SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Stacey Kwan, Graduate 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 16, 2017
Re: 2018-2019 Ontario Women's Health Scholars Award

Award Overview

Student Deadline: December 1, 2017*
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS: December 8, 2017
Value/Duration:
- Master's - $25,000 plus $1,000 research allowance
- Doctoral - $35,000 plus $2,000 research allowance
- Postdoctoral - $50,000 plus $5,000 research allowance
Level of Study: Master's, Doctoral or Postdoctoral
Required Legal Status: Domestic (Canadian citizens or permanent residents)
Results: April 2018 by agency

*Applicants must submit their application to their graduate unit, not the Dean of Graduate Studies as the COU announcement indicates

Purpose

The Ontario Women's Health Scholars Awards Program is administered by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and was established with the support of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to ensure that Ontario attracts and retains pre-eminent women’s health scholars. The Ontario Women’s Health Scholars Awards Program aims to establish a research community that meets or exceeds internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence in its creation of new knowledge about women’s health and its translation into improved health for women, more effective health services and products for women, and a strengthened health care system.

Eligibility to Apply

- To be eligible for an Ontario Women’s Health Scholars award, an applicant must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada as of January 31, 2018.
- To be eligible for a master's or doctoral award, applicants must be registered full-time in a master's or doctoral graduate program at an Ontario university at the time of taking up the award (i.e., fall 2018), and must remain registered full-time throughout the entire duration of the award. Master's students remain eligible to the end of their sixth term of full-time study, and doctoral students to the end of their 15th term of full-time study.
- To be eligible for a postdoctoral award, applicants must be engaged in full-time research at an Ontario university at the time of taking up the award (i.e., September 1, 2018), and must have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree by January 31, 2018 and normally no earlier than January 31, 2015. In
cases where an applicant completed all requirements for a doctoral degree before this date, an explanation (e.g., childrearing responsibilities after graduation) must accompany the application for the delay in application.

- While holding an Ontario Women’s Health Scholars Award, a recipient is precluded from holding any other major award.
- Publications of any kind, written or oral, related to the research undertaken by a recipient while holding an Ontario Women’s Scholars Award shall acknowledge the support of the work from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care with the following notation:
  “The Ontario Women’s Health Scholars Award is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care”.
This acknowledgement shall precede all similar acknowledgements of financial support for the work of equal or lesser amounts, and shall also indicate that the views expressed in the publication are the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

Application Process

All applicants must be sponsored and endorsed by the Dean of Graduate Studies at the Ontario university at which they are undertaking graduate study or postdoctoral research. (Applicants do not need to obtain the Dean’s signature or endorsement when submitting the application. The Graduate Awards Office will provide this endorsement to those applications selected by SGS to put forth to COU).

Applicants must submit to their graduate unit (not Dean of Graduate Studies) an electronic copy (PDF) of the following documents:

1. The completed application form – attached, and available from: http://cou.on.ca/about/chairs-and-awards/ontario-womens-health-scholars-awards
2. A curriculum vitae – no page restrictions (must include information concerning the eligibility criteria);
3. A statement of research written by the candidate (maximum 1,000 words);
4. A non-technical summary written by the candidate (maximum 500 words);

An application for a master’s or a doctoral award must also include

- The applicant’s undergraduate and (if appropriate) graduate transcripts, which may be either
  o Official transcripts sent directly by the Registrar’s office of the issuing university, or
  o Copies verified and certified as accurate by the Registrar’s office of the Ontario university where the applicant is currently registered as a student; and
- Confidential letters of appraisal of the applicant from two assessors***

An application for a postdoctoral award must also include

- Confidential letters of appraisals of the applicant from four assessors***, of whom two
  o Must not have been associated with the applicant as a supervisor, a member of the applicant’s supervisory committee, or a co-author; and
  o Are, if at all possible, not at the university at which the applicant as a doctoral student.

***The letters of appraisal should focus on an evaluation of the applicant’s research to date, and the research the applicant proposes to undertake during the graduate or postdoctoral period, paying particular attention to the criteria for selection described below.

The applicant must ask for the appraisals to be emailed directly from the referee to the Graduate Administrator at the graduate unit/department by the student deadline (December 1, 2017).

Renewals

Current award holders should visit the following website for information regarding their eligibility for renewing their award and the renewal application form: http://cou.on.ca/about/chairs-and-awards/ontario-womens-health-scholars-awards

Evaluation Criteria

Applicants for master’s and doctoral awards will be assessed on their talent, the excellence of their work, the vision that they bring to their endeavours, and the impact that the committee expects to result from the applicant’s work, as indicated by:
• The program of study and research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge about women's health;
• Past academic results, demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;
• Relevant professional and academic experience, including research training, as evidenced by papers presented at conferences and the applicant’s publication record;
• Written letters of appraisal; and
• The appropriateness of the choice of institution and supervising investigator.

Applicants for postdoctoral awards will be assessed on their talent, the excellence of their work, the vision that they bring to their endeavours, and the impact that they foresee resulting from their work, as indicated by:
• The program of study and research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge about women’s health;
• The degree of originality and expected contribution to the advancement of knowledge about women's health;
• Significance of the research for women’s health, understood to encompass scholarly or intellectual significance as well as social and cultural significance;
• The suitability of theoretical perspectives;
• The appropriateness and expected effectiveness of the research strategies or methodologies;
• The suitability and expected effectiveness of plans to communicate research results both within, and, as appropriate, beyond, the academic community;
• Where appropriate, the nature and extent of research training;
• Written letters of appraisal; and
• The appropriateness of the choice of institution and supervising investigator.

Results

The SGS Graduate Awards Office will notify those forwarded to SGS the University competition results in late January. The Council of Ontario Universities will announce the Ontario competition results in April.

Contacts & Resources

Please direct all questions regarding the Ontario Women’s Health Scholars Awards competition or nomination process to:

Stacey Kwan
Graduate Awards Officer (Provincial),
Phone: 416-978-2205
staceym.kwan@utoronto.ca
SGS OWHSA webpage

COU Inquiries
Phone: 416-979-2165, extension 235
ExecDirectorQA@cou.on.ca
COU OWHSA webpage