

# GET TO KNOW FREQUENTLY ASKED SHAD QUESTIONS

## What is SHAD?

Firstly, SHAD is not an acronym. It was named after a creek where the first program began in Aurora, Ontario. 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 17 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.

## SHAD HOST UNIVERSITIES

Carleton University  
Dalhousie University  
Lakehead University  
Lassonde School of Engineering,  
York University  
McMaster University  
McGill University

Mount Allison University  
Memorial University  
Queen's University  
Ryerson University  
University of British Columbia  
University of Calgary  
University of New Brunswick

University of Prince Edward Island  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Waterloo  
Western University

## Does SHAD end after the month is over?

SHAD Fellows become part of an important peer-to-peer network of 17,000 alumni including leaders in many areas.

“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

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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](http://www.shad.ca).

## What's the cost?

The fee to attend the program is \$5,700.

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://bit.ly/SHADCANWEST)