

POR-MITACS FELLOWSHIPS

BRINGING PATIENT-ORIENTED
APPROACHES INTO THE
WORKPLACE



POR-Mitacs Fellowships

PASSERELLE and **Mitacs** invite undergraduate, college and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows from all disciplines to participate in this 3rd edition of the **Patient-Oriented Research (POR)-Mitacs Fellowship Program**.

Summary

- **Award:** A fellowship stipends of up to \$50,000 maximum that include a matching contribution from the selected partner organization and Mitacs. This also includes a \$5,000 supplement from PASSERELLE in the form of reimbursement for participation in relevant capacity building activities (e.g. training, outreach or event, patient or public engagement activities).
- **Fellowship term:** The fellowship occurs over a one-year term (June 2026 to May 2027) and will include POR training, networking, mentorship, and an internship. Fellows must be available throughout the year to **participate in PASSERELLE's capacity building activities**. During this period, fellows will undertake an internship of **at least six months** with a partner company, non-profit organization, municipality or hospital, to broaden their skills and establish contacts. This internship can take place at any time during the duration of the fellowship, according to a deadline agreed between the educational institution and the chosen partner organization.
- **Eligibility:** Undergraduate, college and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows in an eligible Canadian academic institution from all disciplines, interested in POR.
- **Applications:** Until February 13, 2026.
- **Awards Notice:** About 12 weeks after the submission deadline.

What is the POR-Mitacs Fellowship Program?

PASSERELLE aims to collectively grow, support, and sustain the capacity for a collaborative, interdisciplinary, and innovative patient-oriented research (POR) environment capable of addressing evolving healthcare questions and contributing to enhancing patients' healthcare experience and well-being.

In support of this goal, a POR-Mitacs Fellowship Program was established to provide a mechanism to support projects that integrate the principles of POR and provide fellows with training, networking and mentoring opportunities that foster the development of POR and professional skills that are applicable across diverse career trajectories.

The POR-Mitacs Fellowship Program supports opportunities that:

- Are inclusive of patients* and actively solicit and recognize the value of diverse voices and involvement through all levels of the research process (*patients, caregivers/families & the public).
- Provide experiential learning opportunities to enhance POR skills and competencies.
- Are committed to capacity building and bi-directional learning.

Opportunities and Expectations

- Fellows will be onboarded into PASSERELLE'S POR community and provided access to additional training opportunities and resources. They will have access to discussion boards with peers in the POR-Mitacs fellowship program and other POR programs, tailored events and activities, and a network of mentors.
- Throughout the course of the one-year fellowship, fellows will meet to foster collaboration, support mentorship, and engage in professional development and capacity building.
- Fellows will engage in a 6-month placement with their **selected partner organization**.
- All fellows will be expected to present their projects at a showcase event.

Who should apply?

- Full-time undergraduate, college and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows from all disciplines, interested in POR, from an eligible Canadian academic institution
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and international students over the age of 18

How to apply?

Step one: If you are interested in applying, contact your local [Mitacs Advisor](#) and PASSERELLE at info@passerelle-nte.ca to learn more or discuss the next steps. The Mitacs Advisor will be able to clarify the application process and requirements.

Step two: Submit an application to Mitacs Accelerate Programs and specify that you are applying for the **POR-Mitacs Fellowship (Accelerate Program)**.

Step three: Submit a letter of intent to PASSERELLE by the application deadline at info@passerelle-nte.ca. The letter MUST 1) include your project abstract, 2) describe how the project aligns with POR principles, and 3) explain how the added PASSERELLE contribution would further benefit the project. Please clearly indicate **POR-MITACS Fellowship** in the subject line of email submissions and in the letter of intent.

Note: this fellowship opportunity does not preclude /restrict funding/awards from other agencies.

QUESTIONS: For questions about the Mitacs Accelerate Internships, please contact your University Mitacs Advisor. For more information about this program, finding a partner organization and/or the POR stipend top-up, please contact info@passerelle-nte.ca.

About



About Mitacs

Mitacs works to bring innovation to more people in more places across Canada and around the world. Mitacs makes investing in new knowledge easier through access to top researchers, flexible project plans, and co-investments in talent.

A not-for-profit organization, Mitacs is funded by the Government of Canada, the Government of Alberta, the Government of British Columbia, Research Manitoba, the Government of New Brunswick, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Government of Nova Scotia, the Government of Ontario, Innovation PEI, the Government of Quebec, the Government of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Yukon.

Learn more at mitacs.ca



About PASSERELLE

PASSERELLE is a Pan-Canadian hub dedicated to developing and strengthening capacity in patient-oriented research (POR). It serves as a one-stop shop that connects networks, equips individuals and organizations with tools and resources, and supports research grounded in diverse realities.

Building on the foundational work of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR), PASSERELLE advances high-quality, collaborative research that responds to the needs and priorities of patients and communities.

PASSERELLE is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) under their Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) initiative.

Learn more at passerelle-nte.ca

