

CALL FOR APPLICANTS



Universities Without Walls

*The next generation of
HIV researchers in Canada*

2010 APPLICATIONS

Important Dates	
Request for Applications	October 20, 2009
Application Submission Deadline	November 13, 2009
Anticipated Notification of Decision	January, 2010

The **Universities Without Walls** Initiative announces its first call for Fellowship applications. There will be two competitions per year (every 6 months).

We invite students and community members from across Canada to apply.

The UWW Fellowship Program is a **six-month** interdisciplinary, collaborative, and individualized educational program in HIV/AIDS research that allocates \$10,000 individual fellowships to up to 12 applicants **who are** qualified MA, PhD, Post-doctoral students, and Exceptional Community Members.

The UWW Fellowship program is designed to complement and broaden the scope of each Fellow's chosen area of study in their home university or work environment. It will help develop their careers in the HIV/AIDS field across disciplines, regions and communities.

Each UWW Fellow will combine five training components in a flexible and individualized Fellowship Plan over a six months period:

- Core Courses (online)
- Learning Institute
- Community Service Learning
- Capacity Building workshops
- Mentorship with one or two UWW faculty

The UWW faculty is a national interdisciplinary learning network connecting academic, community and policy makers with expertise in various facets of the field of HIV/AIDS.

Universities Without Walls is a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Strategic Training Grant in HIV/AIDS Health Research is funded by a CIHR Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research grant (2009-2015)

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Who Should Apply?

Graduate students from social science, health, arts and humanities disciplines attending Canadian universities. Exceptional community members associated with community organizations with proven engagement in HIV research.

Eligibility Criteria - Applicants must be in one of the following categories:

1. A student enrolled in (or accepted to) a graduate level program at a Canadian university and conducting research in the HIV/AIDS field leading to a Masters or PhD (or equivalent) or a health professional degree.
2. a fourth year full-time undergraduate student who will be applying for a Masters degree upon completing their Bachelors degree

Preference will be given to graduate students that demonstrate research interests and a thesis topic (where relevant) in HIV interdisciplinary research, and/or interest in, and direct engagement with, Aboriginal peoples and HIV research in Canada. We have at least one dedicated UWW Fellowship for this purpose per competition cycle (six months).

3. A community-based member associated with, or working at, a Canadian registered non-profit organization with proven engagement in HIV research

Preference will be given to community members with proven track-record in collaborative academic-community HIV research. We strongly support the greater and meaningful involvement of persons living with AIDS principle (GIPA)

Funding Support

The Universities Without Walls Fellowship supports up to 12 Fellows from January 2010 until June 2010 to undertake an intensive training in HIV research in addition to her/his academic studies or community work (a UWW Fellowship may be held in addition to other educational funding. However, restrictions may apply; please consult your existing funding agreement and institution for further detail). Travel, accommodation, and meals to one pre-scheduled five-day Learning Institute will be funded by UWW.

Questions about eligibility?

Contact the UWW Program Manager, Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco at Francisco@universitieswithoutwalls.ca

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How to Apply

Each applicant must provide:

1. a **maximum one page** cover letter with name and current place of studies/work.
2. a **maximum five pages** CV that contains one page of significant academic, and/or professional contributions in the area of HIV/health research in the past 3 years (e.g. conference presentations, involvement in community associations or boards of directors, involvement in HIV related intervention/prevention campaigns)
3. for students: the name of one academic supervisor who is a UWW Faculty (exceptions will be considered) and her/his institutional contact information
4. for community members: the name of direct work supervisor or equivalent (e.g. Executive Director in an ASO) and institutional contact information
5. **two Letters of Reference in hard copy** Letters must be signed and mailed in sealed envelopes
 - For students: one letter must be written by the academic supervisor
 - For community members: one letter must be written by a direct community supervisor.
6. **transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies in sealed envelopes.** Community applicants can submit college level certificates or other professional development diplomas/certificates.
7. **a three page “career planning summary”** and how the UWW Fellowship fits into that plan. This three-page “career planning summary” should contain:
 - Future HIV research plans (for community this may include development of community based research partnerships)
 - Academic and/or professional objectives and outcomes and how the UWW Fellowship will help the student/community member achieve these goals
 - A indication that the applicant, if successful, is able to combine the five UWW activities into a six months tenure (the Learning Institute being the only pre-scheduled component for June 2010)
 - An indication of how the UWW financial support will enhance existing financial support

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Submitting the Application

Applications must be sent via e-mail to francisco@universitieswithoutwalls.ca by 9:00 am Eastern Standard Time on Monday, November 13, 2009. Late applications will not be accepted.

Selection Procedure

- An application review committee will select UWW Fellows based upon the eligibility criteria, completeness and clarity of the application. At least one applicant will be selected from each of the five UWW designated regions in Canada, including the Atlantic coast region, Ontario, Quebec, the Prairie region, and the Western coast region). At least one applicant will be selected for the designated Aboriginal UWW Fellowship.
- Applicants will be contacted as to whether or not they have been accepted on or before January 15, 2010.

Contact Information

If you have any questions about eligibility and how to put together a successful application, contact the

UWW Program Manager
Francisco Ibáñez-Carrasco
Phone: 416-642-6486 X 2240
E-mail: francisco@universitieswithoutwalls.ca