Scholarships and Awards: when to start, where to start?

Alice Brummell
Coordinator, Student support and Financial Aid
School of Graduate Studies
Financial Aid & Advising
SGS Graduate Awards Office

The Graduate Awards Office (GAO) at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) provides administrative support for a wide range of scholarship and award programs.

http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Financing-Your-Graduate-Education.aspx
Contacts - Award Inquiries

**Tara Lock** - Awards Officer, Internal
Conference Grant, Trudeau, University- Wide Awards, ROSI Award Module/Records
tara.lock@utoronto.ca

**Stacey Kwan** - Awards Officer, Provincial
OGS, OTS, QEII-GSST, CGS-M
staceym.kwan@utoronto.ca

**TBD** - Awards Officer, Federal
NSERC & SSHRC Doctoral, Vanier, MSFSS, Travel Grant

**Fong Di Caterina** - Manager, Graduate Awards
Oversight/Fund management of awards, Quotas, Office Supervision, SGS Awards Committee, other awards as required
fong.dicaterina@utoronto.ca

**Graduate Awards Office**
School of Graduate Studies
63 St. George Street, Room 201
graduate.awards@utoronto.ca
Tel: 416-946-0808
SGS Financial Aid and Advising

Financial Aid & Advising at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) provides support for students who are experiencing financial distress, due to both non-urgent and emergency situations.

http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Financial-Aid-and-Advising.aspx
Contacts – Financial Aid

Financial Aid Advisor
School of Graduate Studies
63 St. George Street, Room 101
sgs.financial.assistance@utoronto.ca
Tel: 416-978-2839

Alice Brummell – Coordinator, Student Support and Financial Aid
Outreach, Financial Aid and Funding Development
alice.brummell@utoronto.ca
When to Start?

Start looking and preparing now!

**Important Disclaimer!**
What is said (or not said) in this presentation does not supersede the material contained on official University of Toronto or funding agencies websites.
Where to Look?

• School of Graduate Studies website
• ULife
  https://ulife.utoronto.ca/opportunities/list/type/award
• Granting Agency websites (Tri-Agency)
• Talk to your graduate unit (Grad Admin)/supervisor/faculty members/more senior students in your program
• Look for announcements through your graduate unit webpages and email
SGS Student Award Information

Sessons

Date: Wednesday, September 5, 2018
Location: JJR MacLeod Auditorium,
Medical Sciences Building Rm 2158

• 10:00 - 11:00 am - Master’s CGS Awards (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC)
• 11:00 am - 12:00 pm: - Ontario Graduate Scholarship (for Master’s/PhD)
• 1:00 - 2:00 pm: NSERC Doctoral Awards
• 2:00 - 2:30 pm: Vanier CGS Award (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC)
• 2:30 - 3:30 pm: SSHRC Doctoral Awards
Scholarships & Awards

Explore the wide range of financial support available, in the form of scholarships and merit-based awards.

Which Awards Can I Apply For?
(click below for full chart)

Admission Awards
Awards for new domestic and international applicants to master's and doctoral programs.

Doctoral Completion & Postdoctoral Awards
Awards for doctoral thesis completion or for current postdoctoral fellows.

External Awards
Awards from sources outside U of T.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD TYPE</th>
<th>AWARD Name</th>
<th>CITIZENSHIP</th>
<th>APPLY TO</th>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>FIELDS OF RESEARCH</th>
<th>APPLICATION DEADLINE</th>
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<td>Ontario Women's Health Scholars Award</td>
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When to Apply?

Applications due in fall 2018 for funding the 2019-20 academic year:

- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Sept)
- CGS-Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (Sept)
- CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC Doctoral Awards (Sept/Oct)
- SGS Conference Grant (Oct)
- CGS M - CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC Awards (Dec)
- Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) (Starts Dec)
- Ontario Women’s Health Scholar Award (Dec)
- Delta Kappa Gamma World Fellowship (Dec)
- Master’s Completion Bursary (Jan/Apr)
- Adel S. Sedra Distinguished Graduate Award (Dec)
Common Eligibility Criteria

Are you a…
• Canadian, Permanent Resident, on International (Visa) student?

Do you have…
• Full-time or Part-time status?

Are you registered in an…
• eligible program?
What Makes a Great Merit Based Application?

Advice from Graduate Awards Office & Prof. Malcolm Campbell - Former Vice-Principal Research, UTSC

- Reviewers spend 6-8 minutes on each application. You have a short period of time to sell yourself on paper.
- When selection criteria is specified – make sure you hit them all.
Common Application Components

• Academic background
  Transcript(s), academic achievements, lists of awards and fellowships, presentations, abstracts, etc.

• Research Proposal / Plan of Study

• Reference Letters

• Leadership / Extracurricular Activities
  CV, publications, presentations, volunteerism, abstracts, other artistic works.
CGS Specific Evaluation Criteria

- **Academic Excellence (50%)** - As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions.

- **Research Potential (30%)** - As demonstrated by the applicant’s research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research, its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, and any anticipated outcomes.

- **Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills (20%)** - As demonstrated by the applicant’s past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations.
Academic Achievements

- Reviewers look heavily at PROGRESS. Ongoing awards look good. Publications, historical grade trends, and PRODUCTIVITY
- Your contributions/role in a project, impact of the work, awards, presentations, research background, communication achievements, leadership roles (volunteer, elected positions, clubs, sports, etc.)
- Limit to university level achievements
- Current and/or recent accolades
Research Proposal / Plan of Study

• Write a clear and concise research proposal that an educated non-expert could understand
• Give your proposal to as many people as possible to review – ideally a professor/senior graduate student
• Read the proposal out loud to yourself and others. If it doesn’t sound natural, then it needs more work
• Engage reviewers as advocates of your application/work
• Clarify the importance/significance of your proposal
Writing Style / Formatting

• Make it easy for the reviewer to find key information
• Use headings
• Apply boldface or underlined text strategically
• Be clear, succinct, scholarly but understandable
• Be straightforward, emphasize strengths, this is not a time to be shy
• FOLLOW FORMATTING STANDARDS
Referees

- Contact referees familiar with you its important to have a positive reference;
- Ask your referees early – give them plenty of time
- Feel free to remind them of your contributions and information you would like to have in their letter (CV, copy of research proposal, snapshot of thre highlights);
- Send request as soon as you begin your application;
- Follow-up prior to the deadline; and
- Remember to give them a big thank you.
Your Reference Letters

• Must be very strong
• Be enthusiastic
• Provide additional information (skills and past achievements) and demonstrate how your attributes and qualifications surpasses selection criteria & worthy of the award
Writing Support

• The following departments/faculties offer writing support through one-on-one consultations: Architecture, OISE, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Education and Social Work.

• If you are not part of these departments, you may visit the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication at SGS. 

http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/GCAC.aspx
Writing Support (cont’d)

Upcoming Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC) writing intensives:

• Writing SSHRC Proposals:
  August 29 & 30, 2018

• Writing NSERC Proposals:
  August 29 & 30, 2018

http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/GCAC-Boot-Camps-and-Writing-Intensives.aspx
Welcome to the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC). GCAC provides graduate students with advanced training in academic writing and speaking. GCAC was formerly known as the Office of English Language and Writing Support (ELWS). This name change does not reflect any change in mandate or programming, the new name simply serves to emphasize the type of support we offer to all graduate students at U of T.

Graduate students need to be able to communicate sophisticated information to sophisticated audiences. As you prepare to attend your first conference, to write your first proposal, or to publish your first paper, you will need stronger communication skills than those needed in undergraduate work. By emphasizing professional development rather than remediation, GCAC can help you cultivate the ability to diagnose and address the weaknesses in your oral and written work.

GCAC offers five types of support designed to target the needs of both native and non-native speakers of English: non-credit courses, single-session workshops, individual writing consultations, writing intensives, and a list of additional resources for academic writing and speaking.

All of our programs are free. While the workshops function on a drop-in basis, writing centre consultations require an appointment, and courses and writing intensives require registration.

We have a new name! We are now the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC), formerly English Language and Writing Support.

Writing Centre appointments are available for booking.

International Visiting Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows are welcome to attend GCAC workshops; however, they are ineligible to register for GCAC courses or to sign up for Writing Centre appointments. Please see the Eligibility section of our FAQs.

Please note: Our office has temporarily relocated to 704 Spadina Avenue, 2nd Floor (west side of Spadina, north of Sussex).
## Graduate Funding 101

Details for Research Stream Programs:
http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/gradfunding/Pages/default.aspx

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Stream</th>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>Sources of Funding</th>
<th>Source(s) unique to cohort</th>
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<td>Research (Doctoral stream)</td>
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<td>Scholarships/Awards, TA, RA/Research Stipends, U of T Fellowships, OSAP/UTAPs, On campus employment (work study), Off campus employment, Savings</td>
<td>Scholarships/Awards, TA, RA/Research Stipends, U of T Fellowships</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Unfunded</td>
<td>Scholarships/Awards (limited), TA, RA/Research Stipends, OSAP/UTAPs, On campus employment (work study), Off campus employment, Savings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
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<td>Unfunded</td>
<td>Scholarships/Awards (Faculty specific), Professional student loans, Savings, On campus employment (work study), Off campus employment, OSAP</td>
<td>Professional student loans</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who to contact for sources of funding (for registered students):

- **Funding Package**: For those in a funded cohort, contact home graduate unit for a “breakdown” of this funding including composition, method and schedule of distribution, and impact if taking a LOA.
- **Scholarships/Awards general**: graduate unit, SGS, supervisor, peers (within same dept), internet searches
- **Scholarships/Awards administered through SGS**: consult [Awards Chart](#)
- **Teaching Assistantships (TA)**: graduate unit
- **RA/Research Stipends**: supervisor/graduate unit
- **U of T Fellowships**: graduate unit
- **OSAP/UTAPs/government loans**: [Enrolment Services Office](#)
- **On campus employment**: [https://cln.utoronto.ca/home.htm](https://cln.utoronto.ca/home.htm)
- **Off campus employment**: networking, walk-in, internet
- **Issues with tuition fee payments/service charges**: [Student Accounts](#)
- **SGS Emergency Funding**: [Financial Aid and Advising](#) - Emergency Grant and Loan Programs, Accessibility Grant, Parental Grant, Master's Completion Bursary, and the Summer Gym Bursary (research stream only)
SGS Leave Policy

• Graduate students whose programs require continuous registration may apply to their Graduate Unit for a one-session to three-session leave during their program of study for:
  • 1. serious health or personal problems which temporarily make it impossible to continue in the program; or
  • 2. parental leave by either parent at the time of pregnancy, birth or adoption, and/or to provide full-time care during the child’s first year. Parental leave must be completed within 12 months of the date of birth or custody.

• [SGS Leave of Absence Form]
Parental Leave Funding Options Through External Awards

• Federal agency (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC) scholarship parental leave supplements
  – Equal to one installment for one session leave;
  – Equal to 1.5 installments for two session leave;
  – Submit Request for Interruption of NSERC/SSHRC Form.

• Parental leave supplements through supervisor’s Tri-agency grant
  – Apply through supervisor and Research Services Office

• Most awards e.g. OGS/QEII-GSST do not provide parental leave supplements
  – Check award holder’s guide/terms and conditions or directly with granting agency to see if your award has a parental leave supplement
SGS Parental Grant

• This grant aims to provide financial support to research-stream doctoral students within the funded cohort who experience a loss or reduction in funding as the result of taking an approved parental leave.

• Leaves are normally taken at the time of birth or adoption in order to provide full-time care during a child's first 18 months of life; or first 18 months of care if the child was adopted.
SGS Parental Grant (cont’d)

• The total amount of the Parental Grant will be calculated based on other non-employment related supplemental funding the student may have available.
• Students are eligible to receive a Parental Grant of up to $4,000 for one session of leave.
• Birth mothers are eligible to receive a second grant payment of up to $4,000 (for a total grant valued at $8,000) if they meet all eligibility requirements, and take a second consecutive session on leave.
• An approved leave must be on file with your department- for further details: [SGS Leave of Absence Policy](#).
Needs Based Applications

- **OSAP/Government Loans**
- **UTAPS** - University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students

http://www.future.utoronto.ca/finances/financial-aid

This is a program that fills the financial gap for full-time students who receive the maximum amount of government financial aid available but whose funding doesn’t cover all their university costs.
What does SGS offer?

- Financial Advising
- Doctoral Completion Award
- Parental Grant
- Master’s Completion Bursary
- Summer Gym Bursary
- Emergency Grant
- Emergency Loan
- Accessibility Grants
- Financial Aid and Advising
Financial Aid

SGS Emergency Grants

- For urgent emergencies only, to cover unanticipated financial need;
- Does not cover tuition;
- Students can apply at any time;
- Normally applicants are beyond their first year of study;
- Normally grants are awarded to support students living expenses during times of financial shortfall.
Financial Aid

Emergency Loans

• Intended to alleviate temporary cash flow problems;
• Most loans are repayable up to 120 days;
• 2 day turn around time for students to receive funds;
• For students who are expecting the release of funds in the near future;
• Value is normally up to $1500 but can vary.
Financial Aid

SGS Accessibility Grant

- Programs and awards for students with accessibility issues;
- Students must be registered with Accessibility Services;
- Normally to cover the cost of adaptive technologies, equipment and therapies not covered under other plans.
Financial Aid

SGS Summer Gym Bursary

• For full-time doctoral-stream;
• Students must be registered for the full Summer 2018 session;
• Up to 100% of the fees are paid by reimbursement;
• Participating gyms include the Hart House Fitness Centre and Kinesiology & Physical Education (KPE) athletic facilities.
Financial Aid

Master's Completion Bursary (MCB)

- Deadline to submit applications for Fall 2018 will be January 31st, 2019
- Eligibility: students must be beyond their program length, with a minimal amount of work remaining due to unanticipated factors beyond their control.
Doctoral Completion Awards (DCA)

• Each department runs its own DCA competition, check in with your unit.

• Eligible students must be beyond the funded cohort.

• 15% of DCA Recipients should be OSOTF/OSAP Eligible, and demonstrate financial need.
Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund (OSOTF) Awards

- There are a number of University endowed awards specifically available to OSOTF eligible students.
- In order to be deemed “OSOTF Eligible” you must be a Canadian citizen/permanent resident, demonstrate financial need, and also meet the Ontario Residency Requirements as outlined by OSAP.
- The [SGS Financial Need Assessment Form – OSOTF (FNA)](SGS_FNA) is an important tool to assess and determine your financial need.
- If you are applying for an award, grant or bursary that is OSOTF restricted, you must complete the FNA form in addition to the other award requirements.
Financial Advising

- It’s best for you to seek help early so your problems don’t get out of control, so reach out!
- Financial Advising is available in person, via email, or over the telephone from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday.
- Budgeting support and funding review.
Questions?

Financial Aid & Advising
Email: sgs.financial.assistance@utoronto.ca
Tel: 416-978-2839

Graduate Awards
Email: graduate.awards@utoronto.ca
Tel: 416-946-0808