SGS Award Announcement

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

From: Stacey Kwan, Awards Officer (Provincial), 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: October 31, 2017

Re: 2018-2019 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Domestic)

When communicating this information to students, please include your graduate unit’s information, such as your internal deadline and contact-information.

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Graduate Unit: Date set by Graduate Unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS: June 1, 2018
Value/Duration: $5,000 per session for 2 or 3 consecutive sessions
Level of study: Master’s or Doctoral
Required Legal Status: Domestic Students (Canadian citizen, permanent resident, protected persons)
Results: July 2018

Purpose

The Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program encourages excellence in graduate studies at publicly-assisted universities in Ontario. Since 1975, the OGS program has been providing merit-based scholarships to Ontario’s best graduate students in all disciplines of academic study. The scholarship program at U of T is jointly funded by the Province of Ontario and the University of Toronto. The Province allocates OGS awards to universities specifying the number of awards that each may offer to their students annually.

Indigenous Scholar Awards

If an OGS applicant is Indigenous to Canada (recognized in the Constitution Act, 1982 as a person who identifies with First nations (Status/Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit) the University may consider the applicant for one of two (2) Ontario Graduate Scholarship Indigenous Scholar Awards. With the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD), the University created the Indigenous Scholar Awards with the aim to recognize excellence and promote equitable access and participation in the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program by Indigenous applicants.

Eligibility to Apply
To be eligible to apply, applicants must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, Permanent Resident, or Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) by the student deadline as determined by each graduate unit;
- Be registered or intend to register in an eligible program on a full-time basis in 2018-2019;
  - An eligible program is defined as a full-time program of study of two or three terms at the University of Toronto leading to a graduate degree. A full-time student is one who is in at least 60% of a full course load (40% for students with a permanent disability) or as defined by their institution;
- Have not exceeded the lifetime maximum of government-funded support or maximum OGS support available for their current level of study (see website under maximum support); and
- Have achieved at least A- (or equivalent) in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent); or if the student has completed two years of graduate studies at the time of application, the student must only demonstrate an overall average of at least A- (or equivalent) on all graduate courses completed.

Note: If marks used for calculating an applicant's grade point average (GPA) are not available (e.g. courses were graded on a pass-fail basis), then the next most recent available undergraduate or graduate marks should be used to determine eligibility.

To be eligible to hold the OGS, recipients:

- Must register and remain enrolled as a full-time student at U of T in an eligible program at the graduate unit from which the OGS was awarded;
- Who withdraw, transfer to part-time status, complete degree requirements prior to the end of their award, or fail to complete the full term, will be required to repay any funds received for the incomplete term;
- Must be in good standing with the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Applicants who have defaulted on a Canada or Ontario Student Loan, or have failed to make satisfactory repayment on a loan overpayment, are ineligible to receive the award. Students who have never applied for OSAP are in good standing. Those with an OSAP restriction may still apply for the OGS. However, if awarded, they must have the restriction cleared within 30 days of notification in order to accept and hold the award;
- May accept research assistantships, part-time teaching positions, or other paid employment that does not affect their status as a full-time graduate student and is commensurate with the graduate unit policies. Typically, students holding full-time paid employment are not eligible to receive an OGS from the University of Toronto; and
- Cannot hold an OGS award at the same time (or during any session) as a scholarship from SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, QEII-GSST.

Application Process

Applicants must submit an OGS application to their proposed graduate unit using the U of T OGS Online Application. Each graduate unit will have their own internal submission deadline to which applicants must adhere.

OGS awards are not transferrable from one graduate unit to another. Therefore prospective students must submit an OGS application to each graduate unit to which they are applying for admission.

Once completed and submitted online, the entire application will be available to the proposed graduate unit(s) for review and consideration.

Results

Graduate unit adjudication results must be updated on the OGS application system by graduate units by June 1, 2018. Official award offers will be sent out by SGS in July 2018.

Contacts & Resources

For more information, visit the SGS OGS webpage
Please direct questions regarding the OGS competition or nomination process to your graduate unit. Questions of a general nature or regarding the administration of the award at SGS may be directed to:

Stacey Kwan
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ogs@utoronto.ca