



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding Organization: AMS Healthcare
Program Name: Doctoral Research Award
Partner: Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit
Program Launch Date: Monday January 8, 2025

KEY DATES

	Full application
Submission deadline:	Wednesday April 2, 2025
Notification date:	June, 2025
Funding start	September, 2025

PARTNERS

With a vision of *Compassionate, quality healthcare for all Canadians, in a system advanced by technology, innovation, and a rich understanding of our healthcare history*, **AMS Healthcare** strives to improve care for all Canadians. We advance a compassionate healthcare system by investing in leaders, convening stakeholders, supporting research and funding innovative projects. Our work supports and learns from our rich history of healthcare.

Click [here](#) to learn more about AMS Healthcare’s work in this area. Click [here](#) to view AMS Healthcare’s Strategic Plan.

In the 1970's, the history of medicine was an understudied discipline in Canada.¹ AMS Healthcare recognized the importance of this area of research as a source of lessons that could positively shape Canadian healthcare and, with the help of many partners, began strategic funding investments to elevate its standing in the academic community and beyond. Today, the study of the history of healthcare is thriving across our country. AMS Healthcare is Canada's main source of support for the history of healthcare.

The **Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit** is the catalyst for patient-oriented research in Ontario. OSSU provides supports such as expertise, infrastructure, training and resources to people conducting patient-oriented

¹ AMS defines the history of healthcare broadly as the study of past practices and epistemologies related to human health, healthcare and disease using a variety of historical and critical methodologies.

research. OSSU also funds projects that demonstrate the value of patient-oriented research and how it can leverage OSSU supports to achieve greater impacts. These awards support translational patient-oriented research that are Innovative, Measurable, Patient-oriented, Appropriate, Collaborative and Transformative – IMPACT Awards.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In 2015, AMS Healthcare launched funding for work on the history of healthcare. Our goal is to raise interest in the topic, broaden the scope of research, and shape how the subject is taught. Funding is available to researchers, healthcare professionals, and students.

The AMS Doctoral Research Award provides funding to doctoral students to help support full-time dissertation writing leading to dissertation research in the humanities or social sciences, writing on a history of healthcare topic. This area is broadly defined as the study of past practices and epistemologies related to human health, healthcare, and disease.

To be eligible, you must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident with ABD (All But Dissertation) status by the December of the application year, with preference given to those individuals in the final stages of completion (within 2 years of graduation). Applicants who have received a Doctoral Research Award in the past are not eligible to apply for this award.

FUNDS AVAILABLE

AMS Healthcare's financial contributions for this initiative are subject to availability of funds. Should AMS Healthcare funding levels not be available or are decreased due to unforeseen circumstances, AMS Healthcare reserves the right to reduce, defer or suspend financial contributions to awards received as a result of this funding opportunity.

AMS Healthcare will support up to two (2) AMS Doctoral Research Awards per year of up to \$25,000 per award. The duration of awards is for one year.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for an AMS Doctoral Research Award, the applicant must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- Have completed all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation (i.e. obtained ABD status) by December of the application year;
- Be writing on a history of healthcare topic with expectations of rigorous historical methodology and focus on proposed projects;
- Have not received an AMS Doctoral Research Award or AMS Doctoral Completion Award in the past.

Successful applicants should also be:

- supervised by an individual who has an academic appointment with a university-based graduate program in Canada and who conducts research in health services and/or technology in Canada.

Special Eligibility Considerations

- Only Canadian citizens and permanent residents are eligible. Individuals who are seeking to hold their awards outside of Canada must provide proof of Canadian Citizenship or Canadian Permanent Residency.

Restrictions

- The AMS stipend must be larger than any other single award or remunerative position received during the award year and must be acknowledged as the major award.
- Doctoral Research Award recipients cannot hold concurrent fellowships or grants for the purpose of supporting their final year of writing or completing the dissertation.

Note

- The award will be dispensed by the university to the recipient as a stipend. It is the responsibility of the university to issue all relevant taxation documentation.

GUIDELINES

The AMS Doctoral Research award funding may be used to cover reasonable expenses related to the Fellowship (i.e. salary replacement, travel and registration expenses, etc. Questions regarding the eligibility of expenses can be directed to OSSU. Award funding can not be used to support organizational administrative or infrastructure expenses.

Applications to the AMS Doctoral Research Award must include:

- Abbreviated CVs (5 page maximum) for the applicant and Supervisor;
- Proposal;
- Signature Page;
- Three (3) reference letters (one of which must be from the applicant's dissertation supervisor). The other letters may attest to the suitability of the applicant and/or other aspects of the research (e.g., letter confirming access to data source or sample, community partner support, etc.);
- Other attachments - up to three (3) additional pages containing information related to the projects (e.g., manuscripts, questionnaires/surveys and/or graphics); and
- A bibliography - up to 10 pages of references cited in the application.

Detailed instructions can be found in the AMS Doctoral Research Award Submission Guide.

REVIEW PROCESS and EVALUATION

Following administrative review (for completeness and eligibility), applications will be assessed by a panel of experts in the field of the history of healthcare.

Criteria for The Doctoral Research Award

The following criteria will be used by the peer review committee to assess AMS Doctoral Research Award applications:

Research Feasibility (yes/no)

- The feasibility of the project and the likelihood that the applicant will execute the work (and complete dissertation) within the proposed time frame. A “no” proposal will not be scored further.

Dissertation Contribution (50%)

- The potential of the project as an original and significant contribution to the history of healthcare. Proposals scoring less than 3.0 will not receive further assessment.

Proposal Quality (35%)

- The quality of the proposal in communicating the quality of the thesis, its significance, its originality, scholarly rigor and relevance.

Applicant Competency (15%)

- The applicant’s record of scholarly engagement and potential for scholarly achievement.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications for this funding opportunity will undergo a single-stage peer review process. Application guidelines for the program can be found at www.ossu.ca/resources/ams-healthcare.

Submission

Applicants are required to submit a complete Application (Calibri, 11pt, single spaced) to OSSU, at ossu@ossu.ca, by **5:00 pm (eastern time), Wednesday April 2, 2025**. You will receive an acknowledgement of your email application within 36 hours after April 2, 2025.

Following administrative review (for completeness and eligibility), applications will be assessed by a panel of experts in the history of healthcare.

The result of the review process will be determined by the AMS Board’s Review Committee. All applicants will be notified of the results in **June 2025**.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit
Hilary Edelstein, Assistant Director
E: hilaryedelstein@ossu.ca

Click [here](#) to learn more.

This program is offered as a partnership between the [AMS Healthcare](#) and the [Ontario SPOR SUPPORT Unit](#).

