NSERC Information Session
Scholarships and Fellowships
2018 Competition
Carleton University
Kristina Dixie
Jennifer Houghton
September 12, 2017

Agenda

- Postgraduate Programs
- Postdoctoral Programs
- How to Apply
- Tips and Advice
- Diversity and Gender Equity Initiatives at NSERC
- Contact Information

Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s (CGS M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CGS M</th>
<th>Value and duration?</th>
<th>$17,500 for one year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Average?</td>
<td></td>
<td>First-class * in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where to apply?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 5 institutions where you would like to hold the award (institutions must have an award allocation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When and how to apply?</td>
<td></td>
<td>By 8 PM (ET) on December 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When are awards announced?</td>
<td></td>
<td>As of April 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* As determined by the host institution

In addition, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- intend to pursue a Master’s program with a significant research component
- have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, between 0 - 12 months of studies in a Master’s/Doctoral program
  - Possibility of holding a CGS M for the first year of a doctoral program
- not have already held a CGS M
Selection Criteria and Weightings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Potential</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research Portal – Creating an Account

Research Portal – Accessing an Application

Research Portal – Application Overview

Research Portal – Completing the Modules
Outline of Proposed Research

- Consists of two separate sections:
  - Outline of proposed research (maximum one page)
  - Bibliography/citations (maximum one page)
- Provide detailed description of your proposed research project for the period during which you will hold the award
  - Describe the objectives, hypothesis, experimental or theoretical approach, methods and procedures to be used
  - Position your proposed research within the context of current knowledge in the field
  - Describe the significance of the research project to the field of research, as appropriate
- If you have not yet decided on a specific project, you must still provide a detailed description of a research project that interests you

Outline of Proposed Research – Cont’d

- If your degree program does not involve a thesis, clearly indicate the research component of your proposed work
- Only one outline of proposed research can be attached, even if you apply to more than one institution
- Your application may be reviewed by a broad audience not necessarily in your direct area of research
- Use clear, plain language and avoid jargon
- Follow the directives provided in the instructions for completing an application
Research Portal – Notification of Results

CGS M – Important Reminders

- Plan ahead
- Read the program documentation
- Allow enough time for your references to complete their assessments
  - We recommend sending invitations by November 1
- Application deadline: December 1, before 8:00 p.m. (ET)
- Results will be posted on the Research Portal as of April 1

CGS M Contact Information

- CIHR
  Email: cgsma@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
- NSERC
  Email: schol@nserc-crsg.gc.ca
- SSHRC
  Email: fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

Postgraduate Scholarships

Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral / NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS/PGS D)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CGS D</th>
<th>PGS D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value and duration</td>
<td>$35,000 per year for 2 or 3 years</td>
<td>$21,000 per year for 2 or 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who can apply?</td>
<td>• Canadian citizen • Permanent resident of Canada</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where can you hold the award?</td>
<td>• Canadian university • Foreign university ONLY if you already have at least one Canadian NSE degree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selection Criteria and Weightings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Weight (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ability or Potential</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Interpersonal, and Leadership Abilities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where do you apply and when?

- **Apply through your current university** if:
  - You are currently registered at, or are on an approved leave of absence from, a Canadian university in a degree program

- **Apply through the university where you were registered** if:
  - You are not currently registered at a university or are registered, but not in a degree program, and you graduated from a degree program from a Canadian university during the calendar year in which you are applying

**Deadline:** verify with your university!

Apply **directly** to NSERC ONLY if:
- You are currently registered at a foreign university
- You are not currently registered at a university or are registered, but not in a degree program, and you graduated from a degree program prior to January of the year of application

**Deadline:** Applications must be received electronically by 8 PM (ET) on October 16

What happens to your PGS D application at the university?

- Your application is submitted electronically by the university deadline
- SLO gives read access to department/internal selection committee for their recommendation
- Internal selection committee selects applicants to fill NSERC quota
- University sends quota of applications electronically to NSERC
- University informs students of their results in the internal selection process

What happens to your PGS D application at NSERC?

- NSERC staff verify eligibility of applicant and proposed research
- Selection Committee members review applications
- Final ranked list is produced
- Top-ranked applicants are offered CGS D
- PGS D offered to next group of meritorious applicants
- Results are announced by email by the end of March

Scholarships and Fellowships Selection Committees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Earth Sciences</th>
<th>Evolution and Ecology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>Physics and Astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering</td>
<td>Chemical, Biomedical and Materials Science Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant and Animal Biology</td>
<td>Computing Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT:** The research subject code you select in your application will determine your Selection Committee.
PGS D / CGS D Application Statistics

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th># of Applications</th>
<th>Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CGS-MSFSS</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Open to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• registered at an eligible Canadian institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• have accepted or hold a CGS (Master’s or Doctoral) or Vanier CGS (if eligible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• must not have accepted a previous CGS-MSFSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| How to apply: | Applications are submitted through the University, within their assigned allocation |
| Duration:     | 3 to 6 months |

Foreign Study Supplements in Taiwan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Study Supplement in Taiwan</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Open to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAD $2,500 Contribution from NSERC TWD 41,000 from Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• you must hold an active NSERC postgraduate scholarship (PGS), Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) or Vanier CGS, or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• your academic supervisor must hold an active NSERC Discovery Grant, Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Grant or Strategic Partnership Grant, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• you must be pursuing studies in natural sciences or engineering or both.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| How to apply: | Apply directly to NSERC. Contact schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca for application form and instructions. Applications must be received at NSERC by February 1 each year. |
| Duration:     | 8 weeks (set dates) |

Aboriginal Ambassadors in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Award (AANSE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AANSE</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>To be eligible, you must:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• be a Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• be an Aboriginal person*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• be registered full-time in an NSE degree program at an eligible Canadian institution OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• be employed at an eligible institution as postdoctoral fellow in the NSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| How to apply: | No deadline; Apply minimum 2 months prior to your visit. Consult AANSE webpage. |
| Minimum average for students: | B or B- (or equivalent) over the last year (minimum 2 terms) |

* NSERC uses the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982 definition of Aboriginal peoples as including the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.
NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF)

| **PDF** | **Value and duration?** | • $45,000 per year for two years |
| **When and how to apply?** | • By 8 PM (ET) on October 16, 2017 |
| **Who can apply?** | • Canadian citizens |
| **Where can you hold the award?** | • Canadian universities |
| **What is the eligibility window?** | • PhD must have been completed after October 16, 2015 (some exceptions) |
| **When are awards announced?** | • Mid-January 2018 |

Selection Criteria and Weightings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Criterion</strong></th>
<th><strong>Weight (%)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Excellence</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Ability or Potential</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, Interpersonal, and Leadership Abilities</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** 100

NOTE: You can only apply once to the PDF program

What happens to your PDF application at NSERC?

NSERC staff verify eligibility of applicant and proposed research
Selection Committee members review applications
Top-ranked applicants are discussed at competition meeting (larger committees may pre-award some applications)
Final ranked list is produced
Results are announced in January

PDF Application Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th>Applications Received</th>
<th>Awards Offered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Success Rate:
- 2014: 20.7%
- 2015: 30.8%
- 2016: 31.1%
- 2017: 33.5%

Should you apply during or after your PhD?

χ² = 0.0858, p = .77

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships

| **Banting PDF** | **Value and duration?** | • $70,000 per year for two years |
| **When and how to apply?** | • By 8 PM (ET) on September 20, 2017 |
| **Who can apply?** | • Canadian citizens |
| **Where can you hold the award?** | • Canadian universities |
| **Selection Criteria?** (weighted equally) | • Research excellence and leadership in the research domain |

Banting PDF should be applied by 8 PM (ET) on September 20, 2017.
How to Apply

Completing Form 201 – Application for a Postgraduate Scholarship or a Postdoctoral Fellowship

Form 201 – Application Profile

Form 201 – Person Profile

Form 201 – Academic Background

Form 201 – Work Experience
Advice and Tips on Completing Form 201

Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship
Selection Committee Member Presentation and/or Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvUsRO9ZB8E

General (but important!) tips

- Read the Program Guide
- Read the Application Instructions
- Read the Selection Committee Guide

What makes a good research proposal?

- Write the proposal yourself
- Be as clear as possible
- Describe the objectives, hypothesis, experimental approach, methods, significance, etc.
- Clearly explain the significance to the NSERC
- Make your proposal understandable for the whole committee whose members will have a broad range of expertise
- Do not repeat info from the Thesis section (you can refer to it)
- Focus on what you will be working on during the tenure of the award
- Maximum of one page in length (including references)

Making sure your research and your program are eligible at NSERC

- NSERC supports research whose major challenges lie in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE), other than the health sciences
- Applications containing research proposals that are not eligible under these guidelines may be rejected
- Consult NSERC’s Eligibility Criteria for Students and Fellows (Guidelines and Addendum)
- You can only apply to one agency per academic year
- For doctoral and postdoctoral awards, NSERC does not support programs that include a professional component (i.e., MD/PhD)

Justifying the eligibility of your research

- Complete the Justification for Eligibility of Proposed Research section if your research has any potential overlap with health or social sciences
- This section is used by NSERC staff to determine the eligibility of your proposed research; it is not seen by the selection committees
- Use plain language to explain why you believe that your research is eligible at NSERC
- It should not be another description of your research project
- It should be a short explanation (a paragraph is fine, you do not need to use the whole page)
Contributions and applicant’s statement

- Part 1: Articles published, accepted, submitted
- Part 2: Most significant contributions to R&D
- Part 3: Applicant’s statement:
  - research experience
  - relevant activities
  - special circumstances

Page limits: PGS D – 2 pages / PDF – 4 pages
No updates accepted once application is submitted

Common mistakes when writing proposal / contributions / statement

- Lack of focus or coherence
- Repetitiveness
- Failure to cite important work in the area
- Failure to cite recent relevant work
- Citing too many irrelevant articles
- Relying too much on secondary sources (lack of understanding)
- Too much detail on minor issues; too little detail on major issues
- Research contributions not properly highlighted
- Impact / importance of research not explained

Transcripts

- Follow the transcript guidelines in the Form 201 Instructions; your application will be rejected if you have not followed these instructions
- Transcripts must be:
  - up-to-date
    dated or issued in the current fall session or after the last term during which you were registered (even if there are no grades or updates)
  - Official
    issued by the Registrar’s Office (not web transcripts)
  - included for each program listed under your Academic Background
- You are responsible for ensuring all transcripts have been uploaded according to the guidelines (even if your university does the uploading)

Reports on the Applicant

- Who should you ask to write your reports?
  - Your thesis supervisor
  - Another person familiar with your research and other abilities
  - Not your proposed supervisor (unless they are currently or have been your supervisor)
- How do you invite your referees to complete the reports?
  - Enter their names and email addresses in the online system; the system will send them an email with instructions
  - Invite them well in advance of the deadline; your application cannot be submitted without these reports

Where to get additional information?

- Resource videos on NSERC website:
  - Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship
  - Demystifying the review process for NSERC scholarships and fellowships
  - Program guides and application tutorials
- See NSERC website for other opportunities and supplements

Diversity and Gender Equity Initiatives at NSERC
What is gender equity?

- Fair process of allocating resources and decision making
- Measures necessary to eliminate discrimination and inequalities between women, men, and gender diverse people
- Equal opportunities
- Equity is a means. Equality is the result we are striving for

Diversity and gender equity as components of research excellence

- Studies have shown that research quality is improved when:
  - sex, gender, and diversity are taken into account in the experimental design
  - research teams are diverse
- “The goals of excellence and equity are both compatible and mutually supporting. Sound equity practices ensure that the largest pool of qualified candidates is accessed....”
  (Canada Research Chairs Peer Review Guidelines)

Commonly experienced barriers

- Multiple factors contribute to low % of women and under-represented populations in NSE
  - Few role models
  - Unconscious biases
  - Microaggressions
  - Stereotype threat
  - Gendered language
  - Assumed linearity of scientific career paths

NSERC initiatives that affect students and postdoctoral fellows

- Selection committees must have at least 20% women (30% by 2020)
- Members must complete gender equity training modules and references are encouraged to do so
- List of examples of activities demonstrating communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills expanded to include recognition for science promotion, outreach, volunteer work, coaching, clubs, civic engagement, etc.
- Parental leave policies
  - 6 month paid parental leave available (regardless of your eligibility for other paid parental leave)
  - part-time options available for parental and family responsibilities
  - extension of PDF eligibility window for parental leave
- Applicants are evaluated on their active period, excluding leaves
- Equity data of applicants will be collected to better inform policy and program decisions
- Applications from qualified Indigenous doctoral applicants may be submitted in addition to university quotas

Gender Summit 11

The Gender Summit links hundreds of delegates active in research and initiatives related to gender equity from around the globe. These action-based events aim to make gender equality the norm and to embed it as a primary dimension of quality in research and innovation.
Contact Information

- NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships
  schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
- Online Services Helpdesk
  webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
  (613) 995-4273
- SLO Enquiries
  schol-SLO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca