# Autism Ontario Stimulus Grants for Graduate Study in Autism Spectrum Disorders 2009

Autism Ontario announces the Stimulus Grants for Graduate Study in Autism at an Ontario University to start in September 2009.

The majority of funds that support these grants come from *Together for Autism*, a program of Autism Ontario that raises awareness about autism and Aspergers while raising dollars for research. The number of bursaries offered is decided on an annual basis and determined by the funds available for this and other funded research grants and scholarships.

The grants will support individuals (up to 4) conducting research at an Ontario University in any field related to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and are offered to attract students to this field of study. The $4000.00 grants are intended to be in addition to any internal or external stipend received by the successful applicants, including research assistantships or teaching assistantships. Applications will be judged on the quality and originality of the proposed project, and on the potential of the project to contribute significantly to the field of ASD research. **Deadline to Apply: April 30, 2009. Funding to begin: September 1, 2009**

**Application procedure**:
To qualify, the student must:

- be enrolled in a graduate program in an Ontario university as a full-time student at the time of taking up the award,
- Work in a laboratory/setting with a record of research excellence in autism and
- Provide evidence that sufficient resources are available to support the work being proposed.

The student must submit the following documents by **April 30, 2009** to Autism Ontario at 1179A King Street West, Suite 004, Toronto, ON M6K 3C5:

**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. Description of Proposed Research Project
   Description of the student's ASD research, including the proposed project (maximum 2 pages single-spaced, 12 point font, 1-inch margins). If the research is part of a larger research team's project, the student should describe her/his specific roles within the

project. This should include a brief review of the literature relevant to the research question. The following points should be considered when writing this section:

a. Clarity and suitability of the research question, methodology and research design (include the feasibility & capacity to undertake the proposed research with supervisor support)
b. Progress report of the research project indicating the time frame student has been involved.
c. Significance of the problem to research and practice in ASD, and in Ontario in particular.
d. Description should be written so that it is understandable by non-specialists.

2. Academic Performance.
   Provide copy of the latest university transcripts, including grades from the fall semester. Official transcripts not required; a photocopy is acceptable. Provide a CV that includes a list of any publications and awards.
3. 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).
4. Description of goals
   Describe the potential to apply what has been acquired in the ASD research to future career plans.
5. Letters of support
   A letter of support from the sponsoring researcher of the proposed project. Researcher should:
   - Be familiar with the student and the quality of the evaluation
   - Indicate any supplementary funds to be provided, and
   - Indicate the relevance of the proposed research to the overall goals of the research program conducted at their institution.

   A letter of support from a second professor familiar with the candidate's academic and/or research performance.

**Note**: Items 1 through 5 will be used in the evaluation but emphasis will be placed on 1.a. and 2.

At the end of the award, the student must provide an informative one-page progress report which may be published in a relevant Autism Ontario (print or website) material, e.g. our magazine, *Autism Matters*. The report must be in plain language that is understandable by the wide readership of Autism Ontario's members.

Autism Ontario is committed to support as many qualified individuals to participate in ASD research as possible. In order to achieve this goal with limited funds, priority will be given to eligible candidates who have not previously received this award, and who would not be concurrent holders of another award from Autism Ontario.

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