SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Deans; Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Fong Di Caterina, Manager, Graduate Awards
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: August 28, 2018
Re: 2019-2020 SSHRC Doctoral Awards Competition

Graduate unit instructions and quota information will be sent separately in October.

Award Overview

Student Submission Deadline: Date set by graduate unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS: November 1, 2018
Value/Duration: CGS D - $35,000 per year for 36 months
SSHRC Fellowship - $20,000 per year for 12 to 48 months
Level of study: Doctoral
Required Legal Status: Domestic (Canadian citizen or permanent resident)
Results: Late April 2019; provided to applicants by SSHRC via Canada Post

Purpose

SSHRC offers two types of funding for doctoral students:

- SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships; and
- Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS): Doctoral Scholarships.

Through these scholarships, SSHRC aims to develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in undergraduate and graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities.

Eligibility to Apply

To qualify to apply for both the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships funding opportunities, applicants must:

- be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the time the application is submitted;
- be pursuing doctoral studies in the social sciences or humanities;
- not have already received a scholarship or fellowship from SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR to undertake or complete a doctoral degree or combined MA/PhD;
- not have exceeded the allowable number of months already spent in doctoral study, as set out in the Value and Duration section of the SSHRC website. New: In calculating the value and duration of awards, SSHRC includes all studies counted toward the graduate degree/program for which funding is requested; and
- not be applying in the 2018-19 academic year to NSERC or CIHR for a fellowship or scholarship.
*NEW* for 2019-20 – be applying for support to pursue a first PhD (or equivalent) is no longer an eligibility criterion.

At the time of application, applicants need not be assured of admission to a degree program.

**Combined MA/PhD, Fast Track and Direct Entry PhD Programs**

- If you are or will be registered in a combined MA/PhD, fast track (accelerating from a master's program into a doctoral program without obtaining the master's degree) or direct entry PhD program, and have completed between 0 and 12 months of graduate-level study by December 31, 2018, you may be eligible to apply for a CGS Master's Scholarship.
- If you are currently registered in a combined MA/PhD, fast track or direct entry PhD program, and have or will have completed more than 12 months or more of graduate-level study by December 31, 2018, you may only apply to the Doctoral Awards funding opportunity.
- **REMINDER:** the first 12 months of a combined MA/PhD degree are counted as doctoral studies when calculating award eligibility, value and duration.

Please see the [SSHRC website](https://www.SSHRC.ca) for complete eligibility requirements.

1) **Degree Programs**

Doctoral Awards are tenable only in degree programs that include significant original, autonomous research that leads to the completion of a dissertation, major scholarly publication, performance, recital and/or exhibit that, as a requirement for completion of the program, is merit reviewed at the institutional level.

2) **Subject Matter**

Applicants whose subject matter has a link, overlap, or future application to health (in particular studying a disease population, therapy or health systems), should send SSHRC a one page summary of their research proposal in advance of submitting an application to seek clarification or a written ruling. SSHRC typically responds to these types of inquiries within 3-4 business days. Applicants are encouraged to review SSHRC’s website, which has additional information and some examples relating to subject matter eligibility.

SSHRC applicants working in research areas where boundaries overlap or are interdisciplinary are strongly advised to write a compelling justification in their application as to why they believe their proposal is appropriate for support by SSHRC. Note, the use of social sciences or humanities theories, methodologies and hypotheses is, in and of itself, not sufficient to make a proposal eligible for SSHRC funding.

Applications submitted to SSHRC that would be more appropriately evaluated by CIHR or NSERC will be deemed ineligible and removed from the competition.

**NEW:** Applicants may apply to both the Vanier CGS program and another doctoral-level scholarship/fellowship program (e.g. SSHRC doctoral) under the same or different federal granting agency in the same academic year, provided that the research proposed in each application falls within the mandate of the federal granting agency to which the application is submitted. For more information, please refer to the [Vanier website](https://www.vanier兄加拿大).  

**Application Process**

Applicants registered in any U of T degree program (including those at the master's level) during the fall of the application year, or on an approved leave of absence from the University must complete the web-based application form, print, sign and submit a completed paper application to their current/proposed U of T graduate unit. Applications submitted directly to SSHRC from registered U of T students will be rendered ineligible. All other applicants, e.g. those who are convocating in the fall and are not registered in any degree program, should apply directly to SSHRC.

A SSHRC Doctoral Awards application consists of the following documents:

1. Completed online Doctoral Award application form
2. Program of Study (maximum 2 pages)
3. Bibliography and Citations (maximum 5 pages)
4. Research Contributions (if applicable, maximum 1 page)
5. Supplement and/or Joint or Special Initiative Justification pages (if applicable, maximum 1 page per justification)
6. Allowable Inclusions (if applicable, maximum 1 page)
7. Letter to Confirm Part-Time Study and/or Leave of Absence (if applicable, maximum 1 page)
8. All undergraduate and graduate level transcripts
9. Letters of Appraisal (2 letters, in sealed envelopes; must be on SSHRC’s 1 page template, additional pages not accepted)
10. Departmental Appraisal
11. Completed Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information form

All required attachments including original or certified/validated copies of up to date transcripts must be provided with the application printout as additional pages (formatted according to SSHRC specifications). Certification/validation may be performed by the graduate unit. Up-to-date transcripts are defined as transcripts dated or issued in the fall session of the year of application (if registered) or after the last term completed (if not currently registered). Web-based, faxed or photocopied transcripts are not accepted.

NEW: Collection of Self-Identification Data:
Beginning in August 2018, SSHRC (in coordination with NSERC and CIHR) are asking all applicants to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, disability and visible minority status. A harmonized self-identification data collection process allows the granting agencies to monitor the equity performance of its programs and design new measures that achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise. Completing the new self-identification form will be mandatory for applicants and co-applicants but for each category there is an option “I prefer not to answer.”

NEW: Applicants who are Indigenous [First Nations (North American Indian - Status and Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit] are encouraged to self-identify their status on their SSHRC Doctoral application form as universities are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota to the national competition. In order to be considered for this, Indigenous applicants are asked to select the “Option for Self-Identified Indigenous Applicants” in the Identification section of the online application form. Once completed, this information will be displayed on Page 1 of the application form. Self-identification data are not seen or used by SSHRC’s selection committee members or by the applicant’s references.

Additionally, Indigenous applicants may also complete an allowable inclusion to explain any special circumstances that may have delayed their academic career (e.g., cultural or community responsibilities, and/or challenging socio-economic contexts). This information should be taken into account by selection committee members.

NEW: Applicants may identify a proposed program of study as Indigenous research, such that SSHRC’s Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research will apply.

Results
The SGS Graduate Awards Office will notify those who were forwarded to SGS the University competition results in mid-December. The results of the national competition are communicated directly by SSHRC via Canada Post in late-April/early-May 2019.

Contacts and Resources
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SSHRC Inquiries
SSHRC Doctoral Awards Website
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