Graduate Scholarship Information

Rania Nasrallah, PhD
Research Office
5 W’s of SCHOLARSHIPS

Who: Students with a GPA > 8.0/10 (A-), eligible (citizenship, research area, months of study)

What: Provincial and Federal Scholarships

Where: Via appropriate portals

When: Variable deadlines throughout the year (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
- Others

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Trillium Scholarship for PhD</td>
<td>($40,000/year, 4 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QEII-GSST Scholarship Masters</td>
<td>($15,000, 1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship PhD</td>
<td>($35,000/year, 3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters</td>
<td>($17,500, 1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters</td>
<td>($17,500, 1 year)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Graduate Scholarship Masters and PhD</td>
<td>($15,000, 1 year)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SCHOLARSHIPS

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 --- revise and proofread it (may require several versions)
  - check website (University and agency) regularly for up-to-date information on application processes, deadlines, and webinars/info sessions that will be offered
  - I will share powerpoints from CIHR and NSERC
Reasons application may be disqualified

- **Lifetime maximum of 6 years** of government-funded student awards (4 years NSERC and CIHR)…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!**
- Transcripts not up-to-date: include Fall 2019 session (or last session enrolled)

YOU MUST INCLUDE ALL TRANSCRIPTS
# TRI-COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NSERC:</strong></td>
<td>Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) and NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)</td>
<td>CGS – Doctoral</td>
<td>$35,000 / year (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>PGS – Doctoral</td>
<td>$21,000 / year (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>CGS – Master’s</td>
<td>$17,500 for 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SSHRC:</strong></td>
<td>Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) and SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships</td>
<td>CGS – Doctoral</td>
<td>$35,000 / year (3 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Doctoral Fellowship</td>
<td>$20,000 / year (up to 4 years)</td>
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<td><strong>CIHR:</strong></td>
<td>Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS)</td>
<td>CGS – Doctoral</td>
<td>$35,000* / year (3 years)</td>
</tr>
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* $30,000 plus $5000 research allowance
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of Award</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral)</td>
<td>$50,000 per year up to 3 years</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*nomination only</td>
<td>$60,000 per year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship</td>
<td>$40,000 tuition/living expenses + $20,000 travel/research up to 3 years</td>
<td>January 2020</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>May 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)</td>
<td>$15,000 per 12 months ($5,000 per semester)</td>
<td>December 2019</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 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International students

- Trillium Scholarship (Faculty nomination, under review)
- OGS international
- Mitacs Globalink (travel award)
PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)

**Value:** $15,000 per year ($5000 per term) with full-time student status for min 2 consecutive terms

**Duration:** One year (must re-apply every year)
  - MSc – maximum 2 academic years
  - PhD – maximum 4 academic years

**Eligibility:** GPA > 8.0/10 (A-)
  - do not need to be Ontario resident
  - Canadian and International

**Internal Deadline:** December 1, 2019

*University administers entire OGS application process (quotas); Not transferable b/w Programs/Faculties/Universities, must submit multiple applications if unsure of program of study*

https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/awards/ontario-graduate-scholarship
PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)

Online Application Portal: follow step-by-step instructions, use personal email
https://ogs.fluidreview.com/?lang=en

What you need:
- Research/Program Statement and Contributions
- Transcripts
- Academic Assessment Report
- 2 references: ideally your supervisor, provide their complete contact information (they are contacted by email)

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

Follow-up until completed
Referee Process

Role of Student

- Contact referee and provide all application information: include CV, program and research proposal, list of contributions/awards/distinctions, transcripts, make sure to highlight deadline…prior to actual due date
- make referees job easy
- 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 the submission once referees completed the reference

Role of Referee

- Referee receives system-generated email with link to reference assessment of applicant and reference letter (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, must be sealed and signed over seal, then must inform student to pick it up or mail it to correct address (consider time for delivery)
PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ)

Value: $17,500 (MSc) and $21,000 (PhD) per year

Duration: maximum 6 (MSc) and 12 (PhD) sessions

Eligibility: Quebec resident (NEW: 2 full-time sessions in Quebec University, OR eligible for or possess valid Quebec health card RAMQ)

Deadline: October 2019 (varies type and training level)
PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ)

Online portal FRQ net: http://www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca/bourses-et-subventions/frqnet

3 research areas:

FRQ-NT: nature et technologies

FRQ-S: santé

FRQ-SC: société et culture

* for multidisciplinary committee must justify with 1 page attachment

Language: applications may be submitted in English, but require a French title
FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS-M, CGS-D)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
  ➢ Alexander Graham Bell

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
  ➢ Joseph-Armand Bombardier

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
  ➢ Frederic Banting and Charles Best


Larger quotas this year!
FEDERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

COMMON TO ALL TRI-COUNCILS

Eligibility:

- minimum GPA of 8.0/10 (A-) in last 2 years of study
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident by application deadline
- intend to pursue full-time graduate studies and research
- never received/held a Tri-Council scholarship/fellowship: SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR for study level of application (masters or PhD)

* Refer to guidelines for agency selection based on subject

Requirements:

- Canadian Common CV
  https://ccv-cvc.ca/loginresearcher-eng.frm
- References: at least 2, contacted via email with instructions, follow-up until completion
- Transcripts: Official from Registrar’s Office
Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS-M)

Value: $17,500 for one year, non-renewable

Deadline: December 1

Eligibility: Canadian or permanent resident

- Completed < 12 months of masters (full-time equivalent) in program for which requesting funding by Dec 31st of application year, or direct-entry/fast-track to PhD (awarded for 1st year of program)
- Completed 4-12 months of masters studies, degree requirements will be completed before activation of award, may be used for subsequent PhD program

Required: lay summary, 2 pages proposal and bibliography, 2 references---must send invite, all transcripts, Canadian Common CV

- Online research portal: create account (NOT ResearchNet)
- Consult instructions for completing application
CRITERIA SPECIFIC TO NSERC
Postgraduate Scholarship

Value: $21,000/ year for 3 years
Deadline: October 17
Required: theses completed or in progress, 2 page research outline, eligibility justification, contributions, transcripts, 2 reports on applicants

- Online submission portal: create account
- Research related to natural sciences and engineering fields
- Completed < 24 months of doctoral studies (full-time equivalent) in program for which requesting funding by December 31st of application year
- Top-ranked applicants automatically considered for CGS-D award
- Consult the selection committee guide for more information http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/Students-Etudiants/SelectionCommitteeGuide_e.pdf
Tri-Council PhD Scholarships

CRITERIA SPECIFIC TO SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships

Value: $20,000/ year up to 4 years
Deadline: October 17
Required: program of study, citations, transcripts, letters of appraisal (must use specific forms)

- Online submission portal: create account https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logonFellowships.jsp
- applying to or pursuing first PhD (or equivalent) in social sciences or humanities
- completed < 48 months of doctoral studies (full-time equivalent) in the program for which you are requesting funding as of December 31st of application year
- eligible applications are considered for both a Joseph Armand Bombardier CGS-D (3 years) and a Doctoral Fellowship (up to 4 years)

NEW THIS YEAR... CGS-D Harmonization!
Tri-Council PhD Scholarships

CRITERIA SPECIFIC TO CIHR
Frederick Banting and Charles Best CGS-D

https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/LoginServlet?language=E

Value: $35,000 per year for 3 years
Deadline: October 17 🎉 Internal on OGPS website 🎉

Eligibility: Canadian or permanent resident
- < 24 months PhD studies as of Dec 31st of year of application
- if admitted directly from bachelor’s to PhD, eligible to apply if < 36 months of PhD studies as of application deadline

ResearchNet: online portal for CIHR applications
- create account and request personal identification number (PIN)
- Instructions for application http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38887.html

CIHR PIN: takes up to 24 hrs to process request
- various information and useful links http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50513.html
- appendix A lists evaluation criteria for CIHR doctoral awards http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/33043.html#k
MITACS SCHOLARSHIPS

Accelerate > $15,000 per 4-6 months
- no deadlines, must be used within 1 year
- Industry partner required (non gov), time split 50/50 (industry: university)
- All disciplines, peer-reviewed

Globalink Research Award $6,000
- Non-competitive, no deadlines
- International collaborations 12-24 weeks overseas within 1 year of award issue
- Opportunities with Mitacs partner countries
TELFER AWARDS

https://telfer.uottawa.ca/en/research/graduate-student

Student Thesis Research Grant (SMRG)

- for MSc students
- no deadlines, up to $6000, visit the SMRG Portal ($4000 + $2000 top-up if supervisor has external funding)

Telfer Travel Fund (Grad-SMTF)

- no deadlines, visit the SMRG Portal
- to present research at a conference
- $1000 for MSc and $1500 for PhD students
How to prepare the *Research Proposal Section* of the application...
Present a compelling case that makes you stand out among other candidates

- 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?**
Research Proposal

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**
Research Proposal

What to include in a research proposal?

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

**Research questions and hypotheses**
- clearly explain rationale, research goals/objectives
- convey importance/necessity

**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
OGS Research Proposal

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

- Research Programs Statement and Contributions (max 700 words)…make sure your actual contribution is clear
- References (if any) must be included within the statement
- 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

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)
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<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>
</tbody>
</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                                                                                     |        |
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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%    |
Outline of Proposed Research: 2 separate sections

- Proposal (maximum of one page)
- Bibliography/citations (maximum of one page)

- For **significance/impact** focus on relevant field: health, natural sciences/engineering, or social sciences/humanities.
- **Justify choices:** relate to 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!
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
  * EDI not evaluation criterion but 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 Proposal


Program of Study (maximum 2 pages)

Use non-technical terms (multidisciplinary committee)

Proposal must include
- current level of study (e.g. in second year of doctoral studies)
- 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

If related to health or psychology, justify submission to SSHRC rather than CIHR/NSERC, see SSHRC subject matter eligibility guidelines
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 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 project aims and methodology
- write in general scientific language
BOTTOM LINE

- Start preparing early
- Attend RO workshops: Sep 27 and Oct 11
- 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!
Contact Information

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