

TD BANK HEALTH SCIENCE INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FUND

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

APPLICATION EVALUATION

General Criteria

1. The TD Award application form is fully completed with all applicant, program, supervisor, and referee information, required signatures, and includes the following attachments:

- a. Applicant's recent and/or current transcripts (Section 3B).
- b. Applicant's interest in interdisciplinary health research (Section 3C).
- c. Applicant's CIHR format [Biosketch](#) (Section 3D).
- d. Supervisor's CIHR format [Biosketch](#) (Section 4B).
- e. The Research Project (Section 5).

2. The complete application package (application form and its attachments as itemized above) is to be submitted electronically as **a single PDF file** to the College of Health Sciences, Office of Research (chsoor@ualberta.ca) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 6, 2026.**

3. As indicated in Section 6, **one (1) letter of reference signed and sent by the referee directly to the CHS Office of Research (chsoor@ualberta.ca) no later than 4 p.m. on February 6, 2026.**

4. The project is relevant to either:

A) **General Research Award (1 award):** research with a health sciences interdisciplinary scholarship and collaboration.

B) **Precision Health Award (1 award):** research on the emerging healthcare model that leverages a vast array of data, new technologies, and the study of factors such as genes and their expression (e.g., genomics, metabolomics), personal characteristics (e.g., diet/nutrition) and environmental exposures, to better predict, delay, understand and address diseases and disabilities of individuals, as well as the study of population data to deliver new approaches to health promotion, rehabilitation, and increased equity of health outcomes in populations.

5. The proposal is well written, and provides sufficient rationale and methodological detail.

6. If the proposal is a continuation of a current ongoing project, the applicant must provide specific details of new work that will be performed throughout the duration of the award.

7. An interdisciplinary research team identifies/describes its involvement with the applicant throughout the research project.

Specific Criteria related to the Applicant:

1. The applicant meets the minimum expectations for applicants
 - Registered full-time in a graduate, post doctoral or fellowship program for the full duration of the TD award (April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027).
 - Provide past and/or current transcripts (if applicable) that shows a GPA 3.5 or higher from the most recent academic year.
 - Interest in exploring opportunities to increase interdisciplinary or team-based scholarship in health research and/or collaborative practice in the healthcare system.
 - Has a Supervisor who holds an academic appointment from the University of Alberta and possesses a record of productive health-oriented research including peer reviewed grants, publications and conference presentations/abstracts.
 - Involvement in a health research project with an interdisciplinary focus and interdisciplinary team (i.e. cross-faculty or two or more health disciplines) relevant to Precision Health or another area of interdisciplinary inquiry.
2. Within the research project, the applicant includes:
 - The project title.
 - The applicant's statement of their definition of interdisciplinary research and how it applies to their project.
 - The applicant's role with the research team and the project are well described and appropriate.
 - The applicant describes interests in interdisciplinary health research that considers future opportunities.
3. The applicant's letter of reference is very positive and provides considerable detail about the applicant's relative strengths, research experience, and competence/abilities in this area.

Specific Criteria related to the Applicant's Supervisor:

1. The applicant's supervisor has a good/strong and consistent track record of publications and has funds to support the research in which the applicant is involved.

Ineligible applicants:

An applicant will be considered ineligible for the TD Award if any of the following conditions apply:

1. The **GPA** from the most recent academic year is **below 3.5**.
2. The applicant **holds equal or more than \$20,000** in total active awards or scholarships concurrent with the start date of the TD Award (April 1, 2026).
Example: if the applicant received an annual scholarship of \$20,000 in Fall 2025, the applicant is considered ineligible for the TD Award 2026 competition.
3. The application package is **incomplete** or did not submit the application current version (2025-2026).

AWARD PROCESS

In October, CHS Office of Research will prepare the materials to support the launch of the competition in November and post the forms to the CHS website. On the launch date CHS will push communications through its channels. CHS Faculties will receive materials for communication via their distribution channels as well.

Applicants will submit their complete proposal to CHS Office of Research at chsoor@ualberta.ca

After receiving a completed application by the award deadline (February 6, 2026), the CHS Office of Research will send an email to the applicant noting that their application has been received and is in the process of being reviewed. The email will also state that the successful applicant will be notified in March and the rest of the applicants will receive an email stating that they were not successful.

Once all applications have been reviewed for eligibility based on the general and specific criteria for applicants and supervisors. Upon completion of the initial screening by the CHS Office of Research, the applicants in each award stream will be shared with the TD Award adjudication panel.

The adjudication panel members will review all eligible applicants and their proposals. The review materials will include the full applications and the scoring sheet.

Each reviewer on the adjudication panel will be asked to check the applicants for any conflict of interests. If any are noted, the adjudicator will not include the conflicting application in their ranking.

RATING PROTOCOLS

For each applicant (precision health or general), each reviewer will provide a score out of 10 for each major criterion including quality of the project proposal, level of interdisciplinary, feasibility, applicant letter of reference, applicant academic record, and relevance to the supervisor for a total of 50. The mean total score for each application will determine the rank order. Key considerations in the review will include:

- 1) **Academic Quality of the Research Proposal:** The proposal must address an important health problem. The project proposal has clear and appropriate research methods in a significantly new direction with potential to excel in interdisciplinary health research.
- 2) **Interdisciplinary Relevance to the Applicant:** Clear statements by the applicant of their personal interest and goals concerning interdisciplinary health research. The applicant must also describe why interdisciplinary research is important to the proposed research project.
- 3) **Relevance to Supervisor:** The supervisor should have demonstrated commitment to interdisciplinary research. In addition the supervisor must have a strong academic record and appropriate publication and/or research funding record for their training level or career stage in his/her area of research. A junior or early-career researcher will be considered if the proposal is in his/her area of expertise.
- 4) **Interdisciplinary Research Team:** the project clearly describes the interdisciplinary nature of the team involved in the project and the specific role of the applicant with the team and in the project.
- 5) **Letter of Reference for Applicant:** The letter positively addresses the applicant's competence/abilities in interdisciplinary research and the applicant's research interests contributing to the research project.

CHOOSING THE AWARDEES

Applications will be rank ordered based on the mean score from the scoring matrix as detailed in ranking protocols. The adjudication review committee (consisting of all proposal reviewers) will review the rank order produced from the mean scores as a group. Any committee member may choose to pull a specific application for discussion if they would like to propose a revision to the rank order. Proposals in the fundable range (i.e. within the top 4 or 5 for each of Precision Health and General) will be prioritized for discussion. Normally, a rank order will not move more than two positions up or down unless a significant error was made in the review (e.g. miscalculation of the total score or failure to review a section of the application). The adjudication committee may also choose to accept the rank order and not pull any proposals for discussion. The adjudication committee notes will be recorded, but reviewer comments will not be provided to the applicants. Top ranked proposals may be funded regardless of the applicant's home faculty. In the case of ties, no funding will be awarded if there is insufficient funds available to support the fundable projects achieving parity in scores.

Excess funds

Should excess funds arise from ties as outlined above, or due to insufficient applications to fund one (1) precision health project or one (1) general award, the excess funds available will be used to fund an additional applicant from the other subject area.

AWARDEES and RESEARCH PROJECT FOLLOW UP

The winners are contacted by CHS Office of Research and the needed information is gathered to complete Pay Action Forms (PAF) for the awards' administration. The PAF is sent into HR from CHS, who will notify the successful applicants by email to collect the needed information. The winners will also be informed of the expected content of their report (see Annex 1: Report Content) and re-contacted later in the year, by CHS, to ensure the report is sent in.

No feedback is given to the unsuccessful applicants. Should individual faculties want to support unfunded applications from their trainee community, recipients of home faculty funds would be contacted by their faculty to gather the information necessary to complete and submit a PAF from their own resources.

Annex1: Report content

1. Applicant & Interdisciplinary team information & (department, faculty, team members).
2. Project summary.
3. Research Progress/ Project outcomes.
 - a. Specific research activities / results during the tenure of the award.
 - b. Outline any posters, publications, conferences attended (conference proceedings), awards/grants.
 - c. Role of / importance of Interdisciplinary team in project (outline importance / value of the various disciplines involved, your role on the team, and value you've received in working as part of an interdisciplinary team).
 - d. Next steps in the project (if any).
4. Summary / reflection (anything applicant would like to share regarding your Interdisciplinary research experience).