



SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Deans; 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: December 4, 2017
Re: **2018-2019 Connaught International Scholarships for Doctoral Students**

This announcement is for internal purposes only and should not be posted on websites external to the University.

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Graduate Unit:	Date set by graduate unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:	February 1, 2018 (revised)
Value & Duration:	\$35,000 per year (total of 4 – 5 years)
Level of Study:	Doctoral
Required Legal Status:	International (at time of nomination)
Results:	Early March 2018

Purpose

The Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students is a cost-sharing initiative designed to assist graduate units in recruiting and supporting top international doctoral students.

Value & Duration

The scholarship is designed to bridge the difference in funding from each program's normal [base funding](#) (at the domestic rate) to that of \$35,000.

- The effective value to each recipient will be \$35,000.00 total (including tuition). The Connaught is renewable on an annual basis and may be held for four to five years, depending on the standard period of the [program's base funding](#), provided the student maintains good academic standing and continues to meet recipient eligibility requirements;
- The program has been designed to be cost-shared between the [Connaught Fund](#) and U of T's graduate units. The [Connaught Fund](#) bridges the difference from the [program's funding](#) at the domestic rate to that of \$35,000; and
- The graduate unit will provide the program's funding at the domestic rate, which may be provided to the recipient in the form of an award such as a University of Toronto Fellowship (UTF), on-campus employment (e.g., teaching assistantships), and/or research assistantships.

Below is an example of the award calculation:

Top-up amount = "\$35,000 - Unit's normal funding commitment for this program (at the domestic rate)"

Grad Unit Contribution		Connaught Fund Contribution	Effective Award Value
Tuition (domestic rate) + Incidentals	Program's Base Funding	Top-up amount	
\$8,480.14	+ \$17,000.00	+ \$9,519.86	= \$35,000.00

After fees have been paid, the balance received by the scholar will be approximately \$26,519.86.

Eligibility

Each nominee must:

- be a new international admission applicant (Citizens and permanent residents of Canada are ineligible);
- not have been previously registered in a degree program at the University of Toronto (no exceptions);
- have been or will be offered admission to a full-time doctoral or doctoral-stream* program with [a funding commitment](#); and
- have achieved an A- average in each of the last two years of full-time study;
- begin their program in September of 2018-19 academic year.

* Nominees who will begin as master's students in a doctoral-stream program must transfer to the graduate units' doctoral program within the standard reclassification time period without obtaining the master's degree (max. 24 months). The Connaught does not support the attainment of a master's degree.

Recipients:

- must register and remain registered as a full-time student (a change in registration status may result in suspension or termination of payments and/or returning funds already received);
- must maintain an A- average, and be making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degree as determined by their graduate unit in order to maintain the award;
- may not hold other major awards (greater than \$15,000 in value) while holding the Connaught. Awards of \$15,000 or less will be applied towards the graduate unit's portion of the Connaught funding; and
- transitioning to permanent residency status once the award has been granted will continue to be eligible for the balance of their renewable scholarship. Transitioning does not affect the awardee's eligibility to continue holding the award.

Nomination/Application Process

Units should nominate applicants to whom they have provided or expect to provide an offer of admission.

NEW: Each graduate unit is invited to submit nominations based on the number of **international** doctoral admissions applications.

Number of International doctoral admissions applications received for 2017-18:

1 to 20:	1 nomination
21 to 100:	2 nominations
101 to 200:	3 nominations
201 plus:	4 nominations

Nomination Package

The nomination package for each nominee should be scanned as a single PDF-file, containing all application materials in the order listed below and submitted electronically via the "SGSDrive" Secure File Exchange System.

A complete nomination package includes:

- A nominating letter from the graduate unit highlighting the strengths of the nominee (1-2 pages; template provided by SGS). This letter will be used in conjunction with the other materials to assess the application. Using strong and positive language, this letter should focus on:

- 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 discipline; and
- Factors used to determine why the student is deserving of a Connaught. Clearly articulate the excellence of the candidate according to the selection criteria of academic excellence, and research, communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities (potential and demonstrated)
- Copies (both sides) of all academic transcripts – legend must be included;
- Letter of Intent or Research Proposal (may be from the candidate’s admission file);
- Two letters of reference (letters may be from the candidate’s admission file); and
- Nominee’s C.V. (no page restriction).

Submission to SGS

1. Enter the nominees’ information into the attached Nomination Spreadsheet and save as an Excel document into your unit’s “SGSDrive” folder;
2. Scan each nomination package and save it as a single PDF to your unit’s “SGSDrive” folder (please use file naming convention of: “Last name – Connaught2018”); and
3. Email tara.lock@utoronto.ca to confirm that your unit’s nominations are ready to be picked up

Within 24 hours, the Graduate Awards Office will provide confirmation by email that your nominations have been received via the “SGSDrive”. Please be sure to follow-up with the designated awards officer in the absence of email confirmation.

Results

Shortly after communicating the results to units in early March:

- SGS will provide the graduate unit with an official award offer addressed to the successful candidate, including the terms and conditions of the scholarship for distribution to the applicant;
- To accept the scholarship, the applicants must provide the graduate unit with **written acceptance** of both the units’ offer of admission and of the Connaught Scholarship **within two weeks** of the award offer letter date;
- The graduate unit will **notify SGS** of the applicants’ response (both accepted and declined offers); and
- If an award offer is declined, SGS will offer the scholarship to the next highest ranked candidate on the SGS reversion list (i.e. graduate units may not reallocate an offer within their own department).

Contacts & Resources

Please direct all questions regarding the competition or nomination process to:

Tara Lock
 Graduate Awards Officer (Internal)
 School of Graduate Studies
tara.lock@utoronto.ca
 (416) 978-2386