

Mitacs Research Internship Partnership - Saskatchewan

Backgrounder

October 2025

In 2025-26, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Advanced Education will provide \$1.58 million to Mitacs, an increase of \$430,000 from the previous year. This funding supports up to 301 internships in several Mitacs programs and multiple partnerships between Saskatchewan industries, businesses, non-profit organizations and post-secondary institutions.

Mitacs

Mitacs places top-tier talent in Canadian firms to support industry-academia collaboration. This helps unlock innovation potential, de-risk research and development and build lasting academic-industry relationships. Mitacs' national reach, international connections and ability to broker cross-sector partnerships delivers results at scale, helping Canadian businesses compete globally while developing the next generation of a skilled and innovative workforce.

As a national non-profit organization, Mitacs plays a pivotal role in advancing Saskatchewan's economic priorities across key sectors by fostering innovation, applied research and workforce development. Through collaborative internship programs, Mitacs connects industry with researchers and interns at Saskatchewan's colleges, polytechnics and universities – empowering businesses of all sizes to solve critical challenges, boost productivity and enhance competitiveness. This helps to bridge the gap between enterprises and post-secondary institutions.

Mitacs Programs in Saskatchewan

The Government of Saskatchewan funds research internships in several Mitacs programs:

Accelerate – 165 internships allow students to participate in applied research projects that support productivity and innovation at Saskatchewan businesses.

Elevate – Six post-doctoral fellowships hosted by Saskatchewan industry partners are set up through the Accelerate program.

Business Strategy Internships – 25 innovation-based internships that offer students opportunities to help organizations thrive.

Globalink Research Award – Seven awards enable Saskatchewan students to gain international research and work experience by placing them with academic researchers across the globe.

Globalink Research Internship – 83 internships enable international students to complete research internships at Saskatchewan institutions helping attract students and researchers to the province and positioning Saskatchewan as a top research destination.

Indigenous Pathways Initiative – 15 internships connect students with Indigenous businesses and organizations to help them achieve their innovation goals.

University of Regina/First Nations University of Canada Mitacs Interns

Mesa Kennedy, *First Nations University of Canada, First Nations Power Authority*

Mesa worked on an Indigenous Clean Fuels Knowledge Transfer Project aimed to enhance clean fuels knowledge in Indigenous communities and improve public understanding of strategies for measuring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The project developed outreach, education and engagement strategies, including post-secondary materials, toolkits, best practices and mentorship opportunities.

Joshua Bear and Tyrone Perreault, *First Nations University of Canada, City of Regina*

Joshua and Tyrone are working on Indigenous Outreach and Strategic Stakeholder Engagement for Energy Development project. The project engages the interns in active energy projects and trains them on various aspects of public communications, including stakeholder meetings, open houses, liaising with industry partners, and creating outreach materials tailored to the interests and aspirations of Indigenous communities potentially impacted by the energy projects.

Kamran Foroutan, *University of Regina, Petroleum Technology Research Centre*

Kamran's project aims to address challenges related to rising energy demands. This project combines nonlinear vibration analysis with meta-heuristic optimization to introduce a novel approach to Improved/Enhanced Oil Recovery (I/EOR). This approach improves oil mobility and recovery, reduces environmental and economic costs, enhances operational efficiency and supports sustainable development in heavy oil extraction.

Mehdi Hedayatpour, *University of Regina, Pioneer Solar*

Mehdi's project aims to design and develop different hybrid renewable power plants including wind turbines, photovoltaic system, energy storage and small hydro power generators. The project uses a microgrid to improve access to power in remote areas and support the main power grids during peak hours or critical conditions.

Jephthah Tettey Ofoe, *University of Regina, Videre Energy Ltd.*

Jephthah's project explores coal carbonization to support the community of Coronach as it plans to transition to clean energy. The study will focus on coal characterization to produce char, process optimization, and evaluating biochar's properties and applications, to support a circular carbon economy and net-zero goals.

University of Regina

The University of Regina believes the best way to learn is through access to world-class professors, research and experiential learning. Through its partnership with Mitacs, the University of Regina is proud to connect students with paid research and innovation internships that strengthen Saskatchewan's economy and communities.

Since 2018, more than \$15 million has been awarded to University of Regina Mitacs interns supporting 810 placements. The Indigenous Pathways program has provided more than \$450,000 in funding to support Indigenous students at the University of Regina and First Nations University of Canada.