SGS Award Announcement

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

From: Olivera Joksimovic, Graduate Awards Officer, Graduate Awards Office

CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Charmaine Williams, Acting Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid

Date: April 1, 2019
Re: 2019 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award

When communicating this announcement to students, please include information specific to your graduate unit’s internal competition (e.g. internal deadline(s), contact information for the submission of the applications).

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Graduate Unit: Date set by Graduate Unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS: May 31, 2019
Value: $2,000
Level of Study: Doctoral
Required Legal Status: Domestic or International
Results: Fall 2019

Purpose

The CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards are made annually to individuals who, in the opinion of the award committee, have completed dissertations representing original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. Both methodological and substantive quality will be judged. One recipient from each category is selected annually from nominations across Canada and the U.S. The 2019 fields of competition are:

- **Biological Sciences.** The following list, although not all-inclusive, illustrates the field considered as Biological Sciences: biology; botany; zoology; ecology; embryology; entomology; genetics; nutrition; plant pathology; plant physiology; anatomy; biochemistry; biophysics; microbiology; pathology; pharmacology; physiology; and related fields. Also included are agriculture, forestry, and related fields. If the dissertation is multi- or interdisciplinary in nature, at least one of these fields should comprise a significant portion of the work.

- **Humanities and Fine Arts.** The following list, although not all-inclusive, illustrates the fields considered as Humanities and Fine Arts: history; philosophy; language; linguistics; literature; archaeology; jurisprudence; the history, theory and criticism of the arts; ethics; comparative religion; and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches. If the dissertation is multi- or interdisciplinary in nature, at least one of these fields should comprise a significant portion of the work.

Value

An award of $2,000 and a certificate of recognition will be presented to each of the two recipients at the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon on December 5, 2019 in Nashville, TN. Reasonable travel expenses of the recipients will be covered.
Eligibility

Candidates must:

- Demonstrate work (through their dissertation) that makes unusually significant contribution to the discipline. Both methodological and substantive quality will be judged.
- Candidates must have completed all doctoral degree requirements and have had their dissertation accepted by SGS during the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 inclusive.

Application Process

Applicants must submit one PDF file of their entire application (in the order below) to their graduate unit by the unit’s established deadline. Applicants from doctoral collaborative programs should submit the application to their home graduate unit.

The application will include the following documents:

1) Abstract of the dissertation, not exceeding 10 double-spaced pages on 8-1/2”x11” white paper. In addition, appendices containing non-textual material, such as charts or tables, may be included. All pages should be numbered and each should bear the name of the nominee;
2) A statement written by the applicant summarizing the dissertation in non-technical language that can be understood by individuals outside the field, and clearly addressing how the research represents original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline (max. 1 page single-spaced);
3) The nominee’s brief CV (including professional background, publications and honors) not to exceed five pages. The pages should be numbered and each should bear the name of the nominee. Only updates on previously submitted manuscripts (i.e. accepted or published) on CV are permitted after submission to SGS;
4) Three (3) original letters of recommendation (signed and on letterhead) evaluating the quality, and describing how the dissertation represents original work which makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. It is recommended that these letters also communicate the nominee’s outstanding level of achievement in research compared to other students in the same program or whom the referee has encountered in the past. The letters are to be written by:
   a. The nominee’s dissertation supervisor;
   b. A member of the nominee’s dissertation committee; and
   c. A person of the nominee’s choice.

Results

CGS/ProQuest nominees will be notified of the SGS review results by SGS in early July. CGS/ProQuest will announce the winners of the CGS competition in December. Only the winners and the nominating deans will be notified of the outcomes of the competition prior to the Awards Luncheon.

Contacts & Resources

For complete program information please refer to the CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award website.

For inquiries regarding the nomination process, please contact:

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