

WESTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT INNOVATION SCHOLARS PILOT PROGRAM

Graduate Student and Faculty Sponsor Acknowledgement

The Student Innovation Scholars (SIS) pilot program promotes and endorses personal entrepreneurship, continued career growth and expansion, work ethic and business accomplishments. The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is a partner in this program. SIS fills a gap in current professional development offerings.

The SIS program will equip participating graduate students at Western with improved access to, and opportunity to prepare for, a variety of post-graduate careers, including the broad range of careers beyond academia. At the end of this program students will be able to assess innovation for commercial opportunities, develop plans to capture those opportunities and pitch them to appropriate stakeholders. All graduate students could benefit from this program and are invited to apply.

Student Innovation Scholars will receive approximately 5 hours per week of “real world” training and hands-on experience. Training will be provided by WORLDDiscoveries and the Pierre Morrisette Institute for Entrepreneurship at the Ivey Business School. Students will complete the program in four months and training will be flexible in recognition of the student’s other responsibilities. For example, programming may take place in the evening or on weekends and work can be completed on the team’s schedule. In recognition of their efforts, students will receive a \$1,500 award to acknowledge participation and engagement at the end of the program.

Programming will include:

- Campus Intellectual Property Policy
- Patents 101
- Prior Art Workshop (searching for prior art, and its interpretation)
- Innovation Assessment
- Agreements
- Business Plan Essentials
- Investment Due Diligence
- Pitching

Approximately 60% of PhD graduates obtain employment in industry, government and not-for profit organizations; 40% work in the post-secondary sector, half of whom are full-time professors (Conference Board of Canada, 2015). This is a timely, and needed initiative.

We have read the aforementioned text on the Student Innovation Scholars opportunity and understand the benefits that could accrue from participation.

Student’s Name: _____

Supervisor’s Name: _____

Date: _____