



# MSSRP

## Medical Student Summer Research Program Stream (MSSRP) Social Accountability Priority Area Terms of Reference 2025

### Key Dates

Supervisor application deadline	January 12, 2025
Student application deadline	March 2, 2025
Anticipated notice of decision	April 4, 2025

### Contact

Please contact the Office of Social Accountability at [med.social.accountability@uottawa.ca](mailto:med.social.accountability@uottawa.ca) with any questions.

### Program Overview

The Office of Social Accountability's mandate is to address the priority health needs of those we are meant to serve through research, education and service. The Social Impact Funding Program supports research that supports this mandate through partnerships between the Faculty of Medicine and our community partners.

The MSSRP offered by the Research Office at the Faculty of Medicine hosts a competition for summer research positions for first- and second-year medical students. With the recognition that medical students who learn in and with communities are more likely to go on to practice in alignment with patient, community and population needs upon graduation. The Social Accountability Priority Area supports student summer projects in two streams.

#### Stream 1: Faculty-Initiated

Faculty members submit project applications for the MSSRP and may request consideration under the Social Accountability Priority Area. Applications undergo merit evaluation by the Research Office, and, if relevant, subsequent social accountability review by the Social Accountability Adjudication Committee. For projects awarded under this priority area, \$1,850 of the student stipend will be funded by the Office of Social Accountability, and the remainder by the Research Office.

#### Stream 2: Community Partners-Initiated

Community partners submit project applications that will address their own research priorities. Both merit and social accountability reviews are evaluated by the Social Accountability Adjudication Committee. If awarded, the Office of Social Accountability will fund the full student stipend and offer support for research activities and community collaboration over the summer. Faculty members with relationships with community partners are invited to encourage their partners to apply.

## Application Assessment Criteria

### MSSRP Merit Criteria

1. Excellence of the research project
  - Impact
  - Innovation
  - Feasibility
  - Methods
  - SBGA+ considerations
2. Excellence of the training opportunity
  - Research training experience and skills development
  - Training plan
  - Fit with career goals of trainee

### Social Accountability Priority Area Criteria

Submissions must:

1. **Identify** a specific community partner who will be engaged in the research project. Community partners may include community organizations and partners, policy makers at the regional, provincial, and national levels, health professionals, funding organizations, certification bodies, patient advocacy groups, or members of the public.
2. Describe how the project will **address** a priority need of this community partner group.
3. Describe how the applicants will **engage** their community partner in their project. We encourage applicants to consider how community partners might be involved in as many stages of the project as possible (i.e., research question, design, analysis, interpretation, knowledge dissemination). We recognize that projects may be at different phases of execution.
4. Identify how the community partner will **benefit** from the results of the research through knowledge mobilization.

## Adjudication

All submissions will be reviewed by the Social Accountability Adjudication Committee comprised of community, faculty, and student representatives.

## Project Ideas

As social accountability incorporates a “bench to bedside to population to society” approach along a continuum from discovery research to broad societal impact<sup>1</sup>, we invite submissions from all research disciplines. Submissions may vary in how they address social accountability through research, education, quality improvement and clinical service initiatives. Project ideas may include the following:

- Enhancing the community partner involvement of your planned or in-progress research studies
- The collection, analysis or reporting of data a community partner relevant priority health concerns
- A social accountability literature review or environmental scan related to your program or research discipline
- Focus groups or key informant interviews to inform quality improvement initiatives
- Community partner-oriented outreach for dissemination of clinical or educational material
- Designing, implementing, or evaluating a health professional education activity
- Engaging people with lived experience in the planning and/or implementation of project initiatives
- Applying approaches to address community health concerns (e.g., through service delivery, engagement of community partners, role of community members, etc.

1. Dzau, Victor J et al. Has traditional medicine had its day? The need to redefine academic medicine. The Lancet, Volume 400, Issue 10361, 1481 - 1486