



AMS Healthcare
History of Medicine/Healthcare: Doctoral Research Award; Postdoctoral Fellowship; and Project
Grant Awards
Frequently Asked Questions
January 8, 2025

AMS Background

AMS Healthcare (AMS) is an Ontario-based charity with a legacy that dates back to 1937 during the prepaid health insurance era. Today, it is a self-funded organization that focuses on two key areas in the healthcare domain: the history of healthcare and medicine; and the transformation of the healthcare system.

The vision of AMS is *Compassionate, quality healthcare for all Canadians, in a system advanced by technology, innovation, and a rich understanding of our medical history*. The AMS mission states that *...our work advances a Canadian healthcare system through innovation and technology while remaining rooted in compassion and our medical history*. 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. Since 2012, AMS Healthcare has focused its vision on the concept of compassionate care: supporting healthcare providers, educators, policy makers and system leaders in anticipating, teaching, and instilling a foundation of compassion at the heart of our health system. This is based on the premise that health professionals provide the best care when they can balance human compassion and technical expertise. Our strength is developing health system leadership – leadership grounded in compassionate care. We should also not lose sight of the learnings afforded by lessons of the past – this was affirmed for all in the collective response to COVID. Compassion in the roots of AMS and see technology as the opportunity.

In the 1970's, the history of healthcare 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. AMS is well known for the Hannah Chairs and Hannah Studentship programs that are offered as part of the history of medicine mandate.

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

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.

Program Description

In 2015, AMS Healthcare launched funding for work on the history of medicine and healthcare. We provide it directly, through partnerships, or via organizations that administer the application process. 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. There are three History of Medicine/Healthcare funding avenues: (1) The AMS Doctoral Research Award; (2) The AMS Postdoctoral Fellowship; and (3) The AMS Small Grant Program.

- (1) 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. 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. Please see the [AMS Doctoral Research Award Call](#) and [Submission Guideline](#) for more information.
- (2) The AMS Postdoctoral Fellowship provides support to promising researchers at a pivotal time in their careers. Candidates should be embarking on a period of full-time post-PhD degree studies and wish to add to their experience by engaging in research in Canada or abroad. The fellowships are intended for emerging scholars to complete work already started on projects featuring the study, analysis, and interpretation of past practices, philosophies, and/or epistemologies related to human health, health care, and/or disease or the education of health professionals, or to begin a new project in the field. AMS Healthcare will support up to two (2) AMS Postdoctoral Fellowship awards per year of up to \$70,000 per award. The duration of the award is one year. Please see the [AMS Postdoctoral Fellowship Call](#) and [Submission Guide](#) for more information.
- (3) The AMS History of Healthcare Project Grant is designed to support small budget proposals on projects in the history of healthcare and allied disciplines, including (but not limited to) science and technology studies, human resources and the healthcare workforce, sociology, anthropology, and classics. We welcome funding applications from academic scholars and healthcare professionals with expectations of rigorous historical methodology and focus on proposed projects. Projects that consider the Canadian context are particularly welcome and may include requests for seed money to develop research initiatives. Proposals are expected to advance the history of health, healthcare or disease or the education of health professionals that could benefit the broader community of practitioners in the field. There is an expectation that during the period of these grants or within a year of their completion, one or more conference papers or publications/presentations will result from this funding. AMS Healthcare will support up to seven (7) AMS History of Healthcare Project Grants per year of up to \$20,000 per grant. The duration of awards is for one year. Please see the [AMS Project Grants Call](#) and [Submission Guide](#) for more information.

Application Details

Applications must be submitted by email to OSSU, at ossu@ossu.ca, by 5:00 pm (Eastern time), on the date of application notice as per each award project submission deadline. Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of your email application within 36 hours from receipt of the grant application.

Please follow the instructions in the each of the Programs Submission Guides for the formatting and document requirements for the application.

Applicants may submit additional questions to ossu@ossu.ca.

Review Process

Applications first undergo an administrative review for completeness and eligibility.

Applications will then undergo peer review by an expert panel in each program.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Applicant Eligibility

Q: As a post-doc, would I be eligible for the Project Grant Award?

A: Post-docs who will complete their training by the beginning of the funding term are eligible to apply to the program. It will be important to include in your application an explanation of how the Project Grant will support your development in relation to the goals and objectives of the program and that one has the appropriate academic appointment as per the Special Eligibility Considerations in the Project Grant call document and that the institution will/can hold the funds.

Q: As a doctoral candidate, would I be eligible for the Post Doctoral Fellowship Award?

A: Doctoral candidates who would be completing their defense and have a secured post-doctoral position for the Fall of the award, may apply to the Post Doctoral Fellowship Award. The application ought to include a plan of completion of the doctorate, including the potential defense date, a supervisor/institution who can funnel funding through the affiliated institution, and the plan for the post-doctorate. In addition, funding can be deferred up to December 2025.

Q: Can you clarify the timelines for an early career researcher?

A: CIHR defines an early career researcher (ECR) is a researcher within five years of the date of their first research-related appointment.

Q: Are applicants from outside Ontario eligible to apply for this award?

A: As a result of the regulations governing AMS as a charitable organization, we are obliged to focus our funding primarily in Ontario. However, AMS is interested in funding the best projects in this program and have funded applicants from other provinces in the past. You will notice that

there is a requirement that applicants be either Canadian citizenship or have landed immigrant status. AMS Healthcare is not able to support projects that occur outside of Canada.

Q: Can applicants who are outside of a history program apply for any of the History of Medicine/Healthcare awards?

A: Yes. AMS funding is work for on the history of healthcare with the goal to raise interest in the topic, broaden the scope of research, and shape how the subject is taught. These programs are open to all who are interested in developing research and research programs in this area. It is recommended that for these programs, if one is applying outside of a history program, it is recommended that a co-PI and/or collaborator be an individual with a history of medicine background. There is an expectation that applications are writing on a history of healthcare topic with expectations of appropriateness of the rigor of the description of historical methodology and focus on the proposed project to the discipline of history of healthcare.

Q: Can proposals for the Project Grant Award include multiple co-applicants or is it one applicant with multiple collaborators?

A: Applications may have multiple PIs and co-PIs, however, the application must identify one Nominated Principal Investigator (NPI).

Q: May collaborators on the application also be research staff in the budget (e.g. research associates or project coordinators) for the Postdoctoral Fellowship and/or the Project Grant Awards?

A: Yes. Research staff may be collaborators on the application and within the team.

Q: What does it mean to include a patient/caregiver (person with lived experience) on the project?

A: Applicants are encouraged to include a patient/caregiver (person with lived experience) as a team member on their project. This may include individual/s as advisors and/or a mentor, and most preferably, as co-PI's, partners, and collaborators on the project to provide unique on the ground perspectives and opportunities for engagement.

Q: What is requested in the letters of collaboration from the Co-PIs, Collaborators, and Partners?

A: These letters of support ought to include how the individual/s are collaborating and offering support within the project and ought to state their role in and for the project. These are in addition to the 25-word description on the signature page.

Q: In terms of time commitment, how much is expected for this award?

A: There is no specific amount of time required for this award. It needs to be reasonable based on the proposed activities and developmental plan, and the background, environment and discipline of the applicant.

Q: Is there a minimum amount of release time for this award

A: No minimum amount of release time (time dedicated to the project) is stated. We understand that the cost of release time can vary depending on the discipline you are in (nurse, physician, lawyer, bioethicist, computer science researcher). We will be looking at a reasonable amount of time to complete the proposed activities. This should be indicated as a % of time.

Eligible Expenses

Q: What is the value of in-kind supports to this program?

A: While In-kind contributions are not a requirement of the program, they are an important measure of the support that is being provided to the project. CIHR provides some advice on how to value in-kind contributions at: <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/3758.html>. Please ensure that the Sponsor letter specifically supports the in-kind contributions stated in your proposal. Please note that teaching release time is considered an in-kind contribution from the Host/Sponsor Institution to/for the applicant. AMS does not consider buying out release time as an eligible expense.

Q: Can partner organizations provide cash or in-kind contributions to the project?

A: Yes. Contributions can be helpful in that they do confirm access to resources needed for the project. Remember to include a letter of collaboration from the partner organization that specifically states the value of the contribution.

Q: Can the start date be moved?

A: AMS has some flexibility regarding the start date of the award. However, AMS would like to flow the funding before the end of 2025.

Q: Can AMS Funding be used to support infrastructure costs.

A: AMS funds can not be used to support infrastructure costs.

Q: Are activities and expenses that fall before September 2025 eligible for consideration and can funds be used to fund expenses that have occurred before the announcement of awards?

A: The timeline and activities under consideration in the expense budget ought to reflect a September 2025 start date for the flow of funding the expenses related to the proposed project.

Q: For the Doctoral Research Award, is it a stipend or for expenses?

A: The Doctoral Research Award purpose is to complete the related doctoral research for the applicant's dissertation. As such, it may be considered a stipend, and 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.

Other questions

Q: Are the review guidelines posted?

A: The Review Panel will be struck with History of Medicine/Healthcare experts and patient partners, who have expressed interest in the History of Medicine/Healthcare discipline. Standard review guidelines have been prepared for the review panel to use; however, they are not posted on the website. This document and each Program Call and Submission Guide contains information about the review process and some important considerations to include in your proposal.

Q: In what order should the documents be arranged?

A: All applications ought to follow the submission guides. In each guide, there is a prescribed order and subheadings to follow.

Q: My application for the award will be ready by the deadline, but my referees are unable to submit their letters at that time due to scheduling, can they be submitted at a later date?

A: All parts of the application, including references, must be appended and attached to the application by the submission deadline. Applications that are not complete will be triaged from the competition.

Q: What can be included in the 5-page attachment?

A: The attachment document can be used to present relevant manuscripts, graphics, tables, figures, and/or survey forms. The attachment can not be used to extend the word limits of the applications.

Q: Can applicants submit more than one application?

A: Yes. However, applicants may hold only one award.

Q: In the Doctoral Research Award, may award holders supplement their income beyond the amount of the award?

A: The Doctoral Research Award ought to be the larger than any other award or remunerative position held during the duration of the AMS Doctoral Research Award.