



**Biostatistics Training Initiative
Internship Program Guide 2021**

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Objectives	3
3. Definitions	3
4. Amount and duration of awards.....	3
5. Submission details	4
6. Mentor-intern interviews and matching	4
7. Steering Committee Review Meeting	4
8. Contact information	4



1. Introduction

Technological advances in cancer research have led to complex and large datasets. Given that personalized medicine will change the way we treat cancer patients, there is a need to train a critical mass of world-class researchers who can work with big data, ensuring it can be used to inform the next generation of treatments.

Since its inception in 2010, the Biostatistics Training Initiative (BTI) has supported more than 45 training opportunities by placing Master's biostatistics and statistics students in eight-month internships with cancer research investigators at cancer centres in Ontario. In doing so, the BTI is training the next generation of biostatisticians in the province, ensuring they are equipped with the technical knowledge, skill set and experience to deal with the changing landscape of cancer treatment and clinical trials.

2. Objectives

The primary objective of the BTI Internship Program is to support the training of top Master's level students in biostatistics. The program matches established Ontario cancer research mentors with highly skilled *biostatisticians in training* to advance a cancer research program and enhance the training experience of exceptional graduate students within the province.

3. Definitions

Host Institution: is the institution that will administer the Internship award funds. Eligible Host Institutions include any Ontario university.

Prospective Mentors: are Ontario researchers with a strong background in cancer research, who submit research proposals that are in line with OICR's Strategic Plan and will help support the training of the next generation of cancer biostatisticians.

Prospective Interns: are current Master's students in a Biostatistics or Statistics program at an accredited Ontario university. Following the internship period, interns are expected to return to their home university to finish their degree. Interns graduating from their Master's program in 2021 are not eligible. Importantly, prospective interns should discuss the implications of accepting an eight-month internship with their Master's research supervisor and academic program coordinator before submitting an application. Interns supported by the BTI award are expected to attend a BTI Intern Day in March 2022 in order to present work completed during their internship.

4. Amount and duration of awards

In 2021, up to **four** internships will be awarded, each for \$27,400. Internships will be held from May to December 2021. Award funds will be provided to mentor Host



Institutions who will administer the Internship award funds. OICR will establish a formal agreement with mentor Host Institutions detailing the terms and conditions governing the Award. Award funds are to be used to support the intern through salary, benefits and any other statutory obligations (e.g. income taxes, CPP and EI).

5. Submission details

Mentor research proposals: Proposals are to be submitted by **5 p.m. December 1, 2020** using **Form I BTI Internship Program**. Only one proposal per mentor will be considered. Proposals will be reviewed and prioritized by the Executive of the BTI Steering Committee (ESC) based on:

- Alignment of the research program with [OICR's Strategic Plan](#); and
- Training environment, mentoring plans, and existing infrastructure. In cases where mentors are not statisticians or biostatisticians, then evidence of ability to provide adequate biostatistical mentorship is required.

Prioritized proposals will be posted for viewing by prospective interns by December 4, 2020.

Intern applications: Applications are to be submitted by **December 18, 2020** using **Form II BTI Internship Program**. All sections of Form II must be completed. Triaging of applications will be performed by the ESC in situations where there are a large number of intern applications. The guiding principle behind this is to ensure appropriate geographic and institutional representation of internship awards.

6. Mentor-intern interviews and matching

Following review of intern applications, mentors will reach out to interns for interviews. Interviews are expected to be held **January 11-22, 2021**.

Following interviews, mentors and interns will independently submit Matching Forms which indicate the willingness and preferences of mentors and interns to work with each other.

7. Steering Committee Review Meeting

The BTI Steering Committee will meet to review the Matching Forms and final assignment of internship placements. Decisions will be based on the details of the Matching Forms, excellence of the mentor proposal, its fit with the OICR Strategic Plan and training experience, and the strength of the intern. Communication of results to mentors and interns is expected to occur the first week of February 2021.

8. Contact information

For any questions please contact Teresa.petrocelli@oicr.on.ca.