SGS Award Announcement

To: Canada Graduate Scholarship Holders
From: Mandy Fung, Graduate Awards Officer (Federal), 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: December 13, 2017
Re: 2017-18 Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements for CGS Award Holders – Third call for CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC submissions

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) has received notice that, following the June 2017 and October 2017 competitions, CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC will be holding a third competition in February 2018, for the 2017-18 Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS).

Award Overview

Student Deadline: January 19, 2018
Value/Duration: Up to $6,000 to fund 3-6 months of travel
Level of study: Master’s or Doctoral
Eligibility: CGS award holders (CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC)
Required Legal Status: Canadian citizen or permanent resident
Where to apply: SGS Graduate Awards Office

Purpose

The Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS) Program supports high calibre Canadian graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions abroad. By accessing international scientific research and training, CGS-MSFSS recipients will contribute to strengthening the potential for collaboration between Canadian universities and affiliated research institutions and universities, or other research institutions outside of Canada. A total of 250 awards are available Canada-wide each year. The current distribution of supplements among the three agencies is: 125 for SSHRC, 80 for NSERC, and 45 for CIHR.

Eligibility to Apply

In order to be eligible, you must:

1. have accepted or hold one of the following awards:
   - Canadian Graduate Scholarship-Master’s (CGS M);
   - CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Doctoral Award (CGS D);
   - NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Doctoral (CGS D);
   - SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral (CGS D); or
   - Vanier CGS

2. depart for your proposed trip abroad:
   - after the CGS-MSFSS federal competition close date (February 2, 2018); and
   - within one year of receiving the notice of award for the CGS-MSFSS; but
To remain eligible, successful recipients must:

1. hold an active CGS award at the time your research study abroad period starts;
2. be registered full time in a graduate research studies program at a Canadian institution for the duration of the research study period abroad; and
3. return to complete the degree in Canada

Complete program details are available on the respective websites (see below under Contacts and Resources).

Application Process

Applicants must submit their completed application in hard-copy to the Graduate Awards Office (63 St. George St., 2nd Floor). Applicants are encouraged to visit the SGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements webpage for additional information on the application process. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.** Each application package must contain the following items:

1. **Application Forms**
   
   The MSFSS application should be obtained from the website of the granting agency from which you received your CGS award. A signed, printed copy must be submitted to the Graduate Awards Office (63 St. George St., 2nd Floor). The application must bear the original ink signature on the front page. No other formats will be accepted. Applications received by email or fax will not be accepted.

   **For SSHRC only:** Applicants must complete the web-based application form available on the SSHRC website, which will generate an application number. A signed, printed copy must also be submitted to the Graduate Awards Office for consideration. No other formats will be accepted.

   **Budget Proposal:** The supplement covers costs associated with travel (such as accommodation, meals, tuition, insurance and other necessary, non-research-related costs) during the research study period abroad. Costs directly related to the research must be covered by other funding sources.

   **Note:** Students are to include only eligible expenses in the “Proposed Expenditures” section of the MSFSS Application form (as above). If there is a need to identify other ineligible expenses in your application, (e.g. visa fees, participant fees, and local transportation expenses), you may list these under the “Other Travel Related Expenses” section. However, **they will be excluded** when determining your grant value.

2. **Intended Research Plan**
   
   The Research Plan should be a maximum **two page description (this includes all references and citations) of**:
   
   - the intended research activities during the research study period abroad (including objectives, methodology, timelines and expected outcomes);
   - an indication of how this relates to the applicant’s main graduate research topic; and
   - a description of the potential benefits to be derived from working at, or attending, the host institution in relation to current research objectives
Applicants are encouraged to review the selection criteria on the granting agency websites before preparing a research plan. CGS Master’s and CGS Vanier recipients must also include a copy of their current CGS Research Proposal.

3. Two Signed Letters of Support

*Letters must be submitted in signed and sealed envelopes, or emailed or faxed directly from the Supervisor to the Graduate Awards Office with “MSFSS Letter of Support” in the subject line.*

Letters may only be a maximum of one page in length, submitted on official letterhead and signed. Any translations must be performed by a certified translator.

   a) **The letter from the current U of T Supervisor** must include a justification or explanation as to why this research travel is required to complete the applicant’s thesis or dissertation.

   b) **The letter from the host Supervisor** must come directly from the host Supervisor. A letter of admissions as a visiting scholar is not sufficient. Additionally, this letter must detail any resources they will be able to provide - e.g. supervising time, equipment, access to labs, libraries, etc., and any additional financial support. Non-academic host supervisors must demonstrate that they have experience supervising graduate student research.

4. Consent Form

All applicants are required to submit a signed copy of the Consent to Disclose Personal Information form. Please find the document at the following sites:


**Results**

SGS will notify all applicants of the results of the University competition prior to the Tri-agency application deadline. Decisions regarding the national competition are usually announced within three months of the competition deadline directly to students by the granting agency.

**Contact and Resources**

For more information, please contact the Graduate Awards Office, at [mandyws.fung@utoronto.ca](mailto:mandyws.fung@utoronto.ca) or the council administering your CGS award (for NSERC and SSHRC inquiries, be sure to include the subject line MSFSS in your email).

**NSERC**
CGS-MSFSS Scholarships and Fellowships Division NSERC
Tel.: 613-995-5521
Email: [schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
**NSERC Website**: [NSERC CGS - Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Program](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/doc/Students-Etudiants/GS-MSFSS_TCForm_e.pdf)

**CIHR**
CGS-MSFSS Research Capacity Development CIHR
Tel.: 613-954-1968
Email: [CGSMSFSS@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:CGSMSFSS@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)
**CIHR Website**: [CIHR CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/applicant_consent_form_fillable_e.pdf)

**SSHRC**
CGS-MSFSS Research Training Portfolio SSHRC