

## ***ODPRN Student Training Program Information***

### **Overview of ODPRN**

The Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN) includes leading clinical researchers from six medical schools across Ontario. Its primary objective is to generate scientifically sound evidence related to drug utilization, safety, and effectiveness for the purpose of informing drug policy decisions. The three core principles of the ODPRN are: scientific rigor, timeliness, and policy-relevance.

Please visit our website for more information about ODPRN and our research: <http://www.odprn.ca/>

### **Overview of the Student Training Program**

The ODPRN Student Training Program is seeking a motivated and hard-working Master’s student with a strong interest in drug policy research. The successful candidate will receive a **\$17,500** stipend for the period of September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019.

The main objectives of this program:

1. To create funding opportunities for trainees planning to conduct drug safety and policy research.
2. To provide training opportunities for students/ fellows around processes involved in using the healthcare administrative databases available at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) to conduct research (when relevant).
3. To support trainees in their endeavours to work through all phases of a drug policy-relevant research project.
4. To establish a multidisciplinary environment that allows students to collaborate broadly with other trainees, researchers, physicians, and policy-makers.
5. To expose trainees to real life policy decision-making processes.
6. To develop the capacity to conduct high-quality drug-policy relevant research.

### **Program Components**

The successful candidate will be involved in the following program components:

- The main aspect of the training program will involve the undertaking of an independent drug policy research project, preferably using provincial databases housed at ICES.
- Completion of the 2019 [‘Drug Policy Research 101 Program’](#) through attendance of bi-monthly webinars, completion of online training modules and participating in networking opportunities.
- Opportunity to attend in-person ODPRN strategic planning meetings.
- Involvement in a drug policy experience, which may include attendance at policy meetings or telephone correspondence with policy-makers.

**Application and Program Funding Timeline**

Submission Deadline	June 29, 2018
Notice of Final Decision	July 31, 2018
Program/Funding Start Date	September 1, 2018
Program/Funding End Date	August 31, 2019

**Application Information***Eligibility Criteria*

Applicants are eligible to apply for funding if they meet the following criteria:

- Must be enrolled in a thesis-based Master’s program in Ontario.
- Cannot concurrently hold any other major scholarships e.g. CIHR, OGS.
- Priority will be given to students who have a supervisor or graduate committee member who is a [Stakeholder Advisory Panel \(SAP\) member](#). The SAP member will commit to acting as a key resource for the student throughout their involvement in the ODPRN student training program.
- Must have established funding external to this award to support the completion of the research project.

*Application Instructions*

Please email the following documents to Emma Hahn ([emma.hahn@ices.on.ca](mailto:emma.hahn@ices.on.ca)) in a **single PDF** document in the following order (reference letters can be emailed directly from the referee):

- The completed and signed [application form](#).
- A detailed CV describing the following information: education, awards/ scholarships, grant funding, presentations, publications, etc.
- A one-page statement of interest describing the proposed drug policy research project developed in collaboration with a SAP member (please see Appendix for descriptions of drug policy projects).
- Scanned copies of all university transcripts (does not need to be official).
- Two letters of reference from two academic/professional mentors who can comment on your research or academic abilities.
- A letter from a SAP member with a declaration that they are willing to act as the key resource for you in their capacity working with ODPRN (this is in addition to the reference letters unless a SAP member is already your primary supervisor).

**Please submit applications and/or direct any questions to:**

ODPRN Student Training Program Coordinator: Emma Hahn, BA

Phone: 519-685-8500 ext. 77845

Email: [emma.hahn@ices.on.ca](mailto:emma.hahn@ices.on.ca)

### **What Constitutes a Drug Policy Project?**

A project that is relevant to the Ontario Public Drug Program’s policy-makers may include:

- Drug plan costs as a function of drug policy decisions. For example, addition/deletion from formulary, change in listing status of drugs on formulary (e.g. limited use to general benefit), or impact of changing the prescribing of a drug (e.g. policy which allows only certain health care providers to prescribe a specific drug).
- Changes in drug utilization, including studies examining predictors of changes in drug utilization, temporal utilization trends and geographic distribution, particularly related to high-cost drugs.
- Understanding utilization, adherence and provincial plan costs of drugs within a specific class to understand the implications of adding a new expensive drug to the formulary within that class/with a similar indication. Appropriateness of characteristics of patients using particular drugs and the physicians who prescribe them (e.g. proportion of drug use that is being used for the approved indication compared to off-label use).
- Economic evaluations of selected drug therapies, including budget impact analyses as well as traditional health economic evaluations (the model estimates may come from population-based administrative databases at ICES).
- Assessment of system level interventions to determine if they have had an impact on improving the health of populations with respect to drug efficacy, safety, and cost.
- Knowledge translation initiatives. For example, testing interventions to increase awareness and uptake of study results by physicians and patients.

Other projects with clear policy relevance will also be considered.

These projects may also include some clinical aspects (e.g. comparative effectiveness and/or drug safety), however it is important for them to include policy aspects as well in order to demonstrate relevance to Ontario’s policy-makers.