UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Position posting for: Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Project Title:	Q Fever in Canada: Uncovering the Hidden Story of a Neglected Zoonotic Disease
Faculty:	Dr. Benjamin Bauer
Department:	UCVM

Position posting date	11/30/2026		Position start date:	05/03/2027
Application deadline	01/15/2027		Position finish date:	08/20/2027

Summary of research project and specific role of trainee:

Have you ever wondered how diseases spread from animals to people? Q fever is a zoonotic disease caused by Coxiella burnetii, a bacterium that infects livestock, wildlife, and humans worldwide. Despite its importance, Q fever remains understudied in Canada, leaving major gaps in our understanding of where it occurs and how it may impact human and animal health. Working with an active One Health research team, you will help piece together the story of Q fever in Canada by reviewing and synthesizing scientific literature and reports. The findings will improve our understanding of this overlooked disease and help identify priorities for future research and disease control. Under supervision, you will learn how to critically evaluate scientific literature, screen and organize publications, extract and synthesize data, and communicate research findings. Students who make substantial contributions will be included as co-authors on the resulting scientific publication. By the end of the summer, you will:

- Gain in-depth knowledge of Q fever and Coxiella burnetii from a One Health perspective.

- Learn how to critically evaluate and synthesize scientific evidence to address real-world research questions.

- Develop scientific writing skills through contributions to a review article.

In addition to their research activities, you will have many opportunities to attend seminars, workshops, and research meetings and engage with researchers working in infectious diseases and One Health across Canada and internationally.

The ideal candidate will be a final-year undergraduate student in a life science program or a DVM student interested in infectious diseases and One Health research. Preference will be given to candidates with prior experience in literature reviews and scientific writing. We are committed to EDI and welcome applications from candidates of all backgrounds.

Is this position contingent on receipt of external funding?	Yes
If not, what salary would be provided (source, amount)?	

*****we encourage all students to apply for external funding*****

Are any special skills required? Yes ◉ No ○

Is this position specific for a Veterinary student? Yes ○ No ◉

Interested individuals should submit a current curriculum vitae and an outline of their areas of research interest along with the names of three references to:

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