

Training and Early Career Development Programs

MEDIA FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GUIDE

DESCRIPTION

The Media Fellowship program began in 1991 and provides opportunities for Alberta university students with strong biomedical science backgrounds to spend 12 weeks during the summer working as reporters, researchers, and production assistants with CBC Radio in Alberta.

Specific objectives of the Media Fellowship Program are to:

1. strengthen the relationship between scientists and the media
2. provide young scientists, at a critical stage in their careers, the opportunity to observe and participate in how events and ideas become news
3. improve the fellows' skills in communicating complex technical subjects to the public
4. increase the fellows' understanding of editorial decision-making and how news is communicated to the public
5. enhance the coverage of science and technology by the media
6. improve public understanding and appreciation of science and medical research

ELIGIBILITY

Those candidates who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- **Undergraduate or graduate** level Alberta university students with strong biomedical science backgrounds
- Students who are **continuing their university studies in the fall** in any discipline
- Students who demonstrate **excellent writing skills**
- Applicants who work well **independently and within a team**

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are evaluated by members of the Media Fellowship Review Committees. Two separate committees are utilized in this review process; one panel to review applications submitted from the Calgary region, and one panel for the Edmonton region. Committees include representatives from CBC, Alberta Innovates, and past media fellows.

The Media Fellowship review process includes the following:

- Alberta Innovates administrative review of application to screen for eligibility and completeness
- Media Fellowship Review Committees shortlist applicants after reviewing all applications received according to the key attributes listed below
- Media Fellowship Review Committees schedule interviews with shortlisted candidates

Each Media Fellowship Review Committee employs a standard CBC evaluation summary as a framework to guide the selection process. The summary assesses the following **key attributes** of each candidate:

- Self-motivation
- Analytical/critical thinking
- Knowledge of the community
- Writing skills
- Technical aptitude
- Knowledge of science/medical research
- CBC team fit
- Knowledge of CBC/media

Each of these key attributes is assessed using the following scale:

Review Criteria/Descriptor	Rating Scale
Self-motivation	Out of 5
Analytical/Critical thinking	Out of 5
Knowledge of Community	Out of 5
Writing ability	Out of 4
Technical aptitude	Out of 4
Knowledge of Science	Out of 4
CBC team fit	Out of 5
Knowledge of CBC/media	Out of 4

Successful candidates of the Media Fellowship award are considered employees of CBC Radio. As such, there is some flexibility granted to this process and certain additional attributes may be assessed, depending on the CBC’s human resource requirements for a given summer.

TERM OF AWARD

The award is tenable for 12 weeks during the period of May to August. Start and end dates are negotiated with CBC at time of hire.

LOCATION OF TRAINING

Students from degree granting institutions in the Calgary region are placed with CBC Radio - Calgary. Students from degree granting institutions in the Edmonton region are placed with CBC Radio - Edmonton.

STIPEND

The stipend amount is determined at time of hire. CBC Radio is responsible for the human resources and financial administration for the Media Fellowship placement.

APPLICATION

The candidate can only submit one application per competition. The Online Application Form is available at: <http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/>

Application deadline: Friday, March 10, 2017

COMPETITION RESULTS

Results of the Media Fellowship competition are made available approximately 6 weeks after the close of the competition. Candidates are notified by Alberta Innovates regarding the outcome of their submission.

RENEWALS

Media Fellowship awards are not renewable, but students are free to re-apply in subsequent years.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Alberta Innovates meets with the student and CBC Radio at 6 weeks for an informal progress report. Students are required to submit a final report to Alberta Innovates upon completion of the award, describing their experiences, what they learned, and any suggestions to improve the program/process. Additional information is provided to successful applicants.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information about the Media Fellowship Program, please contact:

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For information about the application process, please contact:

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