

GET TO KNOW SHAD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is SHAD?

SHAD is a unique Canadian summer enrichment program and network where high achieving high school students are given the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning including workshops, lectures, labs and team challenges revolving around science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM).

Why was SHAD created?

SHAD began in 1980 as an incubator to help high-achieving high school students reach their full potential and make global impact.

Competition to participate in the July program is fierce with a record number of applications for the past three years and a waiting list to join. SHAD looks for bright well-rounded students who can demonstrate how they are or plan to make a difference in their school, community or beyond. SHAD considers their resourcefulness and any obstacles they have had to overcome as part of the selection process.

What do students do at the program?

Students live in one of 13 university residences from coast to coast for the month of July. The students attend lectures, workshops and interact directly with renowned university faculty and visionary corporate leaders. The students are presented with global issues and encouraged to help start thinking about solutions.

Does SHAD end after the month is over?

SHAD Fellows become part of an important peer-to-peer network of 15,500 alumni including leaders in many areas.

Upon completion of the program, SHAD Fellows are offered internship opportunities to gain real world experience, build their skills, their resumes and their networks.

“Canada right now is focused on innovation and focused on youth and the best combination of those two things is at SHAD.

Getting more attention for this program and the Fellows and the future participants of this program is really important because it's a great source and resource for Canada.”



SIMONE CAVANAUGH
SHAD FELLOW & PM YOUTH
COUNCIL MEMBER

SHAD HOST UNIVERSITIES



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Why isn't SHAD better known?

Over the years, SHAD has been one of Canada's best kept secrets but that is now changing. Universities offer scholarships for SHAD Fellows, SHADs have been offered key awards after participating in the program and many employers look to hire SHADs.

In 2016, the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management's Creative Destruction Lab presented SHAD with its Labour Award recognizing SHAD for coaching young innovators and entrepreneurs, identifying and nurturing talent and laying the foundations for Canada's future.

“SHAD has become one of the world's leading programs to empower exceptional students early in their education.”

AJAY AGRAWAL

PETER MUNK PROFESSOR OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AT THE ROTMAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AT
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

What makes SHAD unique?

Youth are given an engineering and design challenge where they innovate to come up with an original product or service to help solve a current economic or social problem. They collaborate in small groups and are taught how to write a business and marketing plan and build a working prototype. Winning projects advance to SHAD's national innovation awards event in the fall.

SHAD is often the first time students are among like-minded similarly driven youth, and they describe this experience as transformational.

Who can apply?

Students in grades 10 to 12 can apply when applications are available in the fall at www.shad.ca.

What's the cost?

The fee to attend the program is \$4,500.

There is a large bursary fund for participants with proven financial need.

Why is the program so crucial today?

In addition to its focus on key 21st century STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) subjects, SHAD exposes students to experiential learning where they learn what it takes to innovate and to be an entrepreneur. They see the importance of teamwork, collaboration, risk taking, failure and learning from that failure. They learn important soft skills that will help them become leaders of the future including: problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, and communication.



SHAD is highlighted in this 2016 public policy paper:
bit.ly/SHADCANWEST