



Clinical Research Grants

How to Apply for a Grant

volunteer@sac-oac.ca

For more
information and
contacts, go to
[SAC Clinical
Research Grants](#)

About SAC Clinical Research Grants

- SAC has awarded **an average of 2 grants per year** since its launch in 2007. Each year, SAC awards grants of **\$5,000 each**.
- The aim is to increase **the capacity of clinical researchers** in the fields of speech-language pathology and audiology in Canada.
- Opportunity for SAC **clinicians with little to no research experience** to contribute to the clinical evidence base.
- The applications are reviewed by the CRG committee, which is composed of volunteer SAC speech-language pathologists and audiologists of academic and clinical practice backgrounds, with a limited-service term.

Project Opportunities

- ❖ Develop a research team
- ❖ Develop a research proposal
- ❖ Develop research capacity
- ❖ Implementation Science
- ❖ Survey Research
- ❖ Observational Research
- ❖ Quasi-Experiments
- ❖ Randomized Control Trial



S-LP example of a previously awarded study theme:

"A National Survey of Canadian Speech-Language Pathologists Working in Schools"

Robin Gains, Ph.D
Speech-Language Pathologist



Audiology example of previously awarded study theme:

"Screening for Vestibular Toxicity for Children Receiving Ototoxic Medications"

Vicky Papaioannou, M.Cl.Sc.
Audiologist



Submit the Following Documents to Apply

- ❑ 1. Application Form
- ❑ 2. Proposal: clearly stated objective, methodology and appropriate citations
- ❑ 3. Timeline and Budget
- ❑ 4. Evidence of: Feasibility, increased research capacity, clinical application
- ❑ 5. Curriculum Vitae - for each applicant and mentor
- ❑ 6. Letters of Support
- ❑ 7. Cover letter

Take Note
of the
Deadlines!



Speech-Language & Audiology Canada
Orthophonie et Audiologie Canada
Communicating care | La communication à coeur

SAC Clinical Research Grant Application

Speech-Language & Audiology Canada provides clinical research grants to SAC members to conduct research or engage in activities that increase research capacity. The grants are intended to support an increase in the clinical evidence base for the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology in Canada. Up to two grants of \$5,000 will be awarded to SAC members who identify the opportunity to increase clinical research capacity.

Applications must be received by e-mail: volunteer@sac-oac.ca with the subject line: SAC Clinical Research Grants Committee, by **May 31** [of the application year] **at midnight EST, to be considered. Only complete applications will be considered.** Successful applicants will be notified by the end of July [of the application year].



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Identifying Information is Collected on the First Page of the Application

These restrictions do not apply to co-applicants

Principal Applicant (Note: Must be a practicing clinician in speech-language pathology or audiology, a SAC member and must maintain membership throughout the duration of the research).

Applications from faculty members or research scientists will only be considered if their appointment entails engagement in direct clinical practice.

Last Name:

First Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Applicant is a practicing clinician in ☐ S-LP ☐ Audiology

SAC Membership Number:

EDUCATION: Highest degree earned

University:

Discipline:

Degree:

Year:

Co-Applicants(s)

1.	Last Name:	First Name:	Affiliation:
2.	Last Name:	First Name:	Affiliation:
3.	Last Name:	First Name:	Affiliation:
4.	Last Name:	First Name:	Affiliation:
5.	Last Name:	First Name:	Affiliation:

There are restrictions for a valid Principal Applicant

Practicing Audiologist or Speech-Language Pathologist

Practicing S-LP or Audiologist

- Providing S-LP or Audiology services or
- Managing/Supervising S-LPs or Audiologists
- Also, acceptable as practicing:
 - On parental leave
 - On temporary health leave
 - Part-time clinician and part-time university/college instructor
 - In the process of moving from one employer to another, given approval from the new employer to complete the research

Not Practicing

- Not providing S-LP or Audiology services in current roles, e.g., not eligible to practice
- University/College Instructor with clinical credentials, but not practicing as an S-LP or Audiologist
- Clinical credentials, but works in another field while not practicing S-LP or Audiology
- Post-Doctoral fellow
- Doctoral student
- Master's student
- Non-thesis student
- Researcher

Master's Degree in S- LP or Audiology *OR* Equivalent Credentials

Equivalent

- Educational and clinical practice credentials that are accepted under SAC Mutual Recognition Agreements
- Education and clinical practice credentials that were ultimately deemed acceptable for SAC membership

Not Equivalent

- Undergraduate degrees in Communication Sciences and Disorders that are not accepted for SAC membership
- Credentials to practice as a Communication Health Assistant

One Year of
Clinical Experience
in Audiology or
Speech-Language
Pathology

Does this count?	
Supervised Clinical Practicum	No
CCC year	Yes
Volunteer Hours	No
Private Practice	Yes
Paid Employment	Yes

Mentor(s)

- | | | | | | | |
|----|------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Last Name: | <input type="text"/> | First Name: | <input type="text"/> | Affiliation: | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. | Last Name: | <input type="text"/> | First Name: | <input type="text"/> | Affiliation: | <input type="text"/> |



The application requires the name of **at least one mentor**.

The mentor must demonstrate engagement with the project and previous research experience that pertains to the topic.

If you do not have a research mentor in mind, SAC can help!
Email us for more information: volunteer@sac-oac.ca.

Ethics Approval is Nearly always required (see TCPS-2)

The vast majority of research requires ethics approval. To learn more, we encourage you to consult the webinar created by Canada's three Federal research agencies, [CIHR](#), [NSERC](#) and [SSHRC](#) (<http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>). Another helpful resource was developed by the University of Waterloo: <https://uwaterloo.ca/research/office-research-ethics/research-human-participants/pre-submission-and-training/human-research-guidelines-and-policies-alphabetical-list/does-my-data-collection-activity-require-ethics-review>

Does this proposal require research ethics approval? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If approval is required, have you obtained research ethics approval to proceed with this research? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, from which agency did you obtain approval?

If no, to which agency will you submit the proposal in order to obtain research ethics approval?

If you do not need research ethics approval, provide a justification based on the guidelines of the Canadian Tri-Council Panel of Research Ethics. http://pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique_tcps2-eptc2_2018.html

SAC Membership

Principal Applicant *Must* be a SAC Member

If you are eligible, it is easy to join SAC:

[Join SAC](#)

Non-members of SAC can be Co-Applicants.

Supporting Documents Format

12-point font

1.5 line spacing

APA formatting for citations and references



Proposal

(2-page maximum)

Clearly stated research question/objective with rationale and appropriate citations.

Description of the activities to be completed.

Appropriate research methodology (e.g. types of data collected, data analyses etc.).

Significance of the research for clinical practice.

Description of the roles of the principal applicant and co-applicant(s).

Identification of any related research funding and how the present funds will provide added value.

Disclosure of any conflict of interest.

Clearly Stated Research Question or Objective

Title identifies the important variables.

First sentence states concisely how chosen research design will answer the question about those variables.

Implementation Science (example)

Improve fidelity of emergent literacy intervention with children who have Down syndrome

The Active Implementation Framework will be used to develop and provide an on-line training to SL-Ps to increase frequency and improve fidelity of their emergent literacy intervention for children who have Down syndrome.

Quasi-Experiment (example)

Cultural adaptation of a home-based shared book reading intervention

A quasi-experiment will be used to describe outcomes of a culturally adapted home-based shared book reading intervention for Indigenous families in comparison to outcomes obtained in previous years when implemented in standard form.

Randomized Control Trial (example)

Compare follow-up rates for on-line, in-home, and in-clinic screening of older adults' hearing.

Patient follow-through after screening of hearing, general health, and social outcomes in older adults will be compared in a randomized control trial of different implementations: on-line, in-home by health nurses, and in-clinic by audiologists.

Literature Review: Justification

- Literature Review must be brief but informative on the following:
 - Provide definitions of important terms
 - History of the literature and research on the topic
 - Most up to date but relevant literature/research on the topic
 - Rationale for your research question
 - Rationale for your choice of research design
 - Rationale for your choice of methods
- Literature review should also answer questions reviewers might ask themselves as they are reading your proposal:
 - Has this research been done before?
 - What are the likely benefits of doing this research now?
 - Is the field ready for the implementation of the project?
- The significance of the research for clinical practice must be clear.
- Remember that the committee members are not experts on your topic.

Citations and References

- Need not be numerous but must be appropriate
- Citations in APA style provide author(s) and date, e.g.
 - Sasisekaran (2014) showed that phonology and stuttering are related ...
 - ... participants will present with inconsistent phonological disorder (Dodd, Holm, Crosbie & McCormack, 2005).
- References can be formatted for APA style by hand or by using APA reference generators on-line or downloaded for your word processor. There are specific requirements for each type of reference material, e.g.,
 - Sasisekaran, J. (2014). Exploring the link between stuttering and phonology: A review and implications for treatment. *Seminars in Speech and Language, 32*(2), 95-113.
 - Dodd, B., Holm, A., Crosbie, S., & McCormack, P. (2005). Differential diagnosis of phonological disorders. In B. Dodd (Ed.), *Differential diagnosis and treatment of children with speech disorder* (pp. 71-82). London: Whurr.

Activities to be Completed (How will the research question be answered?)

Participants

- Who will the research participants be?
- How will they be recruited?
- How long will it take to obtain a sufficiently large sample?

Research Design

- Qualitative observations
- Cross-sectional assessment(s)
- Parallel groups
- Randomized groups

Resources

- How much time is required?
- How many people are needed to complete the data collection?
- What tools/instruments are required?
- What spaces are necessary?

Data Analysis

- You may need to provide additional details about data collection, analysis, and presentation.
- Be sure to indicate the roles of each person on your research team.
- Identify any hardware and software that you have or will acquire to complete your data analysis.

Data Analysis Examples

Survey Study

- Numerical study responses will be transferred to spreadsheets by the research assistant and then summed for a total satisfaction score.
- The mean score by condition (in-clinic, home program) will be compared using a t-test).
- The written responses to the question “please describe your experience overall” will be analyzed by the Principal and Co-Applicant for positive and negative experiences regarding convenience, interpersonal issues, therapeutic alliance, therapy techniques, progress, and other factors.

Parallel Groups Comparison

- All participants will complete the survey to assess Swallowing and Energy Related Fatigue after the intervention.
- Responses will be checked for missing scores and possible mis-scored items.
- After corrections for standard distributional issues (normality, homoscedasticity), the survey responses will be subjected to ANOVA to compare differences across the control intervention and experimental intervention groups.
- Data processing will be conducted by the research assistant with support from the mentor. The Principal Applicant will not be involved in this stage to avoid biasing the results.

Other Relevant Information

Other resources

Another grant

Employer

Other sources

Conflict of Interest

Relationship
with committee
member

Relationship
with mentor

Relationship
with donor or
other institution

Timeline and Budget

1 page maximum

Timeline

- Include a timeline for completion of the project
- Project must be completed within two years
- If the project is longer, show how a useful part of the project can be completed within two years
- What will be the 'deliverables' in the two-year period?
- Make a chart or diagram

Budget

- Itemize and justify research expenses
- If you have expenses that will be paid for by other funds, itemize them as well and clearly identify the source of funding
- Ensure that all items to be paid for with SAC research grant funds are eligible research expenses
- Ineligible expenses must be excluded or attributed to other funds

Written Example of Budget:

"The costs of recruiting, treating, and assessing the participants will be borne by the hospital as a normal cost of providing services to these patients. The forms used in this study will be digital. The iPad used to collect data will be provided by our department. The informed consent procedure and the collection of the outcome questionnaires will be completed the research assistant whose salary will be funded by the SAC CRG in the form of a summer work study grant (\$5000). Processing of the survey data will also be conducted by the research assistant with supervision from the Principal Applicant and the Mentor. Statistical analysis of the data will be completed at the university in the lab of the Mentor who has the necessary software tools.

Ultrasound imaging of the patient's tongue movements before and after intervention will be completed by the Principal Applicant using ultrasound equipment loaned to our department by ABC Therapeutic Instruments.

We have no conflicts of interest to declare. ABC Therapeutic Instruments has loaned us the equipment with no constraints on our ability to present or published the research findings."

Feasibility
1 page and
appendixes



Team



Mentor



Site



Team

- ☐ Show that **each member** of the team has the **knowledge and experience** required to carry out the project.
- ☐ Show that each member of the team is **competent** to perform the tasks as described in the proposal.
- ☐ Show that each member of the team is **positioned to carry out their role** as described in the proposal.
- ☐ Show that each member of the team **has the time** to make the contributions as described in the proposal.
- ☐ Describe how the project will **enhance the research capacity** of the team members and the clinical site at which the project will be conducted.
- ☐ Describe how the project will **increase the clinical evidence base**.
- ☐ Attach a **curriculum vitae** for each applicant.



Mentor

- ☐ Show that the **mentor has the capacity** to support the project, e.g., previous relevant and successful research experience.
- ☐ Show that the mentor is **engaged** with the team and the project.
- ☐ Minimally the mentor should be **involved in developing the research design**.
- ☐ The mentor may be helpful in the process for obtaining **approval from an ethics board**.
- ☐ The mentor may be involved in **data analysis**.
- ☐ Attach a **letter of support** from the mentor.
- ☐ Additionally include a **curriculum vitae with publications** for the last five years.



Site

- ☐ Demonstrate that the **clinical site** that will host the research **has the capacity to support the project**.
- ☐ Consider **space, equipment, participants, and personnel**
- ☐ Ensure that the **site** has permitted the **time requirement** for conducting the research.
- ☐ If resources from another site are included, describe those resources as well.
- ☐ Include a **signed letter of support from a manager** at the clinical site that confirms the release time for research, access to research participants, and use of necessary resources.

Good luck with your application!

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