



2023-2024 SAC Scholarship Recipients



SAC
Speech-Language
& Audiology Canada

THANK YOU

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada's Scholarship Program has been an integral cornerstone of the association's mission since its inception in 2006. Scholarships not only offer financial relief to students but also leave a lasting impact that extends far beyond monetary assistance. The acknowledgment of their dedication and effort serves to uplift their spirits, strengthen their confidence, and ignite a sense of responsibility to contribute back to the community through their future endeavors.

2023-2024 SAC Scholarship Committee

Victoria McLeod, Aud (C)
Chair

Susan Summerby-Murray, S-LP (C)
Vice-Chair

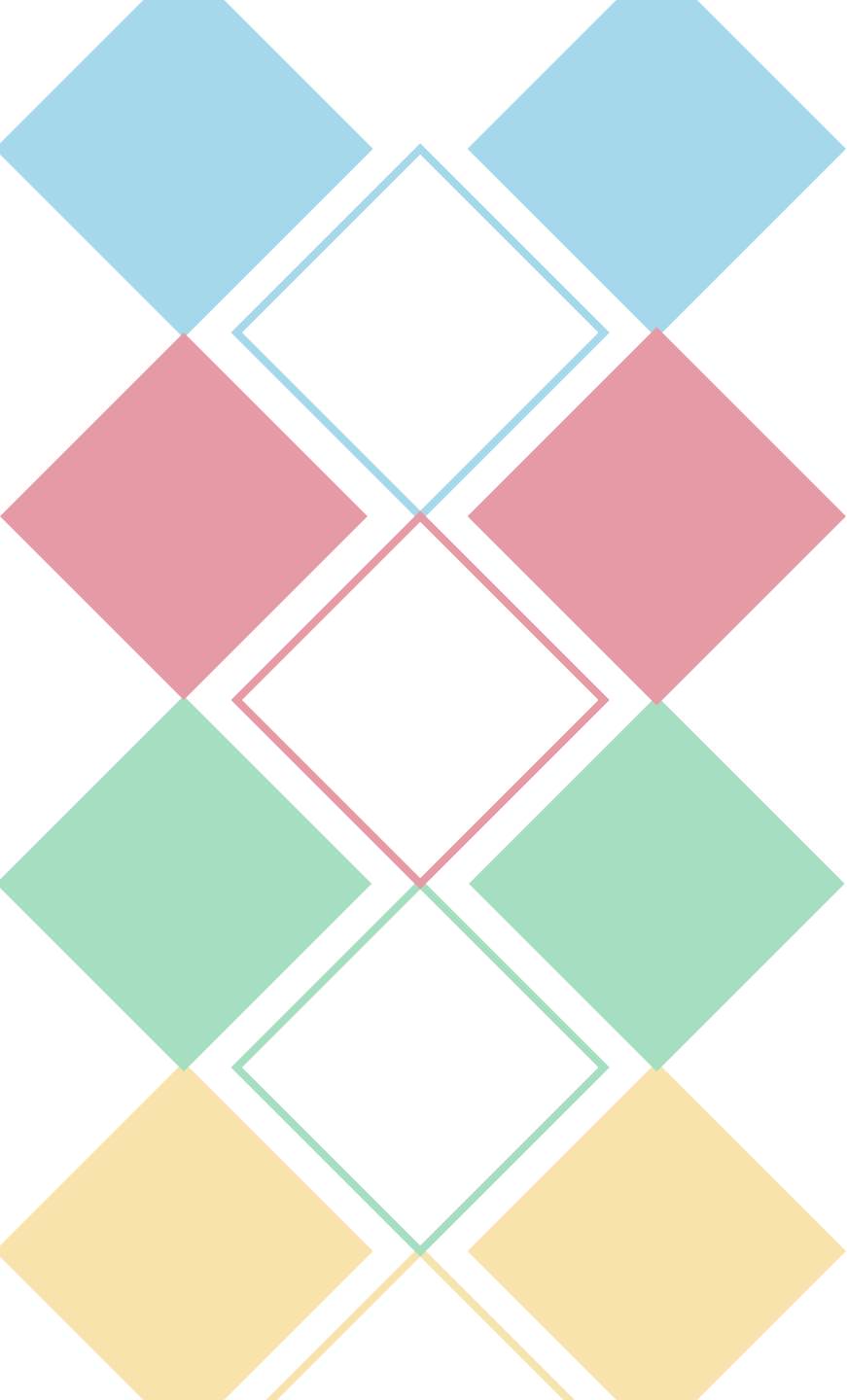
Wenonah Campbell, S-LP (C)
Sarah Czosniak, S-LP (C)
Kathleen House, S-LP (C)
Robyn Richardson, Aud (C)
Allison Robbins, Aud (C)
Ellysa Vardy, S-LP (C)
Aynsley Warden, S-LP (C)
Britney Watters, Aud (C)
Melissa Whitechurch, S-LP (C)

A heartfelt thank you to our scholarship sponsors



The Beach Family





Elks & Royal Purple
Fund for Children



Elks & Purple Fund for Children Scholarships



Susan Lane Scholarship

Marina Iskandar

University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

As a second-year Speech-Language Pathology Master's student at the University of Toronto, I am beyond excited to embark on this career path in just a few short months. My goal is to make a meaningful impact on individuals' quality of life through personalized treatment, compassionate care, and effective therapy. Looking forward to growing in the rehab field and serving my future clients!

My name is Marina Iskandar, and I'm honored to be the 2023-2024 recipient of the Susan Lane Scholarship. With all my efforts that have been focused on creating a robust foundation in Speech-Language Pathology, I feel incredibly grateful and supported to be presented with this award. Thank you for recognizing the challenges that we face, as students embarking on this journey, and for making generous opportunities like this possible for us.

Thank you.

Best,

Marina

Elks & Purple Fund for Children Scholarships



Deborah Kully Scholarship

Carole Hiew

University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology

Carole Hiew is in her second year of the Speech-Language Pathology program and has completed her concurrent graduate certificate in Stroke Rehabilitation at the University of Alberta (U of A). As a future clinician, she hopes to pursue a career in geriatric and/or palliative care settings, with a particular interest in dysphagia management. In addition to having served as the U of A student representative for Speech-Language & Audiology Canada (SAC), Carole was the co-chair for the first hybrid in-person/online Organization of Alberta Students in Speech Conference, and has sat on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee for the U of A's Rehabilitation Medicine Students' Association.



William J. Blake Scholarship

Leehe Barzilay

University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

My name is Leehe Barzilay and I am a student in the Speech Language Pathology program at the University of Toronto. I am honored to be in a profession that will allow me to make a positive change in people's lives. I am a hard worker that always strives to succeed in everything that I do. I have always been passionate about volunteering and giving back to my community. Through volunteering, I gained an understanding and appreciation for communication which led me to pursue the career of Speech Language Pathology. I was fortunate to be able to work with children in my first placement and help them with their speech and language. As a future practitioner, I will always provide the best quality of care for my patients. I will always advocate for my patients needs and continue educating the community on the importance of communication.

Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarships



Haley Laviolette

University of Alberta
Speech-Language
Pathology

I am incredibly appreciative and grateful for being chosen as the recipient of the Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship.

This award enables me to participate more fully in the communities around Alberta in which I have been placed to complete my speech-language pathology placements.

I will continue to dedicate my efforts toward the communication needs of children by ensuring hearing access, communication supports, and therapeutic services rooted in evidence-based practice.



Xinlei Li

Western University
Audiology

I would like to start off by expressing my sincere gratitude for being selected for this scholarship. Receiving this award is deeply meaningful to me; it makes me feel that my hard work has been recognized, and it encourages me to continue pursuing my passion for audiology and hearing aid technology.

Thank you again for selecting me for this scholarship and investing in the future of Audiology.



Emily Lorincz

University of Alberta
Speech-Language
Pathology

Emily is a second-year student in the Speech Language Pathology program at the University of Alberta. After finishing the program, she hopes to work with bilingual children and adults by fostering a safe and inclusive environment. She hopes to take her passion for travel and intercultural work abroad to provide care in settings where there is limited access to SLP services.



Cora Nelson

University of British
Columbia
Speech-Language
Pathology

Cora is currently in her second year of the MSc. Speech-Language Pathology program at the University of British Columbia. Upon graduation, she hopes to support children with complex needs in a rural setting, helping to address both communication and feeding difficulties. Cora is also interested in supporting adults with dementia and intellectual disability in long-term care and group home settings.

Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarships



Alison Vickers

University of British
Columbia

Speech-Language
Pathology

Working with a patient who had a stroke, post-brain injury, and with neurodegenerative diseases in acute care, sparked Ali's interest in working in a hospital-based setting. She is looking forward to fostering her clinical skills on her final practicum with BC Cancer Agency supporting individuals with head and neck cancer.

Ali's long-term career goal is to work with children in a hospital setting on a specialized team of SLPs. She is particularly drawn to cleft palate, pediatric feeding and swallowing, and mental-health-related swallowing disorder teams.



Clara Terra

University of Alberta
Speech-Language
Pathology

Becoming an SLP has been a goal of mine since high school as I was inspired by the work of my aunt who is an SLP, and I became interested in children's communication development. Now that I am in the last year of my SLP degree, I am excited to continue to learn in this profession about the various ways I can support individuals with a variety of communication needs, as communication shapes all our lives.

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude towards the sponsors of this scholarship, as this will help me focus on my studies and educational opportunities.



Nahid Vagharfard

Western University
Audiology

I express my sincerest gratitude to the Elks of Canada for supporting me in my journey to becoming an audiologist and for selecting me as a recipient of the Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarship. I am immensely grateful for your generosity and continued support of students who are shaping the future of audiology and speech-language pathology. As I near the end of my studies, I am excited to begin my career as an audiologist, and I hope to pay this act of generosity forward. Thank you again for your kindness, support, and recognition.



Zia van Blankenstein

University of Alberta
Speech-Language
Pathology

I feel very fortunate that I have a wide range of practicums, both in the populations and locations (my next placement is in Whitehorse long term care and my last is in Perth, Australia). This award enables me to pursue these placements while worrying less about how to finance them. It alleviates stress and allows me to focus more fully on developing my clinical skills and how to best serve the individuals I am working with.

Thank you so much again. I am truly grateful to have received this scholarship.

Gordon Leslie Memorial Scholarships



Judy Sengsavang

University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

As the daughter of two refugees who did not get to finish their high school education, and the first person in my entire family to pursue a master's degree, I feel extremely privileged to have this opportunity to learn, and support people through the scope of Speech-Language Pathology. The principles of my practice include holistic, patient-centered care and family engagement and empowerment. I am mindful of everyone's intersectionality and their unique funds of knowledge and want to build on these strengths throughout all interactions. As my family has always instilled the saying "Knowledge is power" into me, I also aim to embed education into all my interactions with patients to empower them, increasing feelings of confidence and thus, Quality of Life.

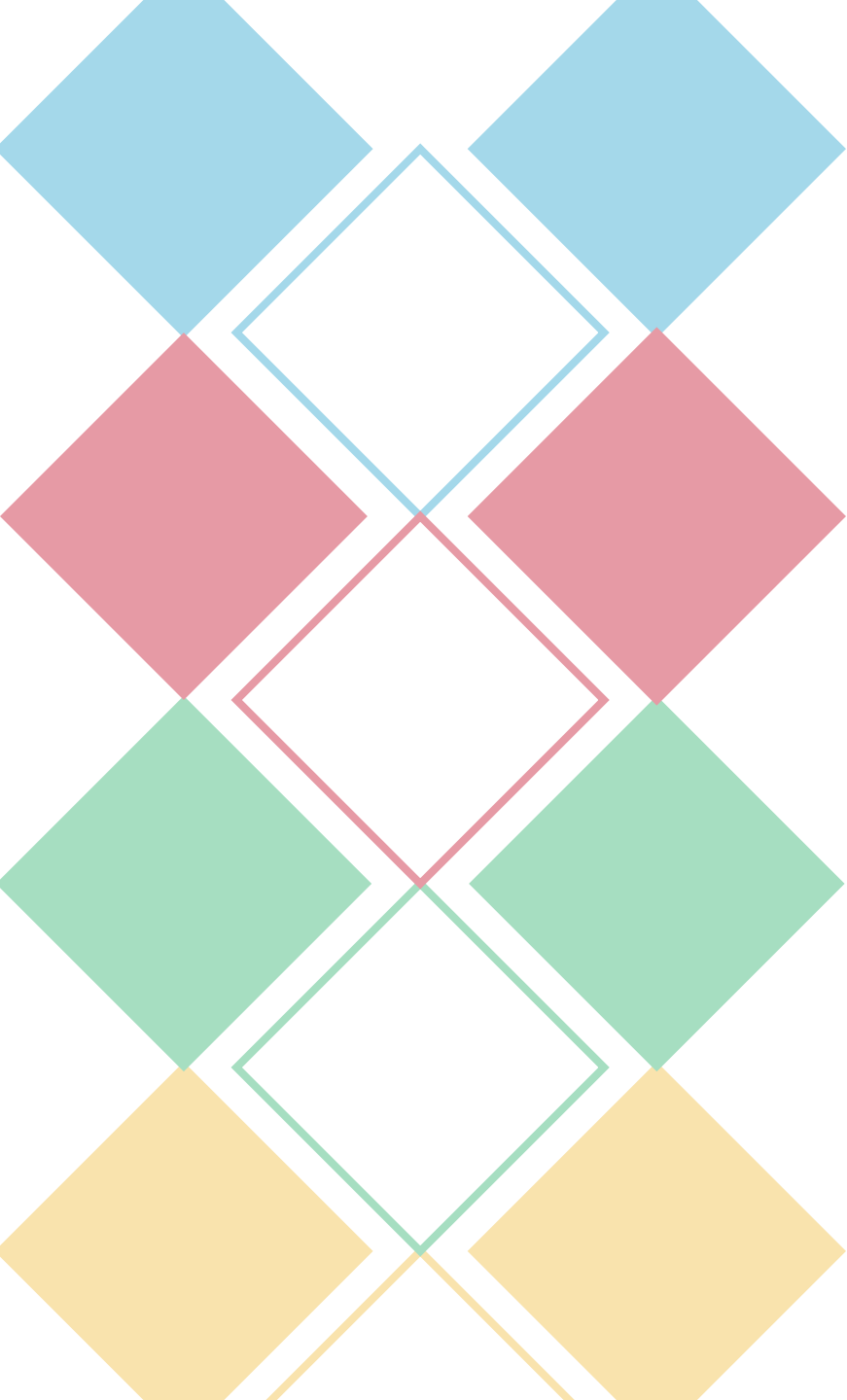


Spending the past few years very closely with my grandfather, I witnessed the gradual toll that dementia took on his cognitive abilities and communication skills. This experience illuminated the challenges faced by both him and his loved ones. It ignited immense empathy within me, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of those dealing with similar issues.

My grandfather, in his resilience, became my enduring role model. His unwavering spirit in the face of cognitive challenges inspired me to delve deeper into the field of speech-language pathology as it related to our elderly population. I recognize the need for specialized interventions that preserve dignity while enhancing the quality of life for individuals navigating these complex conditions as well as providing counseling and support to my patients both young and old and their families.

Savannah Inacio

University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology



KIDSPEECH Scholarships



Ye-In Jung

University of Alberta
Leadership Scholarship

I am deeply grateful for your support through this scholarship. Despite the demands of my graduate program, I have been juggling over 20 hours of work and extracurricular activities which has at times felt challenging and overwhelming. However, being an active member of my community and contributing what I can has been incredibly rewarding. Engaging in these extracurricular activities has allowed me to discover my passion, serve others, and develop personally.



Marie-France Perrier

University of Ottawa
Doctoral Scholarship

Marie-France Perrier is a speech-language pathologist and PhD Candidate in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Ottawa. Her research interests center around the application of mindfulness meditation to improve cognitive-communication function in children and adolescents with acquired brain injuries (ABI). Through her dissertation research, she seeks to examine the feasibility of an adapted mindfulness-based intervention for adolescents with cognitive-communication impairments following ABI..



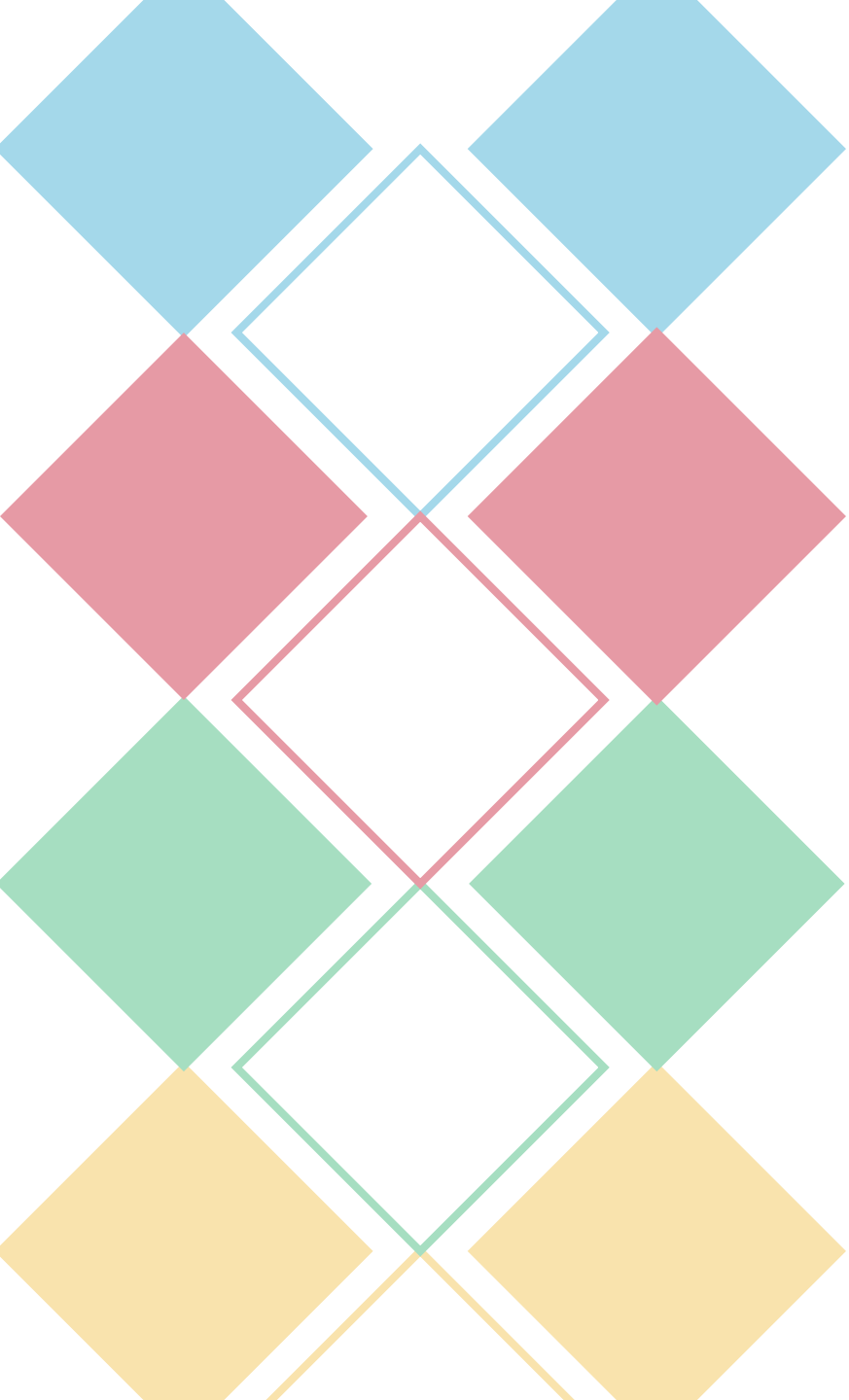
Kira Rosenbloom

University of Toronto
Travelling Scholarship

My name is Kira Rosenbloom, I am a first-year Speech-Language Pathology student at the University of Toronto, a DeafBlind Intervenor, and a recipient of the KIDSPEECH traveling scholarship. I wanted to thank you so much for your support as it has allowed me to pursue a clinical placement in northern Ontario at *Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services*.

I am currently completing my placement and have been able to help provide SLP services to 10 different Indigenous reserves, assist in the revamping of a preschool speech and language screener to ensure it is culturally and geographically appropriate for the Indigenous children, and have been able to connect with community members at local Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) classes.

This has truly been a life changing and career shaping experience, I cannot begin to tell you how honored and incredibly grateful I am for your support. Thank you for supporting the future of our field and helping students access such rich learning opportunities, your contributions make the future of our field brighter.



THE BEACH FAMILY

The Beach Family Graduate Scholarship



Jerusha Alvares

University of Toronto
Speech-Language Pathology

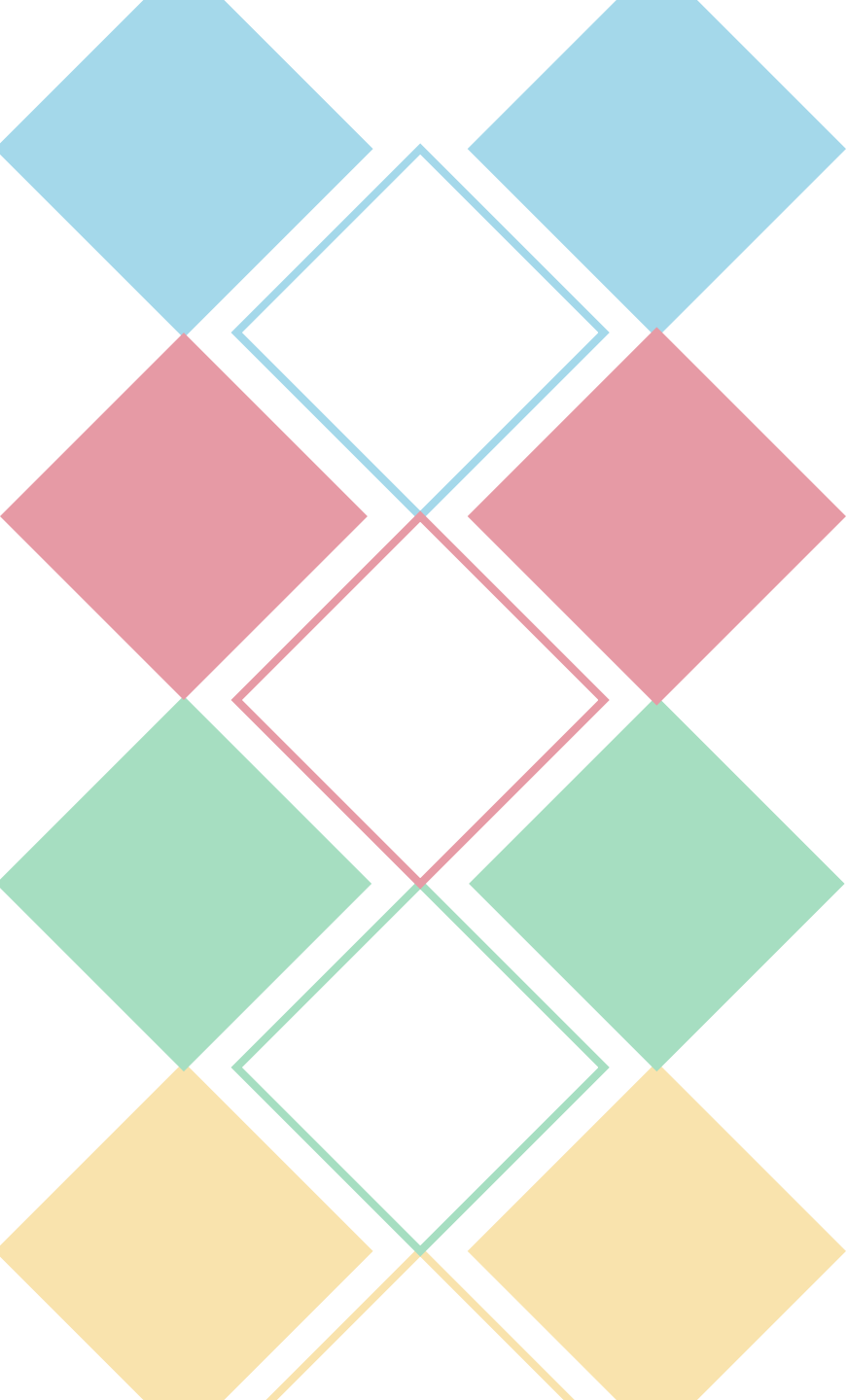
Thank you so much for this financial gift to aid in the pursuit of my dream to become a speech-language pathologist who works with underserved communities. It means so much to me to know that there are kind and generous people who want to support me on my journey to becoming an SLP. I am aware that you created this scholarship in memory of a family member, and I hope to honour their memory and make you all proud through my future career. Once again, thank you so much for this generous gift. I appreciate it more than you know.



Adrie Cameron

McGill University
Speech-Language Pathology

My name is Adrie Cameron (she/her) and I am in my 2nd year of the MSc A - SLP program at McGill University. I am thrilled to be one of this year's recipients of the Beach Family Graduate Scholarships. This generous award will significantly reduce financial barriers as I enter my final clinical placement. After graduation, I intend to work with preschool aged populations and have a specific interest in alternative and augmentative communication. I strive to provide accessible and equitable services, prioritizing a neuro-diversity affirming approach. I look forward to entering the SLP field, a goal I have worked towards for so long. Thank you Beach family, this award is truly an honour.



SAC

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Student Scholarships

Isabel Richard Scholarship



Gabrielle Morin

Dalhousie University
Speech-Language
Pathology

I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of this award. As a future Speech-Language Pathologist, I look forward to working and collaborating with colleagues in the field. It is with the help of professional organizations such as Speech-Language and Audiology Canada that students like myself are able to learn from S-LP's across the country, and develop relationships with colleagues that will extend throughout our careers. Isabel's dedication to creating this community 60 years ago is a testament to the importance that these relationships have on our professional practice.



Holly Davies

University of British
Columbia
Speech-Language
Pathology

Thank you so much for your part in supporting my education as I continue to pursue my graduate studies in Speech-Language Pathology at UBC. I am incredibly grateful to be a recipient of the Isabel Richard scholarship. This award will not only be a significant help with my tuition and transportation costs this summer as I embark on my final externship, but receiving this scholarship has given me a great deal of motivation and encouragement to continue to apply myself to my studies with determination, and focus on becoming the best SLP that I can be. I cannot thank you enough!



Kereisha Biggs

University of Toronto
Speech-Language
Pathology

My name is Kereisha Biggs, and I am a Speech-Language Pathology (S-LP) student at the University of Toronto.

Ever since I was a young girl teaching my classroom of dolls, I have been passionate about communication and academia. Having completed my undergraduate degree in English and Linguistics, I aspire to integrate my soft skills, such as empathy, critical thinking and analysis, active listening, and effective communication, in addition to my theoretical knowledge, to practice dynamic and holistic speech therapy when serving diverse populations.

I am not simply intrigued by the "challenges" people face, whether it be dyslexia or aphasia, but by the stories they represent. Upon graduating and gaining meaningful experiences in the SLP field, my long-term goal is to pursue a PhD informed by an observable area of interest to help bridge the gap between theory and clinical practice.

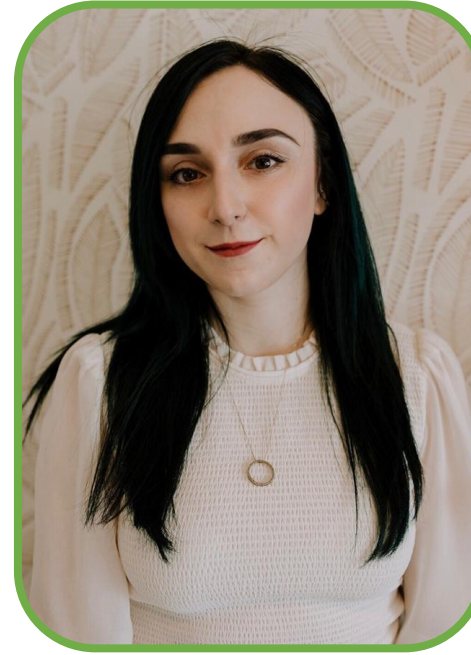
SAC Research Scholarship



Pam Brown

Dalhousie University
Speech-Language Pathology

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the SAC. I am beyond honoured to be named as the recipient of this award and join the excellent researchers that have come before me. I have worked tirelessly for years to get to where I am today, so it feels absolutely surreal to have reached this milestone in my academic career. I have always pictured myself working in research, and now that I am starting to work on producing research of my own, the excitement continues to grow each day. This scholarship will enable me to continue to prioritize my thesis work, and for that I could not be more grateful. Thank you!



Aida Magomedova

University of Alberta
Speech-Language Pathology



THANK YOU

I am deeply honoured to be selected as a recipient of the SAC Research Scholarship and incredibly grateful of your invaluable support towards my journey in becoming a speech-language pathologist. Your kindness and generosity have not only lightened my financial burden of my clinical practicum, but have also lifted my spirits and fueled my determination to pursue excellence in my studies and future career.

Aida Magomedova



SAC Student Scholarships



Audiology Leadership Scholarship

Nicolas Samoil

Western University
Audiology

Thank you very much for providing funds and selecting me for this year's SAC Audiology Leadership Scholarship. I am currently a second-year student Audiology student at Western University, and I have learned a great deal about the communication sciences and the importance of communication for people's well-being over the course of the degree. As part of my program, I have worked with real people assessing and treating their hearing difficulties. I am learning more and more every day and feel I am growing both as a clinician and as a person.



Grace Margaret Harris Scholarship

Makenna Lamb

Western University
Speech-Language Pathology

I am incredibly fortunate and appreciative to have won this scholarship and I cannot thank SAC and Grace Margaret Harris enough for the opportunities it has opened for me. I am so proud of the book I have created and without this scholarship I wouldn't have had the opportunity nor motivation to do so. This scholarship will allow me to explore alternative placements expanding my knowledge within this field and I cannot express my gratitude enough for the support. This scholarship application also provided me with the opportunity to reflect on the rural communities in Ontario and the various needs they may have, even motivating me to one day want to work in these areas. Upon further research, I found that Grace was from Hamilton Ontario which is also my hometown, adding a personal and meaningful touch to this award. Thank you so much!

SAC Student Scholarships



Communication Health Assistant Student Scholarship

Tesselie Pereira

St. Lawrence College

Communication Health Assistant

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me feel a sense of financial relief when it comes to my education and future self. Going back to school was not apart of my original plan, but having any little bit of financial help has made this choice easier. With all the craziness that comes along with school, financial stress was one I carried most. When I received the amazing news that I was chosen for this scholarship it felt like a weight was lifted off my shoulders. I am so grateful that you chose me and will be using this scholarship to go towards my spring/summer tuition fees.

Thank you again,

One happy, grateful student!

I am so excited and thrilled to have received this scholarship. I am currently finishing up from the Communication Disorder Assistant Program from St. Lawrence College. I have recently accepted a full-time job working as a CDA with children that have speech and language difficulties. I am so grateful to be working within the field that I went to school for and am so excited to embark on a new journey.

Thank you to the SAC Scholarship Program for providing me the chance to achieve my goals for my personal education and future!

SAC Student Achievement Awards



Alexandra Gaetos

McGill University
Speech-Language
Pathology

I am grateful to have been chosen as a recipient for the SAC Student Achievement Award. If not for your generous donations, S-LP and Audiology students like me would not have the opportunity to pursue our passion to serve in this field.



Emily Jackson

McGill University
Speech-Language
Pathology

Thank you so much for supporting my education with this award. I am honored to have been selected and feel proud that my hard work has led me to this place. These funds will support me in paying out-of-province tuition and lighten the financial burdens that come with being a full-time graduate student. Additionally, being a recipient of this award encourages me to continue striving for success in my academics, professional activities, and community leadership. Thank you for supporting students!



Seit Tewelde

University of Toronto
Speech-Language
Pathology

I'm writing this message to sincerely thank you for your kind donation. This scholarship not only allows for recognition of my commitment to the field of speech-language pathology and my future clients, but it helps alleviate some of the financial stress that comes with obtaining a graduate education. Please know that this donation does not go unrecognized nor unappreciated, and I will use it to fund my graduate studies so that I can concentrate on my studies more diligently.



Madison Silverthorne

University of Toronto
Speech-Language
Pathology

I was thrilled and honoured to learn that I was a recipient of the SAC Student Achievement Award. It is such a wonderful feeling to be recognized as a promising and passionate future clinician by SAC, an organization that holds so much significance in my upcoming career! This award encourages me to continue to grow my passion for helping those living with communication and swallowing disorders. Through the support organizations like SAC, students like me can become the best clinicians possible. Thank you kindly.