



## JDRF Canada-Mitacs Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Type 1 Diabetes — 2023 Request for Applications

### Timeline

**Funding opportunity launch: November 21, 2022**

**Letter of Intent application deadline: March 24, 2023**

**Applicants notified of outcome of stage 1 review: May 1, 2023**

**Stage 2 application deadline: June 9, 2023**

**Notice of decision: anticipated August/September 2023**

**Funding start date: Fall 2023 — start no earlier than September 4, 2023, no later than December 1, 2023 (extensions may be possible in certain circumstances)**

### Objectives and scope:

The JDRF Canada-Mitacs Postdoctoral Fellowship Program in Type 1 Diabetes will support postdoctoral scholars affiliated with academic institutions to conduct promising research with industry partners that are driving new therapies for type 1 diabetes (T1D) towards the clinic. Fellows will share their time between academic institutions and eligible industry partner organizations.

The objectives of this opportunity are to:

1. provide support for talented scientists at an early stage of their career to gain experience in an industry environment focused on T1D research & development, in any area relevant to [JDRF's global research strategy](#);
2. expand and retain talent in the T1D research field in Canada;
3. foster academic-industry collaborations that will drive new advancements to the T1D community.

The fellowship will support projects relevant to T1D in the following research areas:

1. **Cell replacement therapies:** research relevant to the development of safe and effective cell replacement therapies for people with T1D.
2. **Disease-modifying therapies:** research into approaches to prevent, slow progression of, or cure T1D by targeting the autoimmune response, beta cells, or both.
3. **Improving lives:** research that aims to improve the quality of life for people living with T1D, which could include research into:
  - new or improved drugs to manage glycemia in T1D;
  - prevention or treatment of short- or long-term complications of T1D; or
  - improvements in devices used in diabetes management.

Four awards are available through the 2023 Request for Applications.

### Eligibility criteria:

Postdoctoral fellow:

- Must currently hold or will hold a postdoctoral fellowship appointment with an eligible Canadian academic institution by the anticipated start date of the project.
- Must have defended their PhD and be able to start the project by December 1, 2023.
- Must be within 5 years of having completed their PhD when the project starts.
- Preference to be given to postdocs who are named at time of Letter of Intent (LOI), but faculty may submit an LOI with their Canadian for-profit company with the candidate to be determined (TBD). In these cases, faculty should include a description of plan for recruitment.

Proposed Canadian partner:

Organization:

- An eligible for-profit company with a research site in Canada
- See Mitacs Accelerate [Roles and Responsibilities](#) for more details on their involvement and interaction with the research project

Academic institution:

Candidates must be affiliated with and conducting research at an eligible Canadian institution. In order to fulfill JDRF's conditions of funding, please note that the institution must also be a qualified donee based on CRA guidelines: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/charities-giving/list-charities/list-charities-other-qualified-donees.html>

### **Financial mechanics:**

There are up to four awards available through this 2023 Request for Applications.

Postdoctoral fellows are eligible for funding of Can\$82,500/year (of which up to Can\$60,000/year is stipend), for two years.

The financial commitment to awardees is shared between Mitacs, JDRF, and the eligible Canadian for-profit company as follows:

Can\$22,500 (+ applicable taxes)/year is required from the eligible Canadian for-profit company as their contribution to the [Mitacs Accelerate](#) award and is matched by Mitacs. Mitacs will invoice the Canadian for-profit company for their contribution directly. Once received, the Mitacs Accelerate award (Can\$45,000/year) will be sent to the institution as per Mitacs policies and procedures.

Additionally, JDRF Canada will provide a total of Can\$75,000 over the 2-year award period to each awardee paid directly to the research institution and held in trust under the academic supervisor's name. Of this, \$35,000 will be paid upon award activation, \$35,000 at the beginning of year 2, and \$5,000 upon submission of final reporting (see below).

Of the \$75,000 JDRF commitment, up to \$30,000 (\$15,000/year) can be used for additional stipend. The remaining funds are research allowance aimed at providing the fellow with funds to enrich their training experience (travel to scientific

meetings, journal subscriptions, books, training courses) as well as research supplies or costs. The research allowance cannot be used to purchase equipment including laptops.

- Funds spent on travel can only support travel at economy level, accommodations, and meals.

Applicants are encouraged to request further information on eligible expenses for JDRF awards by contacting JDRF at [research@jdrf.ca](mailto:research@jdrf.ca).

### **Application process:**

Application to the JDRF Canada-Mitacs Postdoctoral Fellowship Program is a two-stage process that can be completed in English or in French: LOI, and a full Mitacs Accelerate application.

### **Stage 1:**

Please submit the LOI package to JDRF Canada ([research@jdrf.ca](mailto:research@jdrf.ca)) and Jillian Murray ([jhatnean@mitacs.ca](mailto:jhatnean@mitacs.ca)).

Due date: **11:59 ET March 24, 2023**. (A confirmation email will be sent by [research@jdrf.ca](mailto:research@jdrf.ca) within one business day of receiving the submitted LOI package. If a confirmation email is NOT received within one business day of submission, it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact JDRF and ensure that the application package has been received by JDRF.)

The LOI package must include the following:

1. A high-level description of the proposed research (2 pages maximum)
  - Objectives and aims
  - Methodology
  - Plans to engage with people with lived experience of T1D (if applicable)
2. Letter of Support from the Canadian partner organization, including their commitment to contributing \$45,000 (+ applicable taxes) over two years (\$22,500 + applicable taxes/year) toward the project
- 3 (a). For LOI with named postdoc:
  - CV of proposed postdoctoral fellow (Canadian Common CV or JDRF biosketch template)
  - brief summary of the applicant's career goals, detailing how this award will support their career development (if applying with a named postdoc; see below; 1 page maximum)
- 3 (b). For LOI with postdoc TBD:
  - Plan for recruitment (1 page maximum)

*Once the postdoc is recruited, a CV and a brief summary of career goals should be submitted to JDRF.*



## Evaluation process

LOIs that meet eligibility criteria will be considered for relevance based on:

- Alignment with JDRF's [Global Research Strategy](#)
- Potential impact of proposed research on the T1D field
- If postdoc is named: applicant experience and potential for career growth in T1D
- If no named postdoc: merit of the proposed research project and the strength of recruitment plan

Applicants will be notified by May 1, 2023, if they will be invited to submit a full proposal package, following review by Mitacs and JDRF Canada.

### **Stage 2:**

Successful eligible applicants from Stage 1 will be invited to submit a full [Mitacs Accelerate proposal package](#) with the support of a Mitacs Advisor. JDRF Canada may recommend the applicants include a preset list of suggested reviewers for their application.

Due date: **June 9, 2023, 11:59 ET**

Anticipated date of decision: approximately 8-10 weeks after receipt and submission of the full application to Mitacs

Approved projects are expected to start no earlier than **September 4, 2023**, and no later than **December 1, 2023 (extensions may be possible in certain circumstances)**

For questions pertaining to this initiative or application process, please contact:

JDRF Canada: [research@jdrf.ca](mailto:research@jdrf.ca)

Mitacs: Jillian Murray, PhD, Director, Strategic Partnerships [jhatnean@mitacs.ca](mailto:jhatnean@mitacs.ca)

### **JDRF conditions of funding**

- Successful applicants must enter into a grant agreement with JDRF for the JDRF portion of funding. Mitacs has no involvement in this JDRF requirement. Information on the JDRF grant agreement, including allowable costs, can be obtained by contacting JDRF at [research@jdrf.ca](mailto:research@jdrf.ca). It is recommended that applicants seek this information prior to preparing their application.
- Applicants can access a template of the [Terms and Conditions](#) document for more information, and contact [research@jdrf.ca](mailto:research@jdrf.ca) with any questions.



## **Reporting**

### Reporting for Mitacs

All Mitacs Accelerate participants are required to submit an [Exit Survey and Final Report](#).

### Reporting for JDRF Canada

All postdoctoral fellows must submit a progress report and expenditure report to JDRF Canada for year 1, and a final report within 75 days of completion of the award, in line with JDRF Canada reporting requirements. JDRF is responsible for collecting these reports. Postdoctoral fellows are also requested to attend one face-to-face progress update meeting during the course of the award (virtually or in person) with JDRF. Please note that reporting to JDRF must be in English.

## **Partner information:**

### **Mitacs:**

Established in 1999, Mitacs is a not-for-profit organization that fosters growth and innovation in Canada by solving business challenges with research solutions from the best academic institutions at home and around the world. For more than 20 years, Mitacs has worked with over 165 postsecondary partners, thousands of companies, and federal and provincial governments to build partnerships that support industrial and social innovation in Canada.

### **JDRF Canada:**

JDRF is a not-for-profit organization with the mission to cure type 1 diabetes (T1D), through both research funding and advocacy. In addition to curing type 1 diabetes, part of JDRF's mission is to help those living with T1D today to live healthier, easier, and safer lives. A key component of our research strategy is to foster a community of T1D researchers and clinicians through training awards and networking activities.