The Desjardins Centre for Advanced Training of The Institute & The Tremplin Consortium of McGill-Affiliated Research Centres:

Bursary Competition for the PERCER (Parcours d'Excellence pour le Renforcement des Compétences en Entrepreneuriat et Réussite) Program in Life Sciences and Health Technologies (supporting MSc, PhD students and Postdoctoral Fellows)

This program provides an opportunity to explore how discoveries and ideas are translated into real-world impact while building a broader understanding of the life sciences business landscape. Through a cohort-based learning experience and interactions with experts from across the health and life sciences ecosystem, participants gain insight into innovation and commercialization pathways.

Learning Objectives

- Identify innovative, marketable solutions with market potential in the health and life sciences sector;
- Develop a strategy for knowledge transfer, from early financing to commercialization;
- Prepare promising projects for the subsequent start-up and incubation phases of businesses.

Participants do not need to have an existing project or plan to pursue entrepreneurship to benefit from this program. Through expert perspectives, practical examples, and peer learning, participants develop an understanding of innovation and commercialization processes in the health and life sciences sector.

Application deadline: Friday, December 11th at 5pm.
Applicants will be informed of the results by Friday, December 18th, 2026
Applicants do not need to have an entrepreneurial project to join the cohort
Questions: Please contact us at infotremplin@muhc.mcgill.ca (applicants or inquiries from McGill University or Health Research Centres other than the RI-MUHC) or dcat@muhc.mcgill.ca (applicants or inquiries from RI-MUHC members)
PERCER program start date: January 18, 2027

The **PERCER (Parcours d'Excellence pour le Renforcement des Compétences en Entrepreneuriat et Réussite)** Program is an initiative of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Montreal in partnership with Millenium Quebecor and made possible by a donation from the Morris and Rosalind Goodman Family Foundation.

The program benefits from close collaboration with experts from HEC Montréal, Polytechnique Montréal, the TransMedTech Institute, and Concordia University, allowing for the exchange of perspectives on management, innovation, and technology transfer.

Valued at 5,000CAD$, a total of 4 bursaries are available. **Up to two bursaries,** sponsored by the DCAT are available for **MSc or PhD students, or Postdocs** affiliated with the RI-MUHC, and **up to two bursaries** sponsored by the Consortium Tremplin of McGill affiliated research center, are available for **MSc or PhD or Postdocs** affiliated with McGill University who are not a member of the RI-MUHC. **These bursaries permit participation at no additional cost to trainees to participate in the PERCER Program between January 2027 and November 2027.**

Why are DCAT and Tremplin Supporting Trainee Participation in the PERCER Program

We are offering awards to support trainees interested in developing entrepreneurial, strategic, and management skills for advancing research and commercializing innovation in the life sciences. The PERCER program immerses students in real-world business and commercialization scenarios and is ideal for those seeking exposure to the **business of science** in **industry settings**. The program benefits not only those with a start-up idea, but also **students or fellows seeking real-life exposure to business and commercialization in the life sciences**. PERCER covers topics such as the **drug R&D and health technology ecosystem**, **regulatory strategy**, and **business models for innovative technologies**, and may be a good next step for students who have already completed the Quebec Scientific Entrepreneurship Program. **These awards also aim to support students or fellows who are engaged in scientific strategy within their labs or across the institute (i.e., participate to grant proposals, sit on scientific strategy committees (e.g., research priorities or research networks) or participate to innovation activities.**

About the program:

Divided into **20 intensive day sessions in 10 learning modules (over 10 months)**, you will experience more than 150 hours of relevant strategic content in this cohort-based model of training. Designed to strengthen the skills of all life sciences and health technology professionals, you will participate to:

- Interactive lectures and workshops led by experts from the business and research communities;

- Real-life case studies and panel discussions with industry leaders and investors;
- Bilingual supervision (French and English) promoting inclusiveness and the use of French as a business language;
- Experiential team learning on real startup projects, followed by an individual end-of-course project;
- A final presentation ("pitch") to a jury of industry and research valuation experts.

To apply for the program, **you DO NOT need to be currently working on an entrepreneurial project**. During the program you can communicate in your language of choice (French or English) but you are required to have a strong comprehension of French for the learning sessions.

All applicants to the bursary competition, including successful candidates, must commit to attending the entire program, barring exceptional circumstances. This commitment includes participating in the 10 learning sessions (FULL DAY LEARNING SESSIONS HAPPEN ONE MONDAY AND TUESDAY EACH MONTH BETWEEN JANUARY AND NOVEMBER 2027) and completing the final project.

Timelines and Key Dates

	Time
Application deadline	December 11th, 2026
Award Announcement	December 18th, 2026
Program start and end dates*	January 18th, 2027 – November 16th, 2027 (see the full schedule in the attached document https://pharm.umontreal.ca/fileadmin/pharmacie/documents/pdf/Etudes/Description-PERCER-ENG2027.pdf)

*** Candidate Commitment**

By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to the following if selected as a recipient of an award:

- Attend all 10 sessions of the PERCER Program, and;
- Meet the requirements of the PERCER Program in terms of attendance and participation; and
- Consent to having their name and affiliation included in DCAT or Tremplin communications, and provide content for DCAT or Tremplin communications related to their experience in

the program.

1. Value and Term

The bursary will be paid directly to the PERCER Program to support the successful applicants' participation in the program. Each bursary covers the full program registration fee of $5,000 CAD.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must be registered full-time in a graduate program **(MSc or PhD) or have a Postdoctoral appointment** at McGill University during the period they hold the bursary, from January to November. For applicants from the RI-MUHC: An applicant's supervisor must hold a Senior Scientist, Scientist, Junior Scientist or Investigator appointment at the RI-MUHC. Applicants whose supervisors hold Associate Investigator appointments are not eligible to apply.

3. Application Process

Those who have an interest in applying for the program can access the full guidelines and application package at the following **Expression of Interest for PERCER**

Required Documents	Maximum Length (12-point, Times Roman font, or 11-point Calibri)
1. Application form	Download the Application Form by accessing the Expression of Interest (above)
3. CV/Resume	Maximum 2 pages
4. Letter of interest (see below)	Maximum 2 pages
5. Letter of reference and commitment from supervisor	Maximum 2 pages

1. Application form

Applicants must complete the Application form available for download at this link.

2. CV/Resume

Although **work experience is not required**, applicants must provide a copy of their CV / resume showing education, professional experience and achievements, including internships and volunteering, if applicable. Your CV / resume should:

- Be complete (e.g. providing year AND month timeframes);
- Be legible and concise (**2 pages MAX**);
- Include a summary of your academic, professional and personal achievements;
- Highlight your greatest achievements to date.

3. Letter of interest

Your two-page letter of interest should include the following:

First page : Your motivation for the program and its pertinence for your career and professional development

1. **Your reasons for choosing the program**
2. **Your background and career goals**
3. **How the program will help you achieve those goals**
4. **How, if so, are you involved in scientific strategy at your institution or in innovation activities inside or outside your institution or research project.**

Overall, you should convey not only that the program is right for you, but that you are right for the program. In the **two-page letter of interest**, you must also include **ONE of the following**:

Second page : Option A or Option B

Option A: A description of your proposed project:

Please describe how your project is innovative and its relevance to the field of biotechnology (such as drugs or therapies), medical technology (such as devices, detection tools, virtual tools for advising clinicians, or big data), or health information/communication technology (such as interactions between health professionals or public awareness initiatives). Please include:

1. The current state of the project
2. The market for the project
3. The amount of time you currently devote to it
4. Any other programs or competitions you have participated in
5. Your vision for how the PERCER Program will support the growth of the project

Option B: A description of how you engage with innovation, commercialization, and scientific strategy:

- **Interest in Innovation and Commercialization:** Describe why you are interested in learning about the business and commercialization aspects of life sciences. You may include examples such as training, internships, research experiences, or participation in projects that exposed you to innovation, industry collaboration, or strategic decision-making in science.
- **Relevant Skills and Motivation:**
  Provide examples that demonstrate your motivation to broaden your understanding of the life sciences innovation ecosystem
- **Engagement in Scientific Strategy or Applied Research:**
  Explain how you have contributed to or taken an interest in activities that involve planning, coordination, or strategic thinking in your lab or research environment, and how participation in PERCER would build on or extend these experiences.

4. Reference letter from your supervisor

Please have your supervisor prepare a maximum **two-page letter that includes:**

- How long they have known you
- Why you will benefit from participating in the program
- The key strengths that make you a good candidate for the program
- Confirmation of their support for your participation in the program, in addition to your graduate research.
- Their commitment to following your progress and participation in the program, considering the financial commitment of the RI-MUHC or Tremplin to fund your participation.

4. Submitting your application materials

Submit your materials to by email to dcat@muhc.mcgill.ca in **one PDF document.**

A reminder that the deadline for all materials to be submitted is December 11th at 5pm.

5. Review Process

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria by a selection panel:

1. Research experience and engagement in career and professional development activities (20%)
2. Letter of reference (30%)
3. Letter of interest (50%)