



TD Graduate Scholarship for People with Disabilities

2026 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Please read these guidelines before completing your application.

Goal

KITE, Toronto Rehab–University Health Network (KITE) with the support of the TD Bank Group continues to further the active involvement of people with disabilities in rehabilitation-related research.

Eligibility

The *TD Graduate Scholarship for People with Disabilities* will be awarded to outstanding student(s) to support their education and training.

Applicants must have a disability. A disability is defined as a physical or cognitive impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Candidates must be supervised by a KITE Senior Scientist or Scientist

Candidates may apply for this award prior to being accepted into graduate studies provided they have applied to a relevant graduate program and have identified a prospective supervisor. Postgraduate medical trainees must be registered in a graduate program to be eligible.

Fields of study must relate to rehabilitation but are not limited to any particular discipline. For example, fields of study may include Computer Science, Engineering, Gerontology, Health Policy, Health Sciences, Kinesiology, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Physical Therapy, Physics, Public Administration, Recreation and Leisure Studies, Sociology, Social Work, Women's Studies, etc.

Staff (and their dependents) of KITE, UHN and the TD Bank Financial Group are eligible to apply.

The scholarship is open to international students if they are admitted through normal academic procedures. Applicants should contact their universities to determine its procedures, requirements, and deadline dates, and for information on requirements for a Study Permit and Temporary Resident Visas.

Supervision

Recipients must be supervised by a KITE Senior Scientist or Scientist

Selection

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of:

- excellence in research and academic achievements
- letters of recommendation
- quality of the proposed research
- evidence of ambition to pursue a career in rehabilitation-related research.

Beyond providing a final award decision (awarded, not awarded), no detailed evaluations will be provided to applicants.

Documentation and Applications

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all necessary documentation is received no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time May 8, 2026 by:

Mary Lam
Manager, Research Operations, KITE
mary.lam@uhn.ca

Please use a subject line "TD Graduate Scholarship Application <name of applicant>".

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Letters of recommendation should be on institutional letterhead, signed by the referees and sent from the referee's institutional e-mail address. Referees must send letters directly to mary.lam@uhn.ca They should use a subject line "TD Scholarship reference for <name of applicant> no later than May 8, 2026.

Award

The maximum scholarship award amount will be \$20,000. For those receiving funding from other sources, this amount may be adjusted. (Please also see *Concurrent Funding*).

For those scholarship recipients who have not completed their degree, the scholarship may be renewed based on a renewal application, satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

Education-related Disability Expenses

In addition to the \$20,000 award, the scholarship provides funding for education-related disability expenses. This individual supplement is made available to address the special costs of attending graduate school that are incurred as a result of disability. The funding is intended to offset additional educational/research costs that students with disabilities incur.

In Section #7 of the application, candidates should identify any educational accommodations and/or services required due to their disability(ies). To be eligible, expenses must:

- 1) be required specifically for the student's education/research; AND
- 2) be incurred as a result of their disability(ies).

The supplement does not fund routine disability-related expenses that are not required specifically for educational/research purposes. (For example, a wheelchair would not be funded for a student who required a wheelchair for his/her mobility outside of the educational forum. Funding for a sign interpreter or attendant would be eligible only if it was required for educational purposes.)

Expenses will be reviewed with candidates after selection to ensure the expenses meet the eligibility requirements, and are reasonable and sufficient to support students in their studies. Expenses that arise at a later date but are not included in the application may be funded subject to the availability of funding; they will need preapproval to determine if the expenses are reasonable and meet the eligibility requirements.

Number of Individual Awards

The number of awards will depend on the quality of the individual applications and the funds available.

Payment of Awards

Funds will be awarded through UHN payroll. Payment will not be made until the applicant has provided documentation confirming acceptance into their graduate program. Students will receive their scholarship contributions on a monthly basis.

The payment schedule for education-related disability expenses will be determined on an individual basis.

Scholarship Year

The scholarship will be for the period from September 2026 to August 2027.

Concurrent Funding

Students are encouraged to apply to other funding organizations that provide academic and disability-related funding. Students who receive support from other sources will be eligible to apply for supplementary financial support from the TD scholarship, although the scholarship stipend may be adjusted. Scholarship recipients are required to promptly disclose additional funding from other sources to mary.lam@uhn.ca

Request for Deferment

A request for deferment will be considered only in unusual circumstances – please contact mary.lam@uhn.ca.

Right to Withdraw/Withhold

The Selection Committee reserves the right to cancel any award before payment has been made or to take recovery action on contributions already made where the candidate has failed to meet the conditions of the award. It also reserves the right to withhold awarding the scholarship in the event that no qualified applications are received in any particular year. All decisions by the committee are final and not open to appeal.