

University of Regina &
Saskatchewan Centre
for Patient-Oriented Research

Matched Funding Opportunities

**Application Guide
for Spring 2024**



SCPOR

Saskatchewan Centre for
Patient-Oriented Research

The Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research's (SCPOR) vision is to work together for a healthier Saskatchewan through Patient-Oriented Research.

SCPOR builds capacity and collaborations to conduct responsive, equitable, innovative, patient-oriented research that continuously improves the care and health of Saskatchewan people.

For more information on SCPOR, visit www.scpor.ca



Patient-Oriented Research

Patient-oriented research is a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focuses on patient-identified priorities, and aims to improve patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams including patients, researchers, health system decision makers, and other relevant stakeholders, and aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices. To learn more about POR, please see the Canadian Institutes of Health Research [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research](#).

SCPOR and University of Regina Matched Trainee Funding

The University of Regina and SCPOR are pleased to announce the opportunity to apply for matched POR trainee funding. The purpose of this matched funding opportunity is to provide support for academic and research excellence among undergraduate, Master's, and PhD students from the University of Regina conducting Patient-Oriented Research. This trainee call is administered by University of Regina and SCPOR. The number of traineeships available is dependent on the number of applications received and funding availability.

Award Process Timeline and Important Dates

Date	Process
April 5, 2024	Competition opens
June 7, 2024	Application Deadline
July 12, 2024	Notification of Results
September 1, 2024	Funding Start Date

How to Apply

1. Review this Application Guide in full.
2. Review resources that support the application writing process and POR project development, including the [Patient-Oriented Research Level of Engagement Tool \(PORLET\) and its Companion Guide](#).
3. Download and complete the application form at www.scpor.ca/funding-opportunities-1
4. Submit the completed application form to the University of Regina Office of Research Services (Research.Services@uregina.ca) by 4:30 PM CST on June 7, 2024.

Remuneration

The SCPOR traineeships operate on a 1:1 matched funding ratio.

Funding eligibility:

- Matched funding cannot be Tri-Agency funding or related to a federal source (i.e., CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)
- Matched funding cannot be from SCPOR-SHRF partnered patient-oriented research grants. SHRF grant holders intending to use their SHRF grant as matching funds should contact the UofR Office of Research Services to determine its eligibility.

Funding for this opportunity will commence September 1, 2024.

Maximum funding amounts available per year:

- Undergraduate program: \$6,000
- Master's program: \$12,000
- PhD program: \$15,000

Please note the total funding amount represents both SCPOR's contribution and the matched value brought forward by the applicant's supervisor.

The University of Regina will be responsible for the administration of funds.

Length of Traineeship

Applicants must have adequate time remaining in their full-time program of study to complete a SCPOR Traineeship. Graduate traineeships must be a minimum two full semesters (8 months) or up to 12 months in duration. Undergraduate traineeships must be a minimum of 6 months in duration.

Traineeship Extensions

If matched funding is available and trainees are interested in completing multi-year traineeships, existing trainees in good standing may apply for a one-time 12-month extension for their ongoing traineeship project. Renewed funding would begin a minimum of 12 months after the initial traineeship start date. Funding for new trainees will be prioritized and extensions will only be granted based on 1) availability of funding, 2) a student's good standing within their program of study, and 3) demonstrated progress in the ongoing traineeship project.

Eligibility

Patient-Oriented Research – Trainees must be conducting a patient-oriented research project including engagement of Patient Partners on the research team. For more information about patient-oriented research, visit www.scpor.ca or the [CIHR Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research website](#).

Supervisor(s) – Trainees must be under the supervision of at least one post-secondary researcher who has an academic appointment with supervisory privileges at the University of Regina.

In Good Standing – Trainees must have a minimum 75% GPA in their current program or in the last 60 completed credit hours.

Registered Full-Time University of Regina Student – Trainees eligible for this call are required to be registered full-time students at the University of Regina for the duration of the traineeship, meeting all requirements for such status.

Limit of SCPOR Funding – An individual is eligible to receive only one SCPOR traineeship. Funding extensions for trainees and projects that have been previously awarded a traineeship may be granted based on good standing, project progress, and availability of funding.

Holders of Major Awards (value of \$17,500 or over) – Applicants who hold major federal awards (i.e., CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC or equivalent) are not eligible to receive SCPOR traineeship during the tenure of their major award.

Multiple Applications – Supervisors are limited to providing matched funding for a maximum of five traineeship project proposals to ensure mentorship assistance is available. The proposed research projects must be distinct.

Review Process

Trainee applications will be reviewed for scientific merit by the University of Regina. A committee of SCPOR Patient Partners and SCPOR's Scientific Director will review and select projects based on the level of patient engagement measured using the [Patient-Oriented Research Level of Engagement Tool \(PORLET\)](#). The review committee will also utilize the [Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool \(IRLET\)](#) to inform funding decisions specific to Indigenous health research projects.

SCPOR Trainee In-Kind Supports

In addition to trainee funding support, SCPOR trainees receive a variety of in-kind supports. Please see below for a ~~non-exhaustive~~ list of supports available to trainees during the time they are funded as a SCPOR trainee.

- **Patient-Engagement Support** – assistance with recruitment, orientation, coaching, and consultation support.
- **Free Training Sessions** – Including the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Module trainings, Building Research Relationships with Indigenous Communities (BRRIC) training, and more.
- Invitations to a variety of **SCPOR-hosted workshops**, networking events, and seminars.

SCPOR is unable to provide in-kind support such as office space.

STEP Funding

SCPOR trainees are required to engage Patient Partners in their project. Patient Partners are people who have lived-experience of a health-related issue (or the family member, friend, or caregiver of a person with lived-experience). CIHR requires, and SCPOR endorses, that Patient Partners receive honoraria and expense reimbursement for their active participation on research project teams. To ensure SCPOR trainees have funds to support meaningful patient engagement, trainees may apply for *Support for Trainees Engaging Patients (STEP) Funding*.

Trainees can apply for up to \$600.00/year up to a maximum of \$1,200.00 (\$600/year over two years) for multi-year traineeships. STEP funding may be used to cover expenses such as: Patient Partner or Knowledge Keeper honoraria and travel, trainee travel to meet with Patient Partners, and meeting costs. SCPOR trainees who have access to patient engagement funds through their supervisor(s) are not eligible to apply for STEP funding. After the traineeship start date, trainees seeking STEP Funding will meet with SCPOR's Patient Engagement Specialist and receive budget approval before funds can be disbursed.

SCPOR Trainee Terms of Reference

SCPOR Trainees must abide by the [SCPOR Terms of Reference for University of Regina](#) to receive support from SCPOR. Failure to comply with the Terms of Reference may be grounds for the cancelation and repayment of SCPOR Traineeship funding.

- The matched funding source must meet the previously mentioned eligibility criteria.
- Trainees and their supervisors must attend the Trainee Orientation within the first three weeks of the traineeship start date.
- Trainees and their supervisors will be required to complete the following two trainings within the first six (6) months of the traineeship start date:
 - Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) module trainings
 - Building Research Relationships with Indigenous Communities (BRRIC)
- Trainees and their supervisors must attend an initial mentorship meeting with SCPOR's Capacity Development Specialist within two (2) months of the traineeship start date.
- Trainees and their supervisors are required to submit progress reports to SCPOR at the mid-point and end of their projects.
- Trainees and their supervisors must commit to engaging patients as partners on the research team throughout the research project.
- Significant changes to the project or project start date are required to be submitted in writing to SCPOR at scpor@usask.ca. Support for projects with significant changes is subject to approval.
- SCPOR follows policies and procedures as outlined by the trainee's home institution (i.e., University of Regina), including those regarding intellectual property.
- The University of Regina can provide a letter of employment on request but cannot provide a reference for current or past trainees.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about eligibility, application forms, patient-oriented research, program guidelines, or the review process, please contact Sylvana Tu (SCPOR) at sylvana.tu@usask.ca and Somiraa Said (UofR) at somiraa.said@uregina.ca.