

**Office of Integrated Medical Education  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto  
Educational Information Technology (EIT)  
Summer Student Program Award 2014**

**Request for Applications**

**Introduction**

Educational information technology (EIT) has been identified as one of the areas of priority for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The Future of Medical Education in Canada (FMEC) report lists ‘improving the use of technology’ as one of the five enabling recommendations for the future of medical education. The Lancet Commissions report on education of health professionals for the 21st century states: “We focus on the transformative learning power of the IT revolution. The effect of electronic learning is likely to be revolutionary, although how precisely it will revamp professional education is unknown.” At the 2011 University of Toronto Council of Health Sciences Educational Subgroup (CHSES) summit, faculty leaders share the desire to collaborate and share their experiences in using technology to transform our health professional education curriculum. Furthermore, with the expansion of enrollment and decentralization of teaching at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, there is a much greater need for developing online educational software to enable asynchronous distant learning. In addition, there are innovative continuing educational IT projects that are not well supported.

To provide structured support for our faculty members who are interested in developing medical educational software to assist them in teaching their subject areas, the Office of Integrated Medical Education (OIME) has established the Summer Student Program Award in 2013, based on a similar award originally created by the Department of Medicine in 2006.

In 2013, we have supported 10 projects and a list of them can be viewed at [www.utorontoeit.com](http://www.utorontoeit.com). In addition, weekly seminars were held to discuss latest topics in eLearning technologies as well as providing ongoing support for the project design and development.

For the 2014 OIME Summer Student Program Award, 10 project teams will be supported and invite to participate in weekly seminars during the coming summer. The OIME web portal (<http://elearning.med.utoronto.ca>), launched in 2012, was created to showcase the web-based e-learning tools that will be developed with the support of the Award.

OIME will collaborate with the **Biomedical Communications (BMC)** program at the University of Toronto and the **University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)** to help us with student recruitment and seminar presentations.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the OIME Educational Information Technology (EIT) Summer Student Program are:

1. To combine the faculty content experts and the medical or undergraduate students who have technical know-how to develop the next-generation medical educational software.
2. To foster a community of faculty members and students who will lead the future medical educational software development at the Faculty of Medicine.
3. Provide a framework of educational software design and evaluation through a series of weekly seminars during the summer program.
4. Utilizing the OIME e-learning website to feature the educational software projects developed and make them available online for use at University of Toronto and potentially other medical schools.

## **Summer Program Project Outline**

Faculty members of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto are invited to submit medical educational software project proposals to be considered for support. We will also advertise this program to the first year graduate students in Biomedical Communications, medical students, and computer science students for their potential participation. We are particularly interested in recruiting students who have either experience or an interest in developing educational software. We will match faculty members with students possessing the appropriate programming and development skills. Each of the projects will be assessed based on its potential impact in improving the current educational program, scope, feasibility, integration with current teaching program, and the planned evaluation process. Preference will be given to web-based courseware where the final product can be shared online. The final product will be showcased on the OIME e-learning website.

The participating faculty members and the students will be required to attend one-hour weekly seminars during the period of the summer student program between June and August 2013. The weekly seminars will cover principles that are important to educational software development, such as: 1) basic educational courseware design principles; 2) user interface design principles; 3) software development process; and 4) educational software evaluation. We will invite local and external guest speakers to share their educational software development and evaluation experience. In addition, the participants will be required to present their work at different stages of development for evaluation and feedback by the participants.

## **Future Development**

Courseware developed under this program can be submitted to international educational software meetings, such as the IAMSE conference for abstract and electronic demonstration; the Canadian Healthcare Education Commons (<https://chec-cesc.afmc.ca/>) and the MedEdPortal (<https://www.mededportal.org/>) for academic recognition.

## Eligibility

Students must be enrolled full time at University of Toronto in an EIT-related program (i.e. Computer Science, Engineering, Medicine, Biomedical Communications) *at the time the application is submitted*. In specific cases where specific programming skills or gaming design experience is required, we will recruit students from University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT). They must agree to participate in the project on a full-time basis, and not to terminate their position prior to the stipulated end date.

Supervisors must hold an academic staff appointment in the Faculty of Medicine.

A limit of one student may be sponsored per supervisor and each supervisor can only apply once to this year's competition. If you do not have a specific student in mind already, we can help match a student/student team for your project. We will try to match you with a student who has the specific skills or interests that fit your project. Depending on the skills required in the projects this year, we may put together two students (e.g. one specialize in visual elements/interface designs and the other in programming) into one project. Supervisors are reminded that Hospital policy prohibits the appointment of a student who would report directly to a close relative (note that this refers to a hospital policy).

## Support

The student will receive funding for 10 consecutive weeks, from June 15 to August 29, 2014.

- ❖ Successful applicants will receive \$2,500.00 support from the OIME Educational Information Technology (EIT) Summer Student Program.
- ❖ **The supervisor must agree to provide additional support (e.g. through his/her clinical department), in the amount of at least \$2,000.00, to complete the project.**

**Please note:** The OIME Educational Information Technology Summer Student Award *cannot* be held simultaneously with any other Summer Student Awards.

## Application

- ❖ The application form must be signed and completed in full by both the student and supervisor.
- ❖ All sections must be completed. Incomplete or improperly prepared application forms may disqualify a student from the competition.
- ❖ If you do not have a student in mind already, just leave out the student section for now, we will work with you to find and match with one that fits your project.

Call for applications will be sent out to the potential applicants by mid-April. Deadline for receipt of application is **May 5, 2014**. Notification of successful awards will be made in writing to the investigators by **June 2, 2014**. Applications will be judged acceptable if the student meets the eligibility criteria and the sponsoring staff member demonstrates that s/he can provide a suitable project for the student, which will be carried out in a well-supervised environment. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure office space, if needed, is available to support the student project.

If the number of applications exceeds the number that can be supported by the funds allocated to this program, studentships will be awarded on merit based on an independent assessment of the research project description and the student qualifications as submitted in this application.