NSERC Information Sessions
Scholarships and Fellowships
2019-2020

University of Ottawa

Annemarie Fraser, Program Officer
September 10, 2019
• EDI initiatives at NSERC
• New this year
• Postgraduate programs
• Postdoctoral programs
• How to apply
• Tips and advice
• Contact information

Agenda
Equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives at NSERC

- NSERC’s focus on EDI
- Why is EDI important?
- EDI data collection
NSERC is committed to implementing policies and processes which identify and mitigate barriers and biases within our programs.
Why is EDI important?

- Access the largest pool of qualified applicants
- Expand collective intelligence, discovery, and innovation

Research team

- Enhance the scientific quality and usefulness of NSE research
- Increase the overall excellence of the research

Research design
## Considerations

- Who are the research subjects and end-users?
- What are the consequences of not including diversity?

## Additional resources

- [NSERC’s Framework on EDI](#)
- [Guide for Applicants: Considering EDI in your application](#)
- *Gendered Innovations* employs methods of diversity analysis to create new knowledge
  - Examples and case studies at: [http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/](http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/)
Collection of self-identification data

Monitor equity performance of programs

Inform future measures to increase EDI in research enterprise
Visible Minorities

Do you identify as a member of a visible minority in Canada?

Yes

Note: Visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

If "Yes", select the options that you identify with.

I prefer not to answer

To select or deselect one or more options, hold down the "Control" key while clicking on all the relevant options.

- Arab
- Black
- Chinese
- Filipino
- Japanese
- Korean
- Latin-American
- South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- Southeast Asian (including Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai; etc.)
- West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.)
- Another visible minority group - specify
New this year

- Paid parental leave extension
- Increased number of CGS awards
- CGS D harmonization
Paid parental leave

Extended to 12 months of funding

For agency-funded research trainees

Form available online
Annual increase in CGS awards

+500 CGS M + 167 CGS D = $114M over five years
CGS D harmonization
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using Research Portal
Objectives and overview

Value and duration
• $17,500 for one year

Important dates
• Application deadline: December 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)
• Announcement of awards: April 1

Where to apply
• Up to three Canadian institutions where you would like to hold the award (institution must have an award allocation)

Research Portal
• Application and award announcement platform
Eligibility to apply

First-class average in each of the past 2 years

Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada

Not have already held a CGS M award

Plan to hold the award in a master’s or doctoral program with a significant research component

By December 31 have completed no more than 12 months of studies towards degree award will support
January 1: Earliest allowed start date of degree to be funded

September: Research Portal opens for new applications

December 1: Deadline for applications

2019

April 1: Competition results released

May 1: First allowed award start date

September 1: Second allowed award start date

2020

January 1: Last allowed award start date

2021

CGS M timeline
Selection criteria

- Academic excellence: 50%
- Research potential: 30%
- Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills: 20%
CGS M – How to apply using Research Portal

What you need:
• Research Portal account
• Canadian Common CV (CCV) account
• Instructions for completing application
• Instructions for completing CCV

Welcome to the Research Portal

Please note that Research Portal no longer supports Internet Explorer versions 8.

We recommend upgrading to Internet Explorer 9, Google Chrome, Firefox or Safari.

Account

The Research Portal is intended for use only by individuals participating in the preparation of applications/nominations for funding from the Canada Research Chairs, the Research Support Fund, and other programs of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), in the administration of awards, and in the merit review of applications.

Before using the Research Portal, you must read the Terms and conditions and Transparency (see below). When you login and use this system, it means that you understand these policies and conditions and you consent to the use of your personal information for administrative purposes.

Notice: Maintenance Window

This system will normally be unavailable to users Saturdays from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. (eastern), as well as on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. (eastern).

Create an account
Create an application
Access an application
Complete the modules
Module: identification
## Activity Details

**Certification Requirements**

- Does the proposed research involve humans as research participants? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

- Does the proposed research involve animals? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

- Does the proposed research involve human pluripotent stem cells? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

- Does the proposed research involve controlled drugs and/or substances? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

**For statistical purposes only**

- Does this application propose research involving aboriginal people? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

**Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis**

- Are sex (biological) considerations taken into account in this proposal? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

- Are gender (socio-cultural) considerations taken into account in this proposal? (required)
  - [ ] Yes  [ ] No

**Keywords**

List up to 10 keywords that best describe the proposal. (required)

1. 
2. 

**Field of Study**

Indicate and rank up to three primary fields of study relevant to your proposal, with #1 the most relevant and #3 the least relevant. (required)

1. Select
2. Select
3. Select

[Save and validate]
### Proposed Host Organization

**Proposed Host Organization #1**
- **Organization**: Select
- **Facility**: Select
- **Department/Division**: Select

**Proposed Host Organization #2**
- **Organization**: Select
- **Facility**: Select
- **Department/Division**: Select

**Proposed Host Organization #3**
- **Organization**: Select
- **Facility**: Select
- **Department/Division**: Select

---

**Module: proposed organizations**
Outline of proposed research

Page 1:
Outline of proposed research

- Upload 2-page PDF file to Research Portal
- Detail objectives, hypothesis, method
- Position proposed research within context of current knowledge in the field

Page 2:
Bibliography/citations

- Describe significance of proposed project to field of research
- Use clear, plain language, and avoid jargon: write for researchers outside your field

Outline of proposed research
Module: summary of proposal
Upload attachments
### Application

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>Groundbreaking Chemistry Research</td>
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<td>Application</td>
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#### Module Status

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### Attachments

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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>My Transcripts</td>
<td>Transcripts</td>
<td>2018-04-27</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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### Canadian Common CVs Attached

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<th>Role</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
<td>Applicant</td>
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### Invitations

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<th>Family Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Invitation Status</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Enter CCV confirmation number
Invite references
Important reminders!

Application deadline: December 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

PLAN AHEAD

Allow enough time for your references to complete their assessments

Read the program documentation
First point of contact should be the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the institution

**CGS M contact information**

**CIHR**
CGSMA-BESCBM@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

**NSERC**
schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

**SSHRC**
fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
Postgraduate scholarships

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using NSERC’s online system
**Objectives and overview**

**Value**
- PGS D: $21,000 and CGS D: $35,000

**Important dates**
- **Verify internal application deadline with institution**
- Application deadline: October 17 (direct applicants)
- Announcement of awards: April

**Location of tenure**
- PGS D: Canadian institution or abroad (if previous degree completed in Canada)
- CGS D: must be at a Canadian institution

**How to apply**
- NSERC Online System

NEW THIS YEAR
All awards are three years
Eligibility to apply

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Not have already held a doctoral award
- Intend to pursue full-time graduate studies and research at the doctoral level in an eligible program
- By December 31 have completed no more than 24 months of doctoral studies (36 months if direct-entry students and must currently be registered in doctoral program)
Selection criteria

50% Research ability and potential

50% Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia
How to apply

Through a Canadian institution

*quota system in place*

- Currently registered (including if on leave)
- Have been registered anytime in 2019

Directly to NSERC

- Currently registered at a foreign institution
- Not registered at a Canadian university at any time in 2019

*MOST CASES*

Verify the internal deadline!
What happens at your institution?

Submit application electronically by institution deadline

Internal selection committees review and select applications

Institution forwards quota of applications electronically to NSERC

Institution informs students of results for the internal selection process
What happens at NSERC?

NSERC staff verify eligibility

Members review and score applications

Final ranked list produced

Top-ranked applicants offered CGS D, next tier offered PGS D

Results announced in April
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cellular and molecular biology</th>
<th>Evolution and ecology</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical, biomedical, and materials science engineering</td>
<td>Mathematical sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mechanical engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil and industrial engineering</td>
<td>Physics and astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing sciences</td>
<td>Plant and animal biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth sciences</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT:** The research subject code you select in your application determines the selection committee.
Application statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Applications submitted through a Canadian institution
- Direct Applications*

*Direct Applications refer to applications submitted directly by individuals without going through an institution.
Additional funding opportunities at the postgraduate level

- Vanier CGS
- CGS-MSFSS
- Student Ambassadors
- NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Award details
- $50,000 per year for three years
- Open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and foreign citizens

Application details
- Institutional nomination to NSERC by November 6 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) using ResearchNet*
- Announcement of awards: April 2020

Selection criteria (weighted equally)
- Academic excellence
- Research potential
- Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability)

* Contact your faculty of graduate studies for the institution-specific deadline
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements

Do you hold a CGS M, CGS D, or Vanier CGS?

Research study period abroad

- Up to $6,000
- 2 to 6 months
- Foreign university or research lab

Deadlines: June 10* and October 10*

*Apply through your institution
Share NSE experience with youth (K-12)

STEM promotion to Canadian youth by Canadian youth

Organize an independent outreach activity

NSERC pays $1,000 in support of event costs

Contact: ambassadors@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Overview
- Support Indigenous students or PDFs visiting Indigenous communities/schools
- Covers travel costs up to $5,000

Purpose
- Participate in science promotion events
- Sharing NSE research & education experience

Eligibility
- Full-time student or PDF in NSE
- B or B- average
- No deadlines: apply 2 months before visit

Contact: ambassadors@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors
Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using NSERC’s online system
### Objectives and overview

- **Value and duration**
  - $45,000 per year for 2 years

- **Important dates**
  - Application deadline: October 17 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)
  - Announcement of awards: end of January

- **Location of tenure**
  - Canadian universities
  - Provincial research institutions in Canada
  - Other appropriate research laboratory in Canada
  - Universities and research centres abroad
    
    *(PhD must be from Canadian institution)*

- **How to apply**
  - NSERC Online System
Eligibility to apply

Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada

Can only apply once to the PDF program

Hold or expect to hold a doctorate in one of the fields of research that NSERC supports

Have completed all requirements for PhD within two years of the deadline date*
Selection criteria

- **70%** Research ability and potential
- **30%** Communication, interpersonal, and leadership abilities
What happens at NSERC?

1. NSERC staff verify eligibility
2. Members review and score applications
3. Top-ranked applications discussed at meeting
4. Final ranked list produced
5. Results announced end of January

End of January
Application statistics

- **2015**
  - Received: 585
  - Offered: 180

- **2016**
  - Received: 579
  - Offered: 180

- **2017**
  - Received: 594
  - Offered: 199

- **2018**
  - Received: 528
  - Offered: 168

- **2019**
  - Received: 490
  - Offered: 180

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
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<td>594</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When should I apply?

χ² = 0.041, p = .84
Additional funding opportunities at the postdoctoral level

- Banting PDF
- JSPS PDF
- NSERC-CMHC PDF
- NISA
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships

Program details

• $70,000 per year for two years
• Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and foreign citizens
• Deadline: September 18, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) on ResearchNet

Location of tenure

• Canadian and foreign universities
• Affiliated hospitals, colleges, and not-for-profit organizations with a strong research mandate and capacity

Selection criteria (weighted equally)

• Applicant’s research excellence and leadership
• Quality of proposed research program
• Synergy of applicant and institutional strategic priorities

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships
Deadline: February 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

- JSPS provides funding for airfare, monthly maintenance allowance, settling-in allowance, and travel insurance

Eligibility criteria

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- First doctoral degree completed no more than six years before the application deadline

How to apply

- Contact schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca for application form and instructions

**Value**

- $45,000 per year for two years

**Objectives**

- Build Canadian expertise in housing research
- Address research and knowledge translation gaps in housing

**Application requirements**

- Apply to the NSERC PDF program
- Include additional justification attachment

**CMHC-NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship**
PGS/CGS D and PDF – How to apply using the NSERC Online System (Form 201)

What you need:

• NSERC Online system account
• Application instructions
• Selection committee guide
NSERC Online system (form 201)
Choose carefully!
# Form 201 - Academic Background

Include only current and past degree programs. Please use the section 'Other' for any additional degree.

## Type of degree: Bachelor's

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Use the 'List...' button</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Country</td>
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<td>Period of study</td>
<td>Started: yyyy mm</td>
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<td>Awarded/Expected: yyyy mm</td>
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<td>Name of discipline</td>
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## Type of degree: Master's

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<tr>
<td>Name of discipline</td>
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</table>

Academic background
Work experience
Form 201 - Scholarships and Other Awards Offered

List only competitive awards based on academic or research excellence and/or leadership or communication abilities. Include NSERC awards and declined awards. You may list up to ten awards starting with your most recent awards.

Note: "declined awards" refers to awards that were offered to you but which you declined.

New Entry

Name of award
Location of tenure
Value Per Year $CAD
Period held from YYY mm to YYYY mm
Declined
Level
Type

New Entry

Name of award
Location of tenure
Value Per Year $CAD
Period held from YYY mm to YYYY mm
Declined
Level
Type

Scholarships & other awards
### Form 201 - Location of Tenure

Indicate where you would like to hold this award, in order of preference.

**Note:** The 'List...' button contains a list of postsecondary institutions.

#### Proposed location of tenure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Name if not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program of study</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Second location (if appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution / organization</th>
<th>List...</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>Department</strong></td>
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<td>Name if not available</td>
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<td>Proposed supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program of study</td>
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</table>
Form 201 - Justification for location of tenure

Provide a rationale for your choice(s) for location of tenure. **To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.**

See instructions for further details.
Scholarship/fellowship information

Form 201 - Scholarship/Fellowship Information

At the time of application, are you attending university?  

Proposed degree program

If you are offered an award, do you plan to take it up at a foreign university?  

If you answered yes to the previous question, do you still want to be considered for an Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship which is tenable only in Canada?

Number of months of graduate studies (master’s and doctoral) you have completed as of December 31 of the year of application in the natural sciences and engineering (if none, enter “0”):

- Months of full-time studies
- Months of part-time studies

Number of months of studies you have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, in the program for which you are requesting funding (if none, enter “0”):

- Months of full-time studies
- Months of part-time studies
Form 201 - Bibliography

Upload a PDF containing your bibliography.

Select "Instructions" from the common menu bar for details concerning this electronic attachment. For detailed instructions on the attachment process and attachment presentation, consult the Electronic Attachment Instructions.

Your electronic file attachment must meet the following specifications:

- PDF format
- Maximum file size is 3 Mb
- 8 ½” x 11” (216mm x 279mm)
- Maximum pages: 5

Bibliography

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<tr>
<td>Filename</td>
<td>Browse…</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Status

Attach

Not applicable to PDF applicants
### Form 201 - Thesis Information

Information on theses completed or in progress. For completed degrees, indicate the date by which you completed all degree requirements (not the convocation date). This includes your thesis defence, corrections, and deposition of thesis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree</td>
<td>Fill in the degree name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>Fill in the supervisor's name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date degree requirements completed</td>
<td>Fill in the date when degree requirements were completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title of the thesis</td>
<td>Fill in the title of the thesis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of thesis most recently completed or in progress. Use plain language. Do not reproduce the thesis abstract. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.
Form 201 - Key Words / Research Subject Code

The Research Subject Code entered on the application will determine the selection committee in which the application will be evaluated. Consult the List of Research Subject Codes for Scholarships and Fellowships before making your selection.

Research subject code

Primary Use the 'List...' button List...

Key words

List up to ten (10) key words that describe your proposed research (for example, nuclear physics, geochemistry, etc.)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)

(36 chars)
Explain & provide context

½ page attachment

- Delays:
  - Productivity
  - Performance
- Family responsibilities
- Parental leave
- Health problems
- Disabilities
- Any other applicable circumstances
Advice and tips
Make your application stand out!

Selection committee member resource video
Important tips

- Read the program description
- Read the application instructions
- Read the selection committee guide
- Watch the resource videos
Two page attachment

"It's a foolproof formula for writing grant applications."

Research proposal
What makes a good research proposal?

- Write the proposal yourself
- Explain significance of your project
- Make your proposal clear for reviewers
- Convey your passion
- Describe EDI considerations in your research plan, if applicable
- Be clear and specific
• Applications containing research proposals that are not eligible under these guidelines may be rejected
• You can only apply to one agency per academic year

Justification of research (optional one page attachment)
• Complete if any overlap with social sciences or health
• Used only by NSERC staff to determine eligibility
• Short explanation why your research fits within NSERC’s mandate

Subject eligibility
Contributions and applicant’s statement

Part 1: Articles published
- Articles published, accepted, and submitted only

Part 2: Most significant contributions
- Describe your role in three contributions from Part 1

Part 3: Applicant’s statement
- Skills, experiences, and qualities demonstrating your excellence

PGS/CGS D – 2 pages
PDF – 4 pages
Follow instructions carefully

Provide official, up-to-date versions

Review before submitting application

Transcripts
Reports on the applicant

- Choose references carefully
- Invite references early
- Provide background information
- Send reminders
Common errors/mistakes

- Impact not explained
- Repetitiveness
- Missing citations
- Lack of focus
- Spelling or grammatical mistakes
- Too modest
Contact information

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Online services helpdesk
• webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
• (613) 995-4273