

## Expressions of Interest

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# Dalhousie Research Ethics Boards – Postdoctoral and doctoral student members

## Summary

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The Research Ethics Boards invite expressions of interest from Dalhousie University postdoctoral fellows and doctoral students for student membership on a Dalhousie University Research Ethics Board (REB).

## Qualifications

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The REB seeks members with experience conducting research involving humans, including human data and/or biologicals, experience writing REB submissions and familiarity with the *Tri-council Policy Statement Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans*.

The Research Ethics Boards encourage expressions of interest from Dalhousie postdoctoral and doctoral students that are Indigenous (especially Mi'kmaq), persons of Black/African descent (especially African Nova Scotians), and members of other racialized groups, persons with disabilities, women, persons identifying as members of 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and all candidates who would contribute to the diversity of the Board.

## Time commitment

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- The estimated time commitment is approximately 2 – 4 hours per week.
- Most work is done on your own schedule (within a 10-day turnaround time). The exception is the monthly 3-hour REB meetings. The meeting schedule is known well in advance.

## Benefits

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- Honorarium of \$1,500 per year (\$500/term).
- Service to the Boards is an important and substantial responsibility and also a rewarding one.
- Make a positive difference in the ethical conduct of research for participants as well as researchers.
- Opportunity to network with new colleagues and to learn from the breadth of the research being undertaken.

- Learn about what Boards look for in an ethics submission, which will help you in preparing your own ethics packages.
- Bring additional knowledge to your research teams, colleagues, students and department about research ethics review.
- Learn about innovative research methods being employed across other disciplines.
- Collegiality. The meetings are interesting and thought-provoking.

## Membership responsibilities

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- Thorough, timely and regular review and oversight of the ethical acceptability of research involving humans. This means:
  - Reading research ethics submissions and providing a written ethical review within 10 days of receiving the request
  - 85% of reviews are delegated to members to complete at their convenience within the 10-day window (they are not discussed at meetings)
  - About 3 new projects are discussed by the full REB at pre-scheduled meetings. Two members will be assigned to lead the ethical discussion (primary reviewers) and other members serve as readers and contribute to deliberations. If there are no projects assigned for discussion at the meeting, it will be cancelled.
  - In addition to new submissions, members will be assigned review responsibilities for researcher responses to initial reviews (revisions) and for proposed changes to projects (amendment review)
- Regular attendance and collegial participation at Board meetings.
- Participation in education opportunities. At a minimum, members must be knowledgeable about relevant University policies, especially the *University Policy on the Ethical Conduct of Research Involving Humans* and associated submission guidelines, the *Tri-Council Policy Statement Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans* and have completed the Panel on Research Ethics' online *Course on Research Ethics* (CORE) and *The Fundamentals of OCAP®* online training.
- Maintaining the confidentiality of Board deliberations.

## Application process

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Expressions of interest are accepted by email. Please include a cover letter explaining your interest and qualifications and append a copy of your resume. A letter of support from your academic supervisor would be an asset.

Please send your application to:

Catherine Connors  
 Director, Research Ethics  
 catherine.connors@dal.ca