

ImmunoEngineering NSERC CREATE Training Program

Graduate Students

Program

We welcome both junior and senior MSc/PhD Students to participate in the ImmunoE NSERC CREATE training program. Students and their supervisor make a minimum 2-year commitment to the program.

- For the student, **core program components** include ImmunoEngineering and technical courses, professional development skill workshops, career mentorship, an ImmunoHackathon and an annual Networking event with our Industry partners. Beyond the two years, the program offers more flexibility with student-directed learning and transitional industry internships for interested students (at the end of their graduate program).
- Students who have already completed the ImmunoEngineering & technical courses or have prior expertise can obtain credit by seeking competency approval.
- We **provide scholarships** to as many students as possible. Students are eligible to apply for an ImmunoE scholarship for any year in the program. The scholarship is awarded for one year at a time and can be renewed once, i.e. a student can hold an ImmunoE scholarship for 2 years.
- **Supervisors are expected to contribute to the program.** The intent is for the student (and supervisor) to remain associated with the program for mutual benefit until the student graduates.

For **new students**, the criteria will include the relevance of your project to ImmunoEngineering, and the commitment of you and your supervisor to contribute to the program. 1st-year graduate students with a Natural Sciences and Engineering (NSE) project will be given preference. Having a supervisor and a co-supervisor from different disciplines will also be considered an asset.

New students apply [here](#).

Note: If your supervisor is not currently an ImmunoE co-applicant or collaborator, please have them contact us for more information about becoming an ImmunoE collaborator at immunoengineering.create@ubc.ca and/or fill in this [survey](#) to indicate their interest.

All **current students** in the program (regardless of whether they received an ImmunoE scholarship in previous years) should complete a separate **mid-program renewal application** e-mailed directly to the student. Scholarship renewals or new awards for returning students are based on the participation and productivity of the student over the last year, as well as the contribution from the supervisor. A scholarship will normally be renewed if progress is satisfactory, unless the student has external funding totaling \$30,000 or more.

The deadline for both new student and returning student applications is July 25, 2025 at 11:59 pm PT.

Program Eligibility

1. The student must be enrolled (or continuing enrollment) in a UBC graduate program. The student's graduate program must include a significant research component
2. The student's graduate research project should be relevant to immunoengineering

Scholarship Eligibility

ImmunoE graduate scholarships are \$10K/yr, renewable 1x for a total of 2 years. How this scholarship will be integrated into the student's total stipend should be discussed with their supervisor, as different departments and supervisors have different rules.

A) All Students

- a. Students who hold scholarship funds totaling \$30K or more in a given year are not eligible for an ImmunoE scholarship funding that year. They can participate in the ImmunoE program and can apply again in later years when they are no longer holding a major scholarship.
- b. Must not hold a Mitacs Elevate Fellowship

B) Incoming Students

- a. Must be enrolled in a graduate program and have a supervisor (ie. not be in rotations)

C) Returning Students

- a. ImmunoE students are eligible to receive up to two years of funding during any year of their participation in the program

Application Evaluation Criteria

A) Incoming Students

- a. Project relevance to immunoengineering
- b. Interest and rationale for joining the program:
 - i. likelihood of successful program completion
 - ii. likelihood of benefitting from the program
 - iii. likelihood of contributing to the program and the value they would bring
- c. Preference will be given to students:
 - i. in the 1st year of their Graduate Program
 - ii. working on a Natural Sciences and Engineering (NSE) project
- d. Supervisor's contribution
 - i. likelihood of contributing to the program and the value they would bring

B) Returning Students

- a. Previous year's performance and participation in the program
 - i. progress log
 - ii. blog/portfolio
 - iii. active participation in courses, activities and events
 - iv. outstanding contributions beyond minimum requirements
 - v. Research publications & presentations
- b. Supervisor contribution
 - i. previous year's contribution

- ii. commitment to specific contributions in coming year

C) Cohort Considerations

- a. Inclusivity, Diversity & Interdisciplinarity will be considered

Postdoctoral Fellows

Program

There is a **1-year commitment** and agreement from the post-doc and supervisor to participate in the program. Post-doctoral scholarships are currently \$15K/year.

Program & Scholarship Eligibility

1. Have completed their doctoral degree within the last five years*
2. Currently hold a post-doctoral position at UBC
3. Conduct research related to immunoengineering

***NSERC CREATE Eligibility Requirements:** Postdoctoral participants must have completed their doctoral degree within the last five years to be eligible to participate in a CREATE initiative. Parental leave taken for childbearing or rearing is not counted as part of the five-year period. NSERC views postdoctoral studies as a short-term period of training to prepare individuals for research careers and defer to the administering institutions' policies concerning the length of their tenure participating in a CREATE.

Application Evaluation Criteria

A) Incoming Post-docs

- a. Project relevance to immunoengineering
- b. Interest and rationale for joining the program:
 - i. likelihood of benefitting from the program
 - ii. proposed contributions to the program and the value they would bring
- c. Supervisor's contribution
 - i. to the program and the value they would bring

B) Returning Post-docs

- a. Previous year's performance and participation in the program
 - i. active participation in events and workshops
 - ii. active student mentorship
 - iii. contributions to improve the ImmunoE program
- b. Supervisor contribution
 - i. previous year's contribution
 - ii. ongoing commitment to the coming year's activities