SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators

From: Tara Lock, Graduate Awards Officer (Internal), Graduate Awards Office

CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Luc De Nil, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid

Date: February 27, 2018

Re: 2017-2018 Governor General’s Gold Medals

When communicating award information to students, please be sure to include your graduate unit’s internal deadline, contact information and any additional application instructions.

Award Overview

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Graduate Unit’s Nomination Deadline to SGS:</th>
<th>April 5, 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Level of Study:</td>
<td>Master’s or Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Legal Status:</td>
<td>Domestic or International</td>
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<td>Results:</td>
<td>Mid-May 2018</td>
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Purpose

The Office of the Governor General annually awards gold medals students who achieve the highest academic standing at the graduate level. The assessment of highest academic standing includes an examination of the following:

- Academic performance in degree courses (first class average);
- Evaluation of the thesis and the thesis defense; and
- Originality and significance of the research.

Three gold medals are available at the University of Toronto.

One medal will be awarded to a candidate from Division I or II; one medal will be awarded to a candidate from Division III or IV; the third medal will be awarded to an outstanding candidate from any division. All nominees will be invited to attend the awards ceremony in May, hosted by the Dean, Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education. The winners will be announced and presented with the medals at this ceremony.

Eligibility

The candidate must have graduated or will graduate at one of the following convocations:

- November 2017
- March 2018 (in absentia)
- June 2018

Students must submit their final thesis by April 20, 2018 to be eligible to graduate at the June Convocation.
Nomination Process

Each graduate unit is invited to nominate their very best graduate, either at the master’s or doctoral level, for this prestigious award.

Nominees will be asked to submit one PDF file of their entire application (items 2-5 in the order below) to their graduate unit by the unit’s established deadline.

The nomination package will include the following documents:

1. A nomination letter (on letterhead, signed and dated), preferably from the Department Chair or Graduate Coordinator, describing the reasons for the nomination and why the candidate should be recognized for their outstanding scholastic achievements – to be provided and attached by the nominating graduate unit;
   Updated: Using strong and positive language, this letter should focus on:
   - The nominee’s outstanding level of achievement compared to other students in the same program, including information relevant to the field of study, degree or culture of the department (e.g. publishing norms, degree requirements, grading practices at specific international universities, unusual accomplishments) that would otherwise not be known outside the field of study;
   - Factors used to determine why the student is deserving of this award, clearly articulating the excellence of the work and how it makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline.

2. Current graduate transcript(s) (ACORN/ROSI printouts are acceptable);
3. Curriculum vitae (no page restrictions), including a list of publications, presentations and awards;
4. New: For research stream students:
   - An abstract of the thesis in non-technical language not exceeding 350 words, written and signed by the candidate. Appendices containing non-textual material, such as charts or tables, are not required (committee members will not be reviewing the appended items); and
   - A statement written by the candidate summarizing the thesis in non-technical language that can be understood by individuals outside the field, and clearly addressing how the research represents original work that makes a significant contribution to the discipline (max 1 page single spaced);
5. For doctoral nominations only: A copy of the external examiner’s pre-defence report signed and dated by the examiner (or authenticated upon submission to SGS).

Contact and Resources

If you have questions about this competition, please refer to the SGS Awards website or contact:

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