2022 – 2023 LAIDLAW SCHOLARS PROGRAM
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Welcome and thank you for your interest in the Laidlaw Scholars Program. The instructions in this document should help you accurately complete each component of the application form. If you have any questions about completing the form, email us at laidlaw.scholars@utoronto.ca.

While considering a research topic for this program, please note that the project must be completed in six weeks, so we recommend that you pick a research topic that fits this timeframe.

Application components

- Application form
- Research proposal
- Personal leadership prompts
- Research advisor statement of support

Note: All documents where indicated should be uploaded together as one Word doc or PDF. When labelling your files, please include your name (e.g. Jane Smith – Application documents)

Application form

You can access the application by enrolling in the Laidlaw Scholars Programme Recruitment and Application module within the Experiential Learning tab on CLNx. The application form will be available on CLNx on October 15, 2022. We recommended that you begin work on the components as early as possible, so you can submit a comprehensive and well-researched application.
Research proposal

The research proposal should be no more than 1,000 words (not including citations, images if needed, and your budget) and should cover the following:

Introduction

- Why did you pick this research question? Why does it interest you?
- What do you foresee being the impact of this research?

Research question

Methodology

- What is the methodology you plan to use during your research?
- Please outline the in-person methodology being used to complete your research project in six weeks. We understand that methodologies will evolve over time, so please provide details on how you are currently planning to execute your research plan.
- If possible, would there be travel involved in your research? If so, where? Why is it required? Is it possible to carry out your research without this travel?

Interdisciplinary and/or international focus of your research

- The Laidlaw Scholars Program is looking for research topics that place a high value on interdisciplinary work and/or have an international focus. Please highlight how your research topic fulfills these requirements.

Ethics review

- Check with your research advisor to see if your proposed research requires ethics board approval (especially if research involves working with humans and/or animals). If so, please indicate if ethics review will be required for your proposal. If you require REB approval, please keep the following guidelines in mind:
  - If your advisor is from U of T, please verify that they have access to the REB portal to be able to nominate you and help you complete the REB approval process. If they do not, please identify a secondary advisor who will be able to help with this process.
  - If your advisor is external to U of T, please note that you will need to identify a secondary advisor from within U of T who can assist you in receiving REB approval.

Research advisor

- Outline the role your research advisor will play in your research. Highlight any external organizations or offices involved in your research.

Outcomes

- What do you anticipate being the goal/key achievement of your research?
Budget

- The Laidlaw Scholars Program offers scholars up to $5,000 to cover any proposed expenses over the summer research period. Please briefly list how you anticipate this funding supporting your research goals by filling out the template provided.

**Personal leadership prompts**

You have 250 words (for each) to address the following prompts. These questions should not focus on your research, but on the remainder of the program outside of the research summer:

1. What does leadership mean to you? (250 words)
2. How do you hope to improve as a leader in your community through participation in the Laidlaw Scholars Program? (250 words)
3. In what way do you see yourself contributing to the community of Laidlaw Scholars through your participation in the program? (250 words)

**Research advisor statement of support**

Each applicant is responsible for contacting a professor and asking them to serve in the capacity of their research advisor. Research advisors must be professors either at the University of Toronto or at another institution. TAs and graduate students cannot serve as research advisors.

Research advisors must submit a one-page document confirming support for the student and their chosen research topic. The letter should cover some of these points:

- Their understanding of the proposed research project
- Their interest in the project and how they plan to support you through it
- The feasibility of the project: Is the proposed research something that can be completed in six weeks?
- Impact of the project – Is it an important topic to be covered within the field?
- Does it have an international and/or interdisciplinary focus?
- Ethics implications of the project: Would the project require REB approval? If so, agreement to help you obtain that approval.

In submitting this document, the advisor agrees to:

- Support the student’s research and serve as a guide through the summer.
- Support the lab/safety requirements of the project.
- Determine that the student’s research interests align with the supervisor’s own research projects/ideals.
- Check in with program administrators in case of any issues over the summer and submit feedback on the scholars’ progress at the end of the summer.
- Ensure that the student achieves their research objectives through guidance and mentorship.