeh@ubc.ca

## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, the applicant must meet **all** of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Applicant must currently be registered and will remain registered for the duration of the program at a recognized university.
2. Applicant must be eligible to work in Canada for the entire duration of the award. Applicant must hold a Canadian bank account and Social Insurance Number to receive their stipend.
3. Applicant is expected to conduct their research projects **in-person**. Project scope is not limited to basic science/clinical research, and can include science education/communication projects. The award will expect that students will be conducting research for up to 30 hours per week.
4. Successful applicants are required to:
  - a. Participate in **all** SBME-organized summer events (see 'Award Conditions'). Award may be withdrawn otherwise.
  - b. Participate in a presentation of their work or work-in-progress at the SBME Synergy Research Day (August 10, 2026).
  - c. Submit a written report that includes a summary of their research project, a reflection of their Program experience, and an assessment of the overall Program. This report should be sent to the SBME Program Manager by August 31, 2026.
5. Applicant may only submit one application for the 2026 Synergy Summer Studentship award.
6. Although students are encouraged to apply for all eligible funding competitions to maximize their funding chances, students who accept an SBME Synergy Summer Studentship award may not hold any other awards **or be paid through a co-op position (new to 2026)** during the funding period (May to August 2026).
7. Successful applicants and their supervisors must sign the award agreement at time of award acceptance.

Applicants **are not** eligible for funding if they meet any of the following criteria:

- Apply with a supervisor who is not affiliated with any of our program partners.
- Have graduated and are **not** returning to school in the Fall to continue their current undergraduate or medical school program.
- Are receiving other awards to support their research from May to August 2026.

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Past Summer Synergy Studentship awardees are eligible to apply, however, funding is not guaranteed.
- Students and PIs are encouraged to discuss project expectations, schedules, and timelines in advance of agreeing to apply together.



- **Note:** Students will be asked to organize tours of their labs for interested Synergy students in the first month of the Synergy Summer Research Program. It is the student's responsibility to organize their lab tours with their supervisors and lab managers.
- **External applicants:** The School of Biomedical Engineering is committed to facilitating equitable access to the Synergy program. Travel awards (up to \$1000 for airfare) are available for students travelling to UBC from out of province or country. Priority will be given to students who demonstrate a financial need.

## SUPERVISOR ELIGIBILITY AND DETAILS

- Supervisors must be affiliated with at least one partner group: School of Biomedical Engineering, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, Genome Science and Technology, Care Anywhere, ICORD, or Edwin S. H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging. Supervisors may be a Principal Investigator (PI), Research Associate (RA), or Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF) over the summer period (May 1, 2026 to August 31, 2026).
- Only **one** student may be supervised per PDF/RA. PDFs/RAs who are directly supervising students must have approval from their PI.
- SBME Synergy will contribute \$5,500 of the award funding, while PIs must contribute \$4,000 of the award funding. Upon award acceptance, PIs must provide a speedchart/worktag to administrative staff. The award will be disbursed as a monthly payment through your department. The amount and duration of the award can be supplemented at the PIs discretion.
- SBME Synergy should be acknowledged in publications and presentations of work arising from this award.
- Students will be asked to organize tours of their labs for interested Synergy students in the first month of the Synergy Summer Research Program. It is the student's responsibility to organize their lab tours with their supervisors and lab managers.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Before you apply, please contact an SBME, DMCBH, GSAT, Care Anywhere, ICORD, or Edwin S. H. Leong Centre for Healthy Aging PI, PDF, or RA you are interested in working with. It is good practice to send them your resume, cover letter, transcript and/or statement of interest.

Once you and your supervisor have agreed to apply for the program, please work with your supervisor to complete and submit the application on [our portal](#).

### Application Questions:

Applicant:

- Name and Email
- University, Academic Program, Year of Study, Expected Graduation Date
- Agreement that applicant is and will continue to be a registered undergraduate student for the duration of the program (May – August 2026)
- Research theme/research interests



Supervisor:

- Name and Email
- Department
- Academic affiliations at UBC

**Application attachments:**

The following documents need to be uploaded with the application:

Component	Limit/Format
<b>Research Proposal</b>	
<p>Provide a one-page scientific summary suitable for a researcher outside of your field. The summary should include (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Project title</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The name of the supervisor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Brief background information and rationale</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Research question or hypothesis</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Specific aim(s) of the project and relevant methodology</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feasibility (e.g., timeline, available resources, expertise)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Significance of the work, including potential contributions to the field or broader impact</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Training expectations: describe the student’s specific role(s) in the research project including the specific tasks to be performed, instruction/mentorship to be provided, and what the student is expected to learn for the duration of the program.</li> </ul>	<p>1 page 0.75” margins Font size 11pt, Times New Roman Single-spaced</p>
<b>Optional: Bibliography</b>	
<p>If applicable, provide the bibliographic details for all citations listed in your research project description.</p>	<p>1 page 0.75” margins Font size 11pt, Times New Roman Single-spaced</p>
<b>Student’s Resume</b>	
<p>Please include all relevant contact information.</p>	<p>2 pages (any format)</p>



**Optional: Travel award application for out of province/country applicants** (UBC students are not eligible)

To be considered for the Travel Award, please include a one-page rationale, outlining:	1 page 0.75" margins Font size 11pt, Times New Roman Single-spaced
<input type="checkbox"/> Your interest in the Synergy program (why are you interested in participating, uniqueness of the program),	
<input type="checkbox"/> Describe how this event will benefit or impact your future (i.e., how will this program further your career, your interest in your research topic, and your professional development?),	
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial need, and	
<input type="checkbox"/> Estimated cost of return airfare to and from UBC-Vancouver. A maximum of \$1000 will be reimbursed for airfare if application is successful.	

**Signed Award Conditions Agreement**

Participants (PI included) must sign and submit the award conditions agreement.	This document can be found on our website.
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**Please upload these documents as a single pdf file. Please name the pdf file  
Firstname\_Lastname**

**Application Deadline:** March 31, 2026, 11:59 PM

**Protecting Your Privacy**

Personal information is collected under the authority of sections 26(a) and 26(c) of the BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The information you provide will only be used to determine whether you qualify for participation in this application process.

