Research Office Scholarship Workshops

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Research Advisor
5 W’s of SCHOLARSHIPS

Who: Students with a strong GPA, > 8.0/10 (A-), eligible (citizenship, research area, months of study)
What: Provincial and Federal Scholarships
Where: Via appropriate online portals
When: Variable deadlines throughout the year…keep an eye on internal deadlines (technical glitches…avoid last min. submissions)
Why: Honours and Distinctions on CV
Practice for future applications
Substantial amounts --- at least $15000/ year
SCHOLARSHIPS

- uOttawa Scholarships
- Provincial Scholarships (ON, QC)
- Federal Scholarships
- Telfer research grants and awards

Additional information:
Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies website
http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/awards
Telfer website
https://telfer.uottawa.ca/en/research/graduate-student
Prepare in advance...

- Add DEADLINES to your agenda --- they are firm
- Identify 2 professors --- ask if they will give you excellent letters of recommendation
- Prepare your research proposal (may require several versions)--- revise and proofread it
- Make a checklist and check items off --- follow-up on reference letters
- Official transcripts from Registrar’s Office! … include Fall 2020 session or last session enrolled

- check website (University and Agency) regularly for up-to date information on application processes, deadlines, and webinars/info sessions
Reasons application may be disqualified…

- Only submit one application per year to CIHR, SSHRC, NSERC: determine your eligibility based on research topic
- Lifetime maximum of 6 years of government-funded student awards …varies so read the fine print
- Missing documents: make a checklist --- check items off, follow-up on reference letters
- Transcripts not official: Official transcripts from Registrar’s Office ONLY… if needed!
- Transcripts not up-to-date: include Fall 2020 session (or last session enrolled)
# Tri-Agency scholarships

**NSERC:** Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) and NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CGS – Doctoral*</td>
<td>$35,000 / year</td>
<td>(for 3 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PGS – Doctoral*</td>
<td>$21,000 / year</td>
<td>(for 3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGS – Master’s</td>
<td>$17,500 for 12 months</td>
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**SSHRC:** Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) and SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships

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<tr>
<td>CGS – Doctoral**</td>
<td>$35,000 / year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctoral Fellowship**</td>
<td>$20,000 / year</td>
<td>(up to 4 years)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$17,500 for 12 months</td>
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**CIHR:** Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS)

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* Harmonized application

**Deadlines variable**

October-December
## Other scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Award</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral)</td>
<td>$50,000 per year</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>up to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$60,000 per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship</td>
<td>$40,000 tuition/living expenses + $20,000 travel/research</td>
<td>January 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>up to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology</td>
<td>$15,000 per 12 months ($5,000 per semester)</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)</td>
<td>$15,000 per 12 months ($5,000 per semester)</td>
<td>December 2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRQ- Fond de recherche du Québec</td>
<td>$17,500 and $21,000 per year (maximum $84,000)</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Harmonized application
International students

- OGS international (not QEII)
- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship
- Mitacs Globalink Research Award
Common to most applications

- Online portal to submit application…follow step-by-step instructions
- Internal deadlines different than agency deadlines, follow internal if applicable
- Canadian Common CV (phased in to SSHRC) [https://ccv-cvc.ca/](https://ccv-cvc.ca/)
- Official transcripts from Registrar’s Office
- 2 academic references required
Referee Process

Role of Student
- Contact referee and provide all information: CV, research proposal, list of contributions/awards/distinctions, transcripts, make sure to highlight deadline…prior to actual due date
- Submit accurate referee contact information in “Invitations” section of application, especially email address
- If mailed letter required, provide referee a stamp and accurate mailing address (or arrange to pick it up and mail it)
- Monitor status of request…finalize submission once reference complete

Role of Referee
- Receives system-generated email with link to reference assessment of applicant (varies for each award, clearly follow instructions), automatic confirmation once completed (if not should check if submission finalized…easy to forget to click submit
- If a signed hard copy letter is needed…use official letterhead and envelope, sealed and signed over seal, informs student to pick it up or mail it to correct address (consider time for delivery)
Research Proposal

Present a compelling case

- Prepare an indisputable sales pitch of the problem… catch their attention
- Persuade the reviewers that you are working on something that is worth doing… WHO CARES?
- Justify your approach and solution to the problem …there is no other way to do it
- Convince the reviewers that you are the perfect person for the project… highlight your strengths, accomplishments, potential
- Create a mental picture of the impact… SO WHAT?
Make the committee’s job easy!

- Write in active voice and use general, simple, and clear language (*lay writing skills are invaluable!*)
  ...committees are multi-disciplinary
- Use subheadings, avoid long paragraphs/sentences, and run-on sentences
  ...state 1 concept per para and 1 idea per sentence
- Avoid excess use of acronyms
  ...define them, don’t make committee guess
- Proofread—spelling, grammar, overall clarity, formatting
  ...errors distract the reader
- Follow evaluation criteria, stay focused

LESS IS MORE
What to include in a research proposal?

Research questions and hypotheses
- clearly explain rationale, research goals
- convey importance/necessity
- explicitly state the purpose and objectives

Context/ literature review/ theoretical framework
- be specific and focused…avoid distracting tangents
- cite pertinent literature to justify approach and feasibility

Methodology and Approach
- explain why you chose your approach
- why is it the best way to do it
- give a clear work and analysis plan…avoid too much jargon

Contribution and/or significance
- state expected outcomes, potential pitfalls, alternative plans
- highlight the potential impact…who benefits from this work
- how relates to supervisor’s program/resources, your experience and skills
Ontario Graduate Scholarships

https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/ogs-application-portal-step-step-instructions

1. Research Programs Statement and Contributions to knowledge (max 700 words) …**make sure your actual contribution is clear**
   - references (if any) must be included within the statement

2. Second section optional, but highly recommended to list all research contributions …**major impact on evaluation of application**
   - list most recent contributions first
   - separate into refereed, non-refereed, forthcoming, submitted contributions; and literary and artistic works
   - list separately if poster, conference presentation, journal article all relating to the same topic.
   - provide complete bibliographic details when applicable
Tri-Council Research Proposal

CGS SSHRC, CIHRC, and NSERC guidelines (Masters, PhD)

SSHRC guidelines (Doctoral Fellowship)

CIHR guidelines (Doctoral Research Award)
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38887.html

NSERC guidelines (Post-graduate Doctoral Scholarship)
Master’s CGS-M Research Proposal


Outline of Proposed Research: 2 separate sections

1. Proposal (maximum of one page)
2. Bibliography/citations (maximum of one page)

- For significance/impact focus on relevant field: health, natural sciences/engineering, or social sciences/humanities.
- Justify choices: supervisor’s research program, own experiences and skills
- If unsure of project must still provide a detailed proposal, research direction/activities may change during tenure of award (restrictions may apply).
  * refer to the Tri-Agency Research Training Award Holder’s Guide
- Include all relevant information (do not refer committee to URLs or other publications for supplemental information)...they won’t go look!
- Follow guidelines and format in Presentation Standards
# CGS-M Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic excellence</strong></td>
<td>As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions.</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| **Indicators of academic excellence: Academic record** | • Scholarships and awards held  
• Duration of previous studies  
• Type of program and courses pursued  
• Course load  
• Relative standing (if available) |        |
| **Research potential**          | As demonstrated by the applicant’s research history, their interest in discovery, the proposed research, its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, and any anticipated outcomes.                           | 30%    |
| **Indicators of research potential:** | • Quality and originality of contributions to research and development  
• Relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research  
• Significance, feasibility and merit of proposed research  
• Judgment and ability to think critically  
• Ability to apply skills and knowledge  
• Initiative and autonomy  
• Research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with the candidate’s academic experience |        |
| **Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills** | As demonstrated by the applicant’s past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations.                                                                                   | 20%    |
| **Indicators of personal characteristics and interpersonal skills:** | • Work experience  
• Leadership experience  
• Project management including organizing conferences and meetings  
• The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats  
• Involvement in academic life  
• Volunteerism/community outreach |        |
### CGS-D EVALUATION CRITERIA

<table>
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<th>Criteria</th>
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| **Research ability and potential**    | **Indicators of research ability and potential:**  
  • Quality of research proposal  
    • specific, focused and feasible research question(s) and objective(s)  
    • clear description of the proposed methodology  
    • significance and expected contributions to research  
  • Relevant training, such as academic training, lived experience and traditional teachings  
  • Research experience and achievements relative to the applicant's stage of study, lived experience and knowledge systems  
  • Quality of contributions and extent to which they advance the field of research. Contributions may include: publications, patents, reports, posters, abstracts, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, knowledge translation outputs, community products, etc.  
  • Demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically  
  • Demonstration of responsible and ethical research conduct, including honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, commitment to safety and to the dissemination of research results and adherence to the use of professional standards  
  • Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach  
  • The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats                                                                 | 50%    |
| **Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia** | **Indicators of relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia:**  
  • Scholarships, awards and distinctions (amount, duration and prestige)  
  • Academic record:  
    • Transcripts  
    • Duration of previous studies  
    • Program requirements and courses pursued  
    • Course load  
    • Relative standing in program (if available)  
  • Professional, academic and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community, such as:  
    • teaching, mentoring, supervising and/or coaching  
    • managing projects  
    • participating in science and/or research promotion  
    • community outreach, volunteer work and/or civic engagement  
    • chairing committees and/or organizing conferences and meetings  
    • participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies and/or clubs | 50%    |
NSERC Research Proposal

Postgraduate doctoral scholarships

Outline of Proposed Research (maximum 2 pages)

- significance to field of natural sciences and engineering (NSE)
- indicate how sex/gender/diversity (EDI) considerations have been taken into account in your proposed research if applicable, if not justify
  *EDI can make research more ethical, rigorous and useful*
- should not repeat information found in “Theses completed or in progress” section…but you may refer to it
- include all relevant information, do not refer to URLs or other publications for supplemental info…committee does not review it
- if proposed research is a continuation of thesis, clearly state differences between work done for thesis and research activities outlined in proposal.
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship Proposal

https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/Instructions-Help/docinstr_e.htm

Research Proposal (maximum 2 pages)
Use non-technical jargon (multidisciplinary committee)
Proposal must include
- current level of study (e.g. in second year of doctoral studies)…eligibility based on number of months of all full-time doctoral study
- stage you are at in your thesis
- name of your doctoral supervisor, if known
- outline of your thesis proposal
- what you hope to accomplish during award tenure, and what will remain to be done before you obtain your degree

➢ Bibliography and citations in a separate section (5 pages)

If related to health or psychology, justify submission to SSHRC rather than CIHR/NSERC, see SSHRC subject matter eligibility guidelines
CIHR Research Proposal

http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38887.html#t4

Training Expectations

- maximum 2 pages
- describe experiences and achievements, how these will contribute to training success
- how training and location will contribute to research goals, and impact within and beyond research

Research Project Summary

- maximum 1 page including references
- completed in collaboration with the proposed supervisor(s)
- describe applicant's role in each part of research plan, with specific and feasible research questions/objectives, project aims and methodology
- write in general scientific language
BOTTOM LINE

- Start preparing early
- Attend RO workshops: Oct 9 and Nov 13
- Make a checklist
- Update your CV
- Triple check internal/agency deadlines
- Secure two excellent references
- Adhere to guidelines and evaluation criteria for each application
- Use simple, clear, concise language
- Proofread

There’s no room for sloppiness!
Preparing for the next workshop

Scholarship Application: Respond to each of these questions before the first scholarship workshop to help you prepare the first draft of your research proposal

1. **What is the research question(s)/hypothesis?** Give a brief introduction to describe what your research is about and why it is important. Be clear and specific in explaining what the problem is and who is impacted. If you have a hypothesis statement, make sure it is clearly stated. (150 words)

2. **What is the purpose and objectives of your research?** Make a clear statement of the broader purpose of your work (consider various levels) and narrow it down to a list of specific objectives for your study, make sure the objectives are achievable (how you qualify to conduct the work, scope and resources) and directly address the purpose and research questions. (150 words)

3. **What is the relevant literature/theoretical framework?** Provide a clear context for the work, referring to relevant literature, and highlighting any controversies or knowledge gap. Emphasize the theoretical approach/framework you are basing your study on and explain why. (150 words)

4. **What is the methodological approach/methods/analyses?** Clearly explain the approach and methods you will use, as well as the type of analysis you will conduct. Be brief but specific. **Provide a justification for each.** (150 words)

5. **What are the expected outcomes and potential impact?** Clearly explain what is the impact, who benefits, and how. Consider various levels: individual, institutional, global, academic, economic, political… (100 words)
Where to start…

Examples of excellent research proposals from successful applicants to guide you in your writing.

Thank you!

Mara    Amirhossein    Lea    Esra    Alison
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