



2011 Autism Ontario Travel Bursary for the International Meeting for Autism Research

Autism Ontario is pleased to offer the Student Travel Bursary program to support attendance at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR), being held in San Diego, California, from May 12 to 14, 2011.

The majority of funds that support this travel bursary come from *Together for Autism*, a program of Autism Ontario that raised awareness about autism and Aspergers while raising dollars for research.

The number of bursaries offered is established on an annual basis and determined by the funds available for this and other funded research grants and scholarships.

IMFAR has three main aims: 1) to promote exchange of the latest scientific findings and to stimulate research progress in understanding the nature, causes, and treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) around the world; 2) to foster dialogue among ASD scientists across disciplines; and 3) to promote the training and development of new ASD researchers through scheduled sessions and opportunities to interact with scientists. Autism Ontario sees these bursaries as a unique opportunity to invest in the future of autism research by supporting current and future leaders in the ASD community in Ontario so that they can attend this important international meeting (IMFAR meeting information at <http://www.autism-insar.org>).

Application Deadline: April 25, 2011

Who Can Apply for the \$750.00 Travel Bursary

Student Researchers

Students, currently registered in an Ontario University, who have shown leadership and achievement in ASD research are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to graduate students, although undergraduate students with exceptional research experience will also be considered. Preference will also be given to students who have submitted an abstract for presentation to IMFAR (evidence of submission is required in the application).

Application Process for Student Researchers

The student applicant must submit the following information:

A. Cover page with the following information:

- Name of Applicant
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Telephone number (daytime)

- Department and Institution where the applicant is a registered student
- Degree program (Undergraduate, MA, MSc, PhD)
- Name of research supervisor and his/her professional contact information

B. List of appended materials:

1. Copy of submitted Abstract (if applicable)

2. Description of Previous Research or Work Experience

Previous research and/or work experience in the field of ASDs or how it applies to research on ASDs (Maximum one-page, single-spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins).

3. Description of Research Project

Description of the student's autism research, including the project on which any submitted abstract is based. If the research is part of a larger research team's project, the student should describe her/his specific roles within the project (1 page maximum, single-spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins). This should include a brief review of the literature relevant to the research question. The following points should be considered when writing this section:

- Clarity and suitability of the research question, methodology
- Significance of the problem to research and practice in ASD, and in Ontario in particular.
- The description should be written so that it is understandable by non-specialists.

4. Description of Career goals and why attending IMFAR is important

Maximum of a one page description (single-spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins) of why attending IMFAR would be helpful to the applicant's future career plans. Describe your career plans and how knowledge about ASDs fits into those career plans.

5. Copy of latest transcripts

Provide a copy of the latest university transcripts, including grades from the fall semester. Official transcripts not required; a photocopy is acceptable.

6. Letter from Supervisor

Letter of support from the student's research supervisor, indicating the suitability of the student for the Autism Ontario bursary, and noting whether additional funds would be provided to help cover the student's cost of attending IMFAR.

7. Signatures: Applicant and Supervisor, Date

NOTE: Items 2 through 6 will be used in the evaluation process and rated equally.

After the IMFAR Conference

Cheques will be issued to the successful applicant when they provide:

- An informative one-page report on their activities and what they learned, which will be published in a relevant Autism Ontario (web or print) material, e.g. our magazine, *Autism Matters*.
- A signed form (provided by Autism Ontario) from the supervising professor indicating appropriate expenses.

Community Leaders

Bursaries will also be awarded to parents and other individuals who have shown leadership in supporting and advocating for individuals with ASD and their families, and have demonstrated commitment to bringing evidence-based information on ASD to their communities.

Application Process for Community Leaders

The community leader applicant must submit the following information:

A. Cover page with the following information:

- Name of Applicant
- Mailing Address
- Phone number (daytime)
- Email address

B. List of appended materials

1. Description of Community Leadership roles
Maximum of a one-page description (single-spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins) of community leadership roles in supporting and advocating for individuals with ASD and their families, and demonstrating commitment to bringing evidence-based information on ASD to your community.
2. Description of impact from attending IMFAR
Maximum of a one page description (single-spaced, 12-point font, 1 inch margins) of how attending IMFAR will impact your community roles, including plans for disseminating information learned at IMFAR. Please indicate if you will be receiving other financial support to attend this conference.
3. Letter from Support (signed)
Provide a letter of support from someone familiar with the applicant's community leadership.
4. Signature of Applicant, Date

NOTE: Items 1 through 3 will be used in the evaluation process and rated equally.

After the IMFAR Conference

Cheques will be issued to each successful applicant when they provide:

- An informative one-page report on their activities and what they learned, which will be published in a relevant Autism Ontario (web or print) material, e.g. our magazine, *Autism Matters*.
- Copies of receipts that indicate expenses for the conference

Application Deadline

Students and Community Leaders must submit their full application by **April 25, 2011** to:
Autism Ontario,
1179 King Street West, Suite 004,
Toronto, ON M6K 3C5
Attn: IMFAR Bursaries

Autism Ontario is committed to supporting as many qualified applicants as possible, based on availability of funds. At this time, we expect to award 4 bursaries, 3 to students and 1 to a community leader. Applications for Student Bursaries and Community Leader Bursaries will be reviewed separately.

The announcement of successful recipients will be made by **May 2, 2011**.

For additional information visit our website at www.autismsontario.com or email us:
kristen@autismontario.com