SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Stacey Kwan, Graduate Awards Officer (Provincial), Graduate Awards Office
CC: Luc De Nil, Acting Dean, Graduate Studies and Acting Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Charmaine Williams, Acting Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid
Date: October 3, 2018
Re: 2019-2020 Autism Scholars Award

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

Award Overview

Student Deadline to SGS: December 1, 2018*
Value/Duration:
- Master’s - $18,000
- Doctoral - $20,000
Level of Study: Master’s or Doctoral
Required Legal Status: Domestic (Canadian citizens or permanent residents)
Results: April 2019 by agency

* Applicants are to submit their application directly to SGS Graduate Awards Office not their graduate unit (or the Dean of Graduate Studies as the COU announcement indicates).

Purpose

The Autism Scholars Awards Program was established with the support of the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development to ensure that Ontario attracts and retains pre-eminent scholars studying autism. The Autism Scholars Awards Program aims to establish a research community that meets or exceeds internationally accepted standards of scientific excellence, in the creation of new knowledge concerning child autism, and its translation into improved health for children through more effective services and products for children with autism, and thereby adds to the province’s capacity in diagnosis and assessment of autism and the quality of its treatment system.

Eligibility to Apply

- To be eligible to receive an award, an applicant must be
  - A Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada as of January 31, 2019; and
  - Registered as a full-time student in a master’s or doctoral program at an Ontario university at the beginning of the award period (Fall 2019) and remain registered as a full-time student throughout the entire duration of the award.
- A master’s student remains eligible until the end of the sixth term of full-time study;
- A doctoral student remains eligible until the end of the 15th term of full-time study; and
- While holding an Autism Scholars Award, the recipient is precluded from holding any other award with a value of more than $20,000 for that same academic year (subject to the university’s own policies).

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 (the Graduate Awards Office will provide this endorsement to those applications put forth to COU). Therefore, potential graduate students should only apply through the Ontario University where they intend to hold the award.

Each applicant must submit to the Graduate Awards Office an electronic copy of the following documents in pdf format by December 1, 2018:

1. The completed application form – attached, and available from: http://cou.on.ca/about/awards/autism-scholars/;
2. 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);
5. Official or certified copies of all undergraduate and graduate transcripts are required. ROSI print-outs will not be accepted; and
6. Confidential letters from two assessors (emailed directly from the assessor to staceym.kwan@utoronto.ca before December 1, 2018). Letters should focus on an evaluation of the applicant’s research to date, and the research proposed to be undertaken during the graduate period.

Application packages must have all required materials submitted by the deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

**Evaluation Criteria**

Master’s and doctoral applications 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 measure by:

- The program of study and research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge about autism;
- 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 candidate’s publication record;
- Written letters of appraisal; and
- Appropriateness of the choice of institution and supervising investigator.

**Results**

Results will be announced by the Council of Ontario Universities in April 2019.

**Contacts & Resources**

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

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

COU Inquiries  
Phone: 416-979-2165, extension 235  
SeniorDirectorQA@cou.on.ca  
COU Autism Scholars webpage