

SHAD Backgrounder

Who

SHAD is a registered Canadian charity that empowers exceptional high school students – at a pivotal point in their education – to recognize their capabilities and envision their extraordinary potential as tomorrow’s leaders and change makers. Each year SHAD provides more than 700 Canadian youth a transformational month-long summer experience in-residence at one of 13 top Canadian universities, focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math), innovation, and entrepreneurship.

SHAD helps promising youth develop confidence in their capabilities and envision their ability to be innovators and entrepreneurs. SHAD believes that intellectual gifts alone do not guarantee personal and professional success. The investment in these future leaders ensures that they will reach the highest levels of achievement in their fields of endeavor, and help Canada compete on the world stage.

The benefits of the SHAD investment are evident. There are currently over 15,500 SHAD alumni including 32 Rhodes Scholars, Top 40 Under 40 & Top 20 Under 20 award recipients, and many other leaders and accomplished professionals, all able to leverage the SHAD network for life. Founded in 1980, SHAD is based in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

What

The transformational SHAD program is held annually during the month of July. A typical day includes experiential learning, from class to labs and beyond. Recreational activities reinforce collaboration, teamwork, and leadership. The entire program is designed to open minds and broaden perspectives, and help guide, support and reinforce university and career paths. Participants are inspired by university professors, business leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators, who help youth to set aspirational goals and envision their own extraordinary potential.

Each year, the program has a specific theme, built around a current economic and social problem. SHAD youth collaborate to develop an innovation that addresses the issue. As part of this engineering and design challenge, teams complete business and marketing plans, and design and build working prototypes. Winning projects advance to national judging and results are celebrated each fall.

SHAD participants also volunteer for internships in August for real-world work experience, building their skills, their resumes, and their networks, and immersing them in the companies and careers of the future.

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Where

SHAD's university partners include:

Carleton University
Dalhousie University
Lakehead University
McMaster University
Memorial University of Newfoundland
Queen's University
Ryerson University

Western University
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary
University of New Brunswick
University of Saskatchewan
University of Waterloo

When

SHAD has had a record number of applications for 2015 and 2016. SHAD, open to students in Grades 10, 11 or 12, accepts applications until late November. The application process is rigorous, taking into consideration academic results and engagement beyond the classroom. Selected youth are well-rounded emerging leaders in their schools, volunteers in their communities, and are often gifted musicians, artists and athletes. Month-long SHAD experiences take place in July each year, and post-program learning and professional development opportunities are regularly offered to SHAD alumni.

Why

SHAD's tagline is Uncommon Purpose which SHAD defines as: When someone truly remarkable pursues their potential to change the world. SHAD believes the investment in these future leaders is comparable to investment in top-performing athletes. This support is crucial to ensure that they too will be gold medal winners in their fields of endeavor and making an impact globally.

How

SHAD's program is 50% supported by participant fees and 50% from public and private sector contributions that provide partial scholarships for all participants and bursaries for some requiring further financial assistance based on their family's financial circumstances. SHAD must raise more than \$2 million annually. SHAD supporters include corporations, foundations, government, and individuals (including alumni, parents, and 100% of SHAD's board members and staff). The program is made possible by donor generosity. Many volunteers contribute, to enable the full scope of the SHAD experience.

Governance at SHAD is provided by a volunteer Board of Directors chaired by David Hay. Visit www.shad.ca/board for full details on leadership at SHAD.

For more information:

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