



2016 Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship in Patient-Oriented Research

SCN Project Collaboration Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Strategic Clinical Network (SCN)?

Strategic Clinical Networks are networks of people who are working to create improvements in specific areas of health. [Read more](#) about SCNs and the work of SCN teams.

What happens if a SCN receives multiple submissions?

Multiple submissions for the same project are possible, however a letter of support may only be provided for:

- One (1) student where the projects are similar or overlap.
- Two (2) or more submissions that are received for the same large scale project where each student is focusing on a different aspect of the overall priority, providing that there is no overlap in the proposed projects and that the SCN has capacity to support both students/projects should both applicants receive a 2016 Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship.

What happens if a student who receives a SCN letter of support IS NOT selected to receive SPOR funding?

The goal of the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) Career Development (CD) Platform is not only to link funded students with SCNs and other community projects, but to facilitate any partnerships that may be valuable for both SCN teams, graduate students, and ultimately patient or health services outcomes that may result from projects based on SCN priorities. Therefore, we encourage SCNs to pursue partnership with any student or project of high caliber that they deem to be valuable to the SCN and the target population, regardless of the decision of award.

What if my area of research is not offered for SCN partnership?

The application process is embedded with an option to include an additional letter of reference from a stakeholder or community partner. While we provide a number of options this year to connect with select SCN teams, we encourage any applicant to seek stakeholders and community partners as a fundamental component of conducting patient-oriented research. The SCN opportunities available in this year's competition are simply an option and demonstrate some of the community partnerships that are available – if they do not match the project area an applicant is looking to undertake, consider reaching out to community partners that may help you reach your project goals.

2016 Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship SCN Project Collaboration – FAQs

My project does not align with any of the SCN teams or projects – can I still apply to the Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship?

Of course! The opportunity for partnership is simply another avenue through which students can obtain community partnership. The AbSPORU CD Platform aims to connect students, researchers, and community partners throughout the province to maximize resources, create stronger networks, and facilitate quality research that will ultimately benefit patients and health services. Applying to partner with a SCN is not a requirement, but simply another opportunity for consideration.

What is the benefit of applying to partner with a SCN?

The opportunity for graduate students to participate on priority projects will increase their ability to contribute to meaningful project outcomes in provincial priority areas, benefit from additional mentorship and networking, and obtain additional support their project while increasing their capacity to conduct patient-oriented research.

I have received a SCN letter of support and have been notified of receiving an Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship award – now what?

Upon notification of award, students who were provided a letter of support from a SCN will be required to contact the SCN project personnel (this contact information will be provided to the student upon notification of award), notify the SCN of the decision of award and coordinate discussion and project collaboration with their academic supervisor and the appropriate SCN project lead.

For questions or concerns related to SCN & Alberta SPOR Graduate Studentship partnership opportunities, please contact:

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