

International Youth Exchange in Indigenous Health

Indigenous Student Services, McMaster University and the [Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Sydney](#) in Australia have developed an 8-week exchange for 2 Indigenous youth from each organization. This exchange will provide Indigenous youth the opportunity to work with Indigenous researchers who are engaged in health research and practice in communities.

The Poche Centre for Indigenous Health aims to: provide specialist health services for Aboriginal people; build and support education and career pathways for Aboriginal people; develop opportunities for students and graduates to participate in Aboriginal health service delivery, and develop and sustain collaborative evidence to practice research.

This youth exchange is a pilot program funded by McMaster Indigenous Student Services, the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute (MIRI), the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Sydney, Australia with support from International Experience Canada, McMaster Student Success Centre, the McMaster Indigenous Student Health Sciences Office and the Indigenous Studies Program.

The 2020 exchange will occur between May 1 and July 3, 2020.

1. Eligibility

Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) students from McMaster currently registered in:

- graduate program OR
- Level III or Level IV of an undergraduate program

Students must be planning to return to McMaster in September 2020.

Eligible applicants must be between the ages of 18-35 years old.

2. Support

Two students will each receive a stipend of \$5,000. The stipend is intended to support the student financially while they work in Australia as a Research Assistant over the course of eight weeks. Ten percent of the stipend will be paid upon completion of the exchange and completing a written reflection (see “Requirements” section).

Other support available to students selected:

- Housing in Sydney will be arranged and paid by the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health
- Advice and information on preparing for international travel
- Advice and information on budgeting, fundraising
- Training and other learning opportunities while in Australia

3. Work Term

Two students will be selected and will work as Research Assistants on one of two current projects at the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health:

- iECG screening to detect Atrial Fibrillation in Aboriginal adults
- [Aboriginal Precision Medicine Project](#); establishing a base genome for Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi people in NSW

4. Requirements

- Students will be required to pay their own travel to and from Sydney, Australia, including applicable fees for travel VISA.
- Students will work 20 hours per week as a Research Assistant for the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health. The Poche Centre will provide a job description prior to beginning the work exchange.
- Students should maintain regular communication with their supervisor (or designate) regarding research progress, milestones, challenges, etc.
- Students will write a 500 word reflection to be included in a report prepared by McMaster Indigenous Student Services. The reflections and report will be used to evaluate this pilot program.

5. Apply

Complete the enclosed application form and submit by email to indigenous.counsellor@mcmaster.ca Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Deadline: November 29, 2019

6. Questions

If you have questions about this opportunity, including accessibility to apply or participate in the program, please contact Jordan Carrier, indigenous.counsellor@mcmaster.ca or (905) 525-9140 extension 27459.

International Youth Exchange in Indigenous Health Application Form for Student Participants

Pilot program between McMaster University and the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health at the University of Sydney, in Sydney, Australia

Application Deadline is November 8, 2019.

Exchange will occur between May 1 - June 3, 2020 at the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Questions can be directed to: indigenous.counsellor@mcmaster.ca

ABOUT YOU

1. Your Name (First and Last)
2. Date of Birth (students must be between ages 18-35 years to be eligible)
3. What is your Indigenous Nation/Community?
4. Email Address
5. Phone Number

6. Mailing Address

7. What program are you in?

8. What level of study will you be entering in Sept 2020? (i.e. 3rd year, 4th year undergraduate, graduate degree)

9. Please provide two Emergency Contacts for while you are in the program:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Relationship to you:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

Relationship to you:

YOUR GOALS

10. What interests you about this youth exchange in Indigenous Health? What do you hope to gain from participating? (Maximum 250 words)

11. What kind of career path are you thinking of at the moment? How do you think this exchange could assist you? (Maximum 250 words)

12. Describe a time when you challenged yourself by taking on something that you knew would test your resilience. What happened and what was the outcome? Why did you choose to challenge yourself in this way? Looking back, is there anything you would have done differently? (Maximum 250 words)

13. What are a few research areas or topics you would like to study further this summer? (Maximum 250 words)

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

14. The successful applicant will be required to self-fund their travel to Sydney, Australia, including application fees for VISAs. This can be done through fundraising, applying for grants and student savings. Please indicate how you would plan to raise funds?

15. Have you lived or travelled anywhere outside of Canada for more than one month? If so, provide details:

- City/Town
- Country
- Number of Months
- Reason

SEMESTER OF STUDY

For those students wishing to include a semester of study in Australia following the research stay, please visit the [outbound website for the McMaster Exchange Program](#) for information on relevant deadlines and process.

Students are responsible for funding their semester of study. We can provide information on Grants and other ways to secure funding.

E-mail your completed application forms to Jordan Carrier, Indigenous Student Success Advisor: indigenous.counsellor@mcmaster.ca

*For accessibility or special dietary concerns, please email: indigenous.counsellor@mcmaster.ca