Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Doctoral) SGS Information Session for Students

FALL 2022

Important Disclaimer!

What is said (or not said) at this info session does not supersede the material contained in the agencies' guidelines or application packages.

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MS TEAMS - ASKING QUESTIONS

- We are recording this session to be uploaded to the SGS website
- Quick clarification questions on a particular slide may be entered in the chat during the presentation
- Save all other questions to the end of the presentation
- Slides will be available on the SGS Vanier webpage under the "Additional Info" section: https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/vanier-canada-graduate-scholarship/

Agenda

1. Overview
2. Eligibility
3. Competition Evaluation Criteria
4. Application Process
5. Vanier Recipients Speak
6. Q&A

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

- Tri-Agency program designed to attract & retain world-class doctoral students to a Canadian University.
- Do not have to be registered or admitted to a graduate program at time of application
- Must be nominated by University
- Full online submission via ResearchNet for all 3 agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) (http://www.researchnet.ca)
- $50,000/yr for 3 years

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Vanier
Canada Graduate
Scholarships

Eligibility

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, you must:

- be nominated by only one Canadian university, which must have received a Vanier CGS allocation;
- be seeking financial support to pursue your first doctoral degree (or combined MA/PhD or MD/PhD);
- intend to pursue, in the summer semester or the academic year following the announcement of results, full-time doctoral (or a joint graduate research program) studies and research at the nominating university;
- have completed no more than 20 months of doctoral studies by May 1, 2023 (started no earlier than Sept 2021) where the doctoral program would begin after the completion of a Master's degree;
- have completed **no more than 32 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program, by May 1, 2023, if:
    - enrolled in a **joint graduate research program**, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD, DVM/PhD.

      The months of study are calculated starting from the date on which an applicant is officially registered in the **joint program** (including the Master's portion of the program) for those who had been enrolled in a graduate program previously. (Started joint graduate research program no earlier than Sept. 2020.

Eligibility continued…

- enrolled **directly from a Bachelor's to a PhD** (not previously enrolled in a Master's program).
  The months of study completed are calculated from **the doctoral enrolment date.**

- Previously enrolled in a Master's program without obtaining the degree (updated).

  The months of study completed are calculated from the original Master's enrolment date, regardless of when the master's degree registration began.

- have achieved a first-class average (A-) in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent; and
- not hold, or have held, a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, SSHRC or NSERC to undertake or complete a doctoral program.

- **Note:**
  All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, will be considered in the evaluation of eligibility.
- Successful MD/PhD students may hold the Vanier CGS only during the PhD portion of their program
- For joint degree students who only completed a Bachelor's degree with no prior registration in a graduate degree program, months of study are calculated starting at the PhD portion of the joint degree. All joint degree students must complete a timeline of their registration broken down by session in the special circumstances attachment to confirm eligibility.

Dual Doctoral Applications

Vanier CGS candidates may apply to the same or different federal granting agency's doctoral awards competition 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. They may not hold more than one agency doctoral scholarship or fellowship.

Applicants may apply to both the Vanier CGS program and another Tri-Agency doctoral-level scholarship/fellowship program (e.g., CGS D) or CGS Master's award program 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. Candidates who are successful in both competitions will have to choose which award to accept.

Emphasis on Recruitment & Student Mobility

Vanier CGS candidates are strongly encouraged to pursue their studies at a university other than that (or those) which granted their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Candidates who are nominated by a university at which they have completed a previous degree must provide a strong and compelling rationale as to why they have chosen to undertake their PhD at the same university.

Selecting the Appropriate Agency

The students' proposed research project and doctoral program of study must be eligible within the mandate of the agency to which the nomination will be submitted. If in doubt, students are urged to seek written confirmation by the tri-council in advance of submitting their application. Complete guidelines on selecting the appropriate federal granting agency are available at ***http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=FEE7261A-1***

The Federal Tri-Councils

The major federal source of funds for research and scholarship in academic institutions

- **CIHR:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- **NSERC:** Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- **SSHRC:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Please Note: You may submit only one application per year to only one granting agency (NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC).

Selecting the Appropriate Federal granting agency:

http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=FEE7261A-1

Evaluation Criteria

Academic excellence, as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions.

Research potential, as demonstrated by the candidate's research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, the potential benefit to Canadians, and any anticipated outcomes.

Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability), as defined by the following qualities:
Personal Achievement

- Involvement in Academic Life
- Volunteerism
- Civic Engagement

Vanier Selection committee members are expected to give a pre-score (i.e., a score that is given before the selection cmt mtg and that may or not coincide with the final score) between 0.1 and 9.0 to their assigned nominations for each of the three criteria.

Selection Committee Guide: http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/selection_committee_guide-comite_selection_lignes.html#b3.1

Leadership (Potential and Demonstrated Ability)

- Given the prestige of the Vanier CGS program, this is an important criterion that has to be assessed in an indirect manner, since there is no opportunity for the selection committee to interview candidates.

- When evaluating this criterion, reference the instructions provided to candidates.

- More information on leadership is available in the SSHRC-funded study, Leadership at the Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Levels [PDF (260 KB)].

Leadership (Potential and Demonstrated Ability)

When crafting your Personal Leadership Statement, consider the following:

- Leadership can take many forms. Be sure to outline not just your accomplishments for the committee, but how those accomplishments required you to leverage your leadership skills to achieve your goals – your personal story.
- Be sure to outline how you have gone above and beyond the expected norms in those areas in order to overcome obstacles, foster others, spearhead change, or otherwise demonstrate leadership.

Define your career goals and trajectory, and outline for the committee the ways in which you have created opportunities for yourself and others, how you have overcome obstacles to your vision, and how your PhD research, knowledge dissemination and mentorship activities will help accomplish those goals.

What led you to doctoral research? How have your life experiences and personal circumstances (which may include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, childrearing, illness, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma and loss, or health-related family responsibilities) shaped your academic, research, and leadership choices, challenges, and successes?

How has your life driven you to share and disseminate your research?
How does your nominating institution provide an environment that nurtures your leadership skills?

Sample Past Vanier Recipient Extracurricular Activities (from 2020-21)

Teaching Assistant, sports referee, medical volunteer, Event Planning/Administration (multiple charitable events), Mentoring and Tutoring, Attended various events, Member of Women in Nuclear-Canada, Volunteer at Canadian Blood Services, Instructor-Let's Talk Science, Volunteer -Ottawa Hospital

Internship, Steadily Employed, Taught Courses, Event Organizer, Journal Reviewer, Attended various events, Volunteer, Co-supervised PHD student, International Collaboration activities on various projects, Member of Academic Associations,

Teaching Courses, Mentoring, Journal Reviewer, Conference Reviewer, Black Belt in Aikido and has started various social clubs for this activity. Member of Aikido organizations.

Teaching Assistant, CEO and Business Founder/Owner, Volunteer Flood Research, Academic Advisor, Member of Various Musical groups, Delegate to federal conventions for his party in Germany, Committee member of Student Union, Departmental Council, Selection Committee,

Has a number of Credentials and certificates for participation in various courses or activities. Long history of employment at Universities. Has supervised a number of postdoctoral students. Acted as administrator and editor for Canadian Biomaterials society and as the VP of the Montreal chapter

Undergrad. Commentator Coordinator for major conference. Children Activity Coordinator. Tutoring, Director and Choreographer for theatrical productions. Contestant on Trivia TV program. Founded reading group. President of Women Out Loud and volunteered with charitable societies. Committee member for Trinity College Finance Committee.

TA, Research Assistant, Has Taught Various Courses, Conference Initiator and Coordinator, Co-Editor of Journal, Presented at multiple conferences, Managed and founded CORN, Co-founded charitable orgs, managed debate, Text and Broadcast interviews. Performance art.

Taught various courses, Event planning and fundraising for 3 events, Adjudicator, Seminar Leader and Workshop leader for Biocommunication series, Presenter in an Animated film festival, Facilitated Study Group Leader, Member of BMCAA committee and AMI, Frequent academic presentations. Artistic performances as illustrator and programmer.

Lawyer, Co-Chair on the Board of Botanical Gardens, Environmental Stewardship Committee, Meals on Wheels, Researcher and Writer at Harvard University,

Teacher, Lecturer, Human Rights Committee, Affiliate in Centre for Oral History, Frequent presenter, Volunteer

Member of Law Society of Upper Canada, Fellow with Munk School, Taught and Guest Lectured, Mentoring in various positions, Staff editor for Yale Journal of Law, Volunteered as judge in mock trials, Member of board of directors for organization, Out of the Cold volunteer server, Chairperson for Amnesty International, Organizer for Community Engagement, Volunteer Legal Glossary Editor, Multiple litigations and court decisions.

Application Process

Please refer to the Vanier website for step-by step application instructions

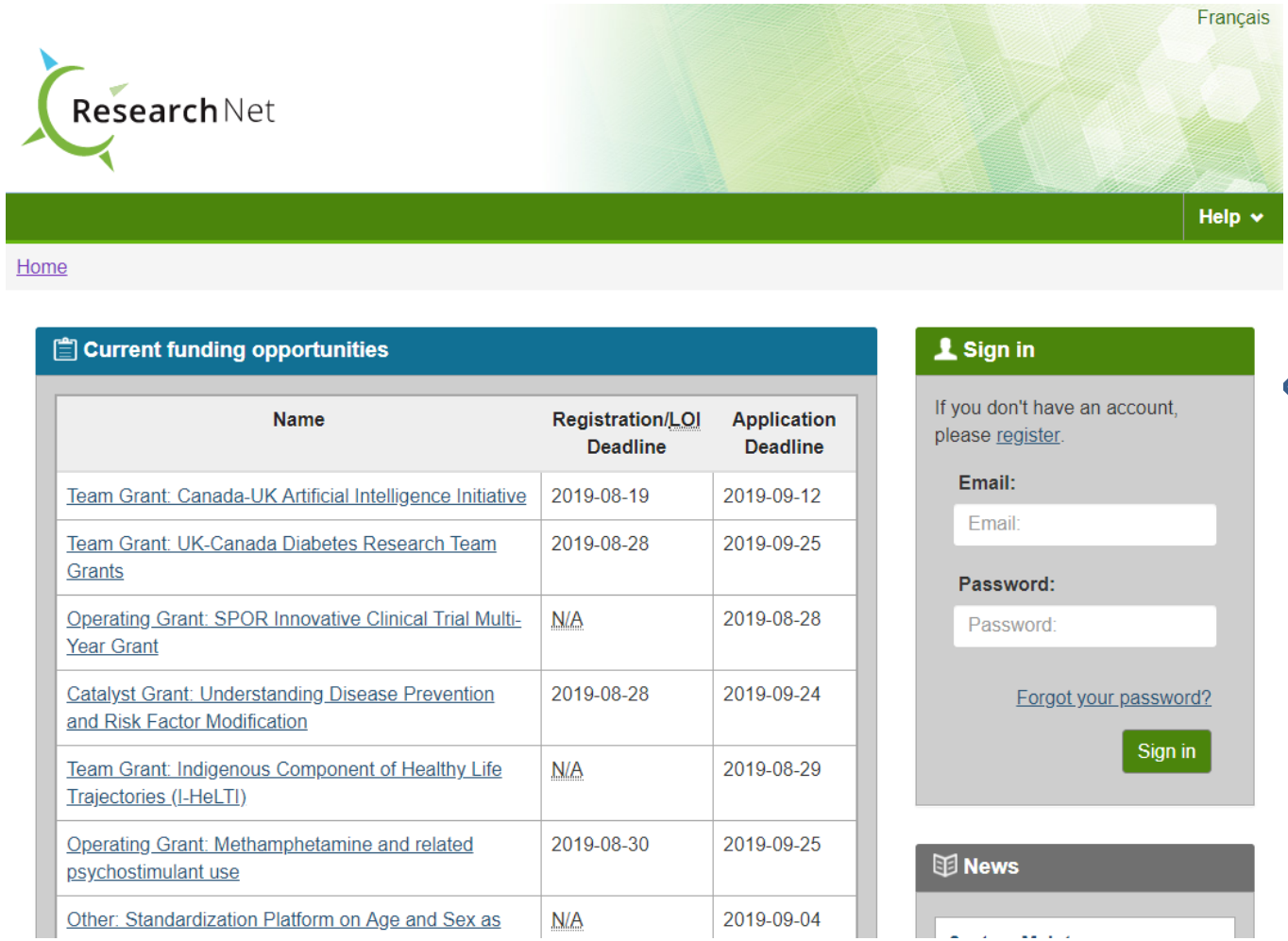
http://www.vanier.gc.ca/eng/nomination_process-processus_de_mise_en_candidature.html

- Students should be notified of the graduate unit deadline and internal submission requirements.
- Candidates must 1) apply to their graduate unit following the individual unit's instructions, providing all original transcripts; and 2) electronically submit the online application via ResearchNet, by the unit's internal deadline

Indigenous Applicants (Reminder)

- Applicants who are Indigenous to Canada [First Nations (North American Indian - Status and Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit] are encouraged to self-identify their status 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 must complete and upload the "(Vanier CGS): Voluntary Self-Identification Form for Indigenous Applicants [PDF (144 KB)]" to their application. These applications will be not be adjudicated by SGS and will be forwarded directly to the national competition. As usual, please verify their eligibility.

Create an online account on ResearchNet



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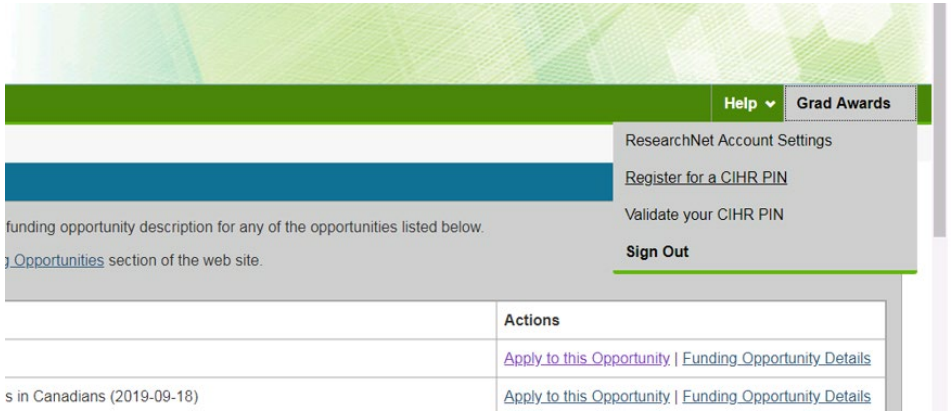
Register for a CIHR PIN



- Log into your ResearchNet Account;
- Click on “Register for a CIHR PIN;
- Complete and submit the on-line registration form;
- CIHR PIN requests are processed Monday to Friday between 7am and 5pm (ET). You should receive a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN within 24 business hours of submitting your form. If it has been longer than 24 business hours since you submitted your form and you still have not received a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN, please call 1-888-603-4178 or e-mail support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

- Create a Canadian Common CV(CCV) Account

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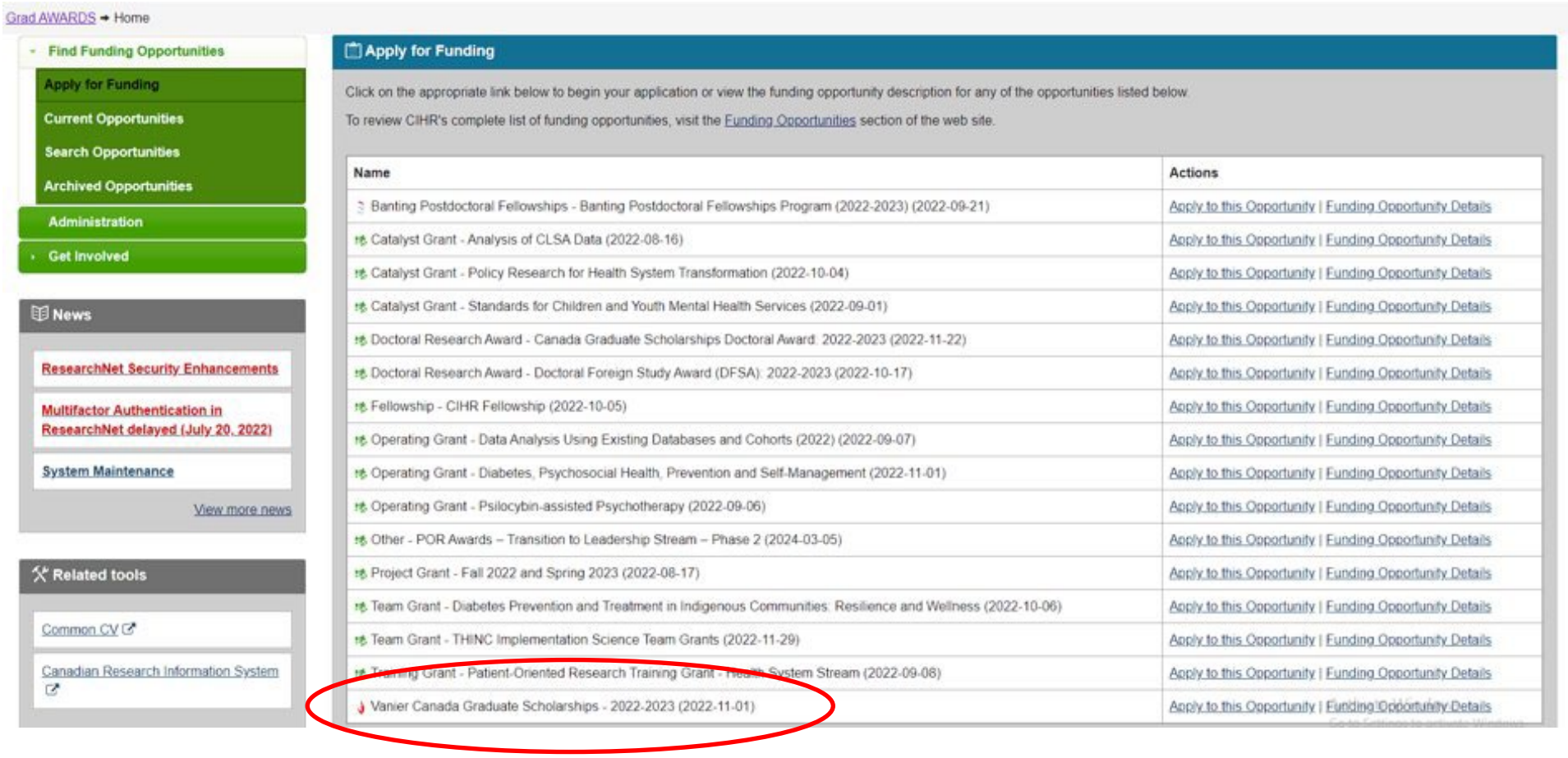

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Activity Messages

Application Process Overview

Please complete the tasks below and submit your application electronically to your nominating institution.

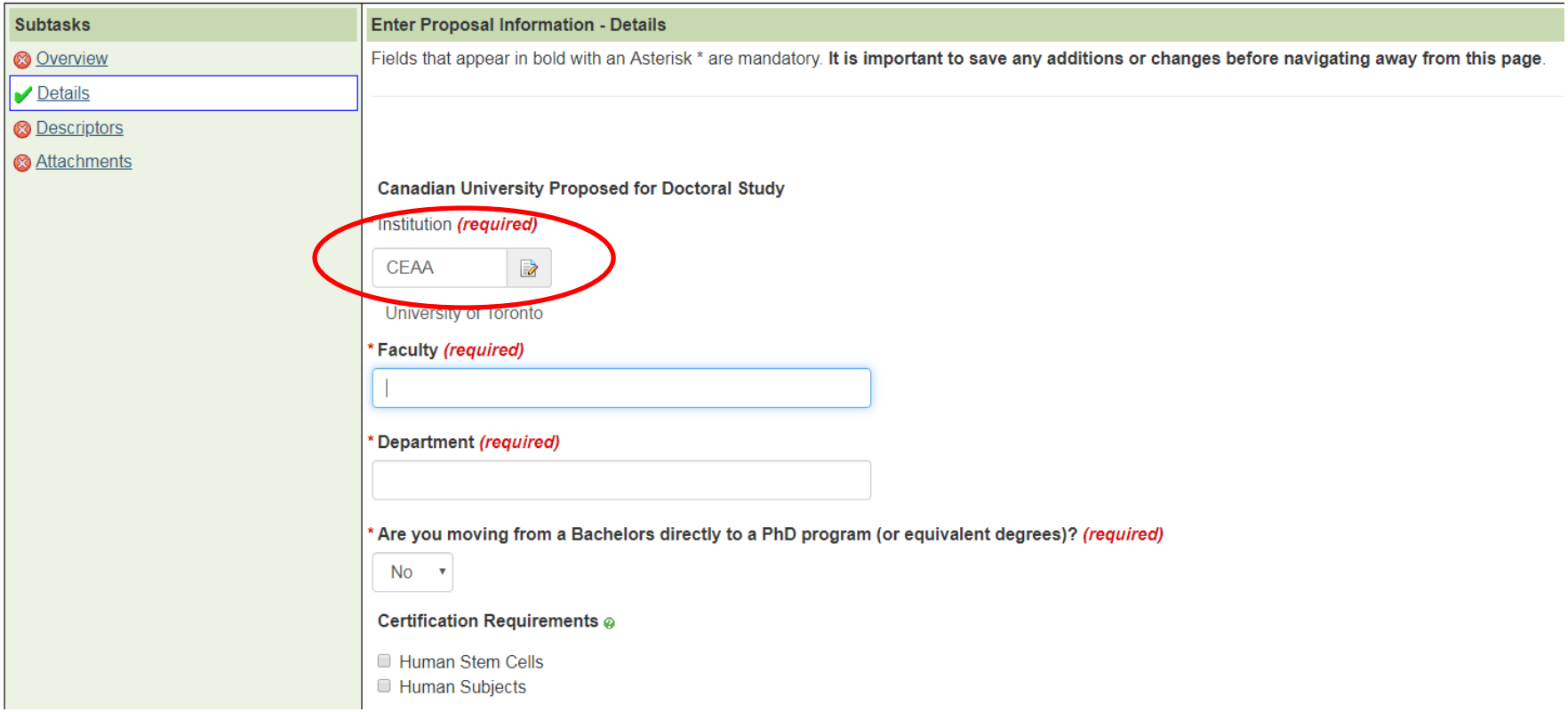
You must also send your official transcripts of your complete academic record to date to your rese copy of the transcripts.

For more information on how to complete this section, please refer to the Application instructions

Tasks

Task	Status
✔ Identify Area of Research	Complete
Identify Participants	Incomplete
Identify Referees	Incomplete
Enter Degree Information	Incomplete
Enter Proposal Information	Incomplete
Confirm Documents Sent	Incomplete
Preview	Incomplete
Consent and Submit	Incomplete

Under “Enter Proposal Information” section: You must complete the “Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study” field in order for the “Institution Deadline Date” to appear.



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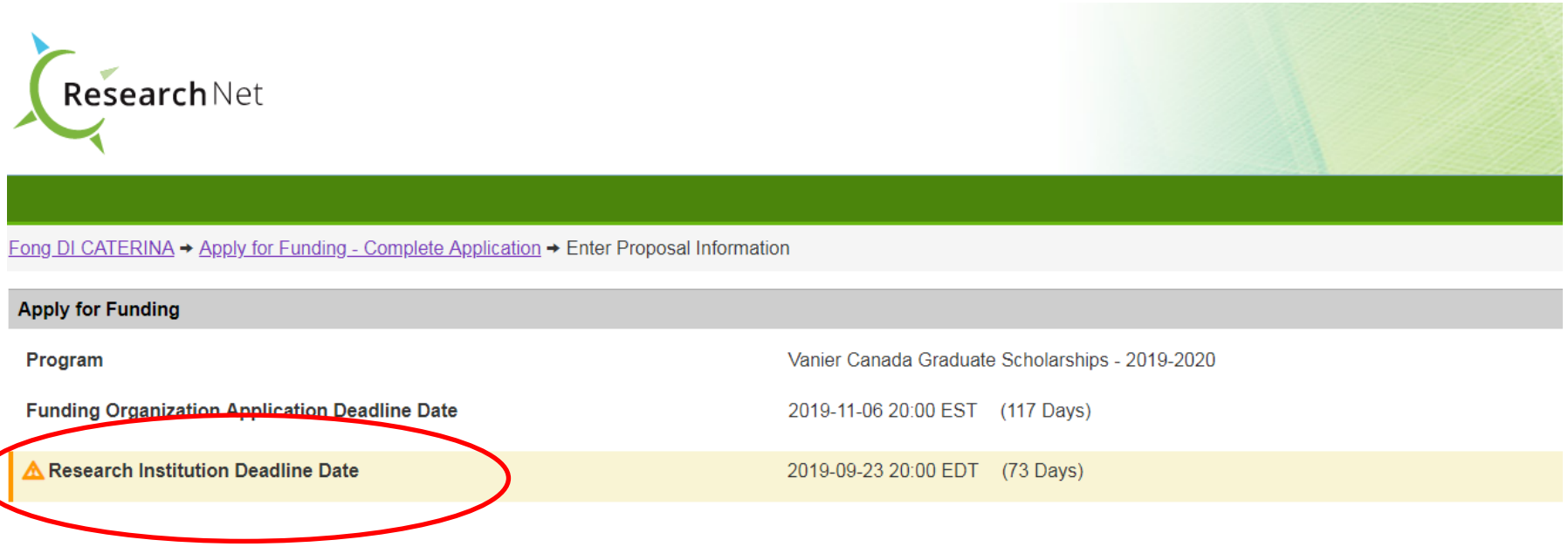

The graduate unit deadline will be earlier than the "Institution Deadline Date" displayed. Make sure you submit your application by your graduate unit deadline date.

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Applicant - Fong Di Caterina

* **Role** ***(required)***

Nominated Principal Investigator

* **Last Name** ***(required)***

Di Caterina

* **First Name** ***(required)***

Fong

* **PIN** ***(required)***

252187

* **CCV Confirmation Number** ***(required)***

* **Telephone Number (e.g. 613-555-1234 or 011-02-5-225-3586)** ***(required)***

416-978-2205

Fax Number

* **Institution** ***(required)***

Other

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IMPLICIT OR UNCONSCIOUS BIASES

The Tri-Agency expects reviewers to consistently guard against the possibility of unconscious bias influencing the decision-making process, whether these biases are based on schools of thought, the perceived value of fundamental versus applied research, areas of research or research approaches (including emerging ones), size or reputation of an institution, age, gender, and/or other personal factors associated with the applicant. To assist members in recognizing potential bias, all SGS committee members are asked to complete the Unconscious Bias in Peer Review online learning module. Members are also encouraged to complete one of the Sex and Gender training modules produced by CIHR.

Encourage your supervisor and referees to also complete the Unconscious Bias in Peer Review online learning module so that they can be aware and minimize unconscious bias when writing reference reports.

Identify Referee

Identify Referees Add Referee

Referee	Status	Assessment Required Deadline Date (YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm)
Professor, Second	Pending Referee Form	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT Edit

Return to Task List

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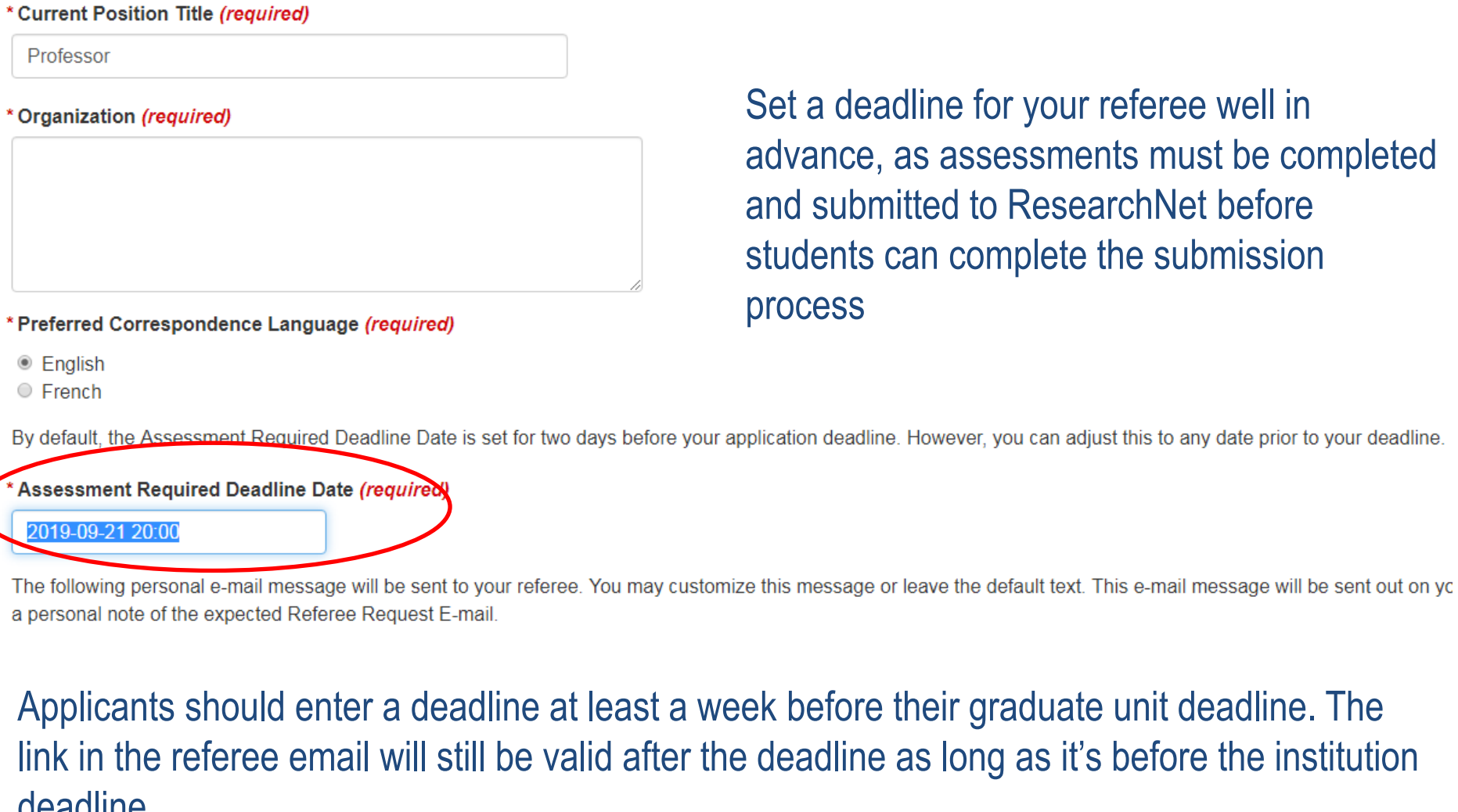

Set a deadline for your referee well in advance, as assessments must be completed and submitted to ResearchNet before students can complete the submission process

Applicants should enter a deadline at least a week before their graduate unit deadline. The link in the referee email will still be valid after the deadline as long as it's before the institution deadline.

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ResearchNet will send two emails to each referee. One "personalized" from the applicant, the other with the unique link to the reference form. Make sure the referees check their junk mail box.

Le français suit l'anglais

Dear Referee:

I would like to request your service to provide a referee assessment for me as a candidate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program. Your assessment would be greatly appreciated. You should be receiving an email from ResearchNet shortly with a link and detailed instructions on how to proceed.

With sincere thanks,

Fong Di Caterina

****

Le français suit l'anglais.

Dear Major Profession,

Fong Di Caterina would like to request a referee assessment for him/her as a candidate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program (Vanier CGS). Your assessment would be greatly appreciated. If you do not personally know the applicant, please provide the referee assessment based on the information that the applicant provided to you.

Please refer to the Vanier CGS website for information to help you with this task:
http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/information_for_referees-information_a_l_intention_des_repondants.html

The referee assessment must be submitted via ResearchNet no later than 2019-07-13 20:00 EDT.

If the referee assessment is not submitted in time, the applicant will not be able to submit their application.

Once you have completed the form, click the submit button to submit your referee assessment through ResearchNet and it will be linked to the applicant's submission.

The applicant will be notified that the task is completed, but they will not have access to view the information provided. Applicants can, however, request their referee assessments via an Access to Information and Privacy request.

Once your assessment has been submitted, you can view it by using the link below. However, no further edits can be made.

Click on the link below to access the referee assessment form. If this does not work, copy and paste the link into your browser.

If you are currently logged in to ResearchNet, please ensure you sign out before accessing the referee assessment form.

https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/sponsorSubmission.do?sponsorKey=GwFfOow3ncE2P91Y64zmqQ..&valid=true

Referee's Assessment

Program	Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships
Assessment Required Deadline Date	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT (1 Day)

Referee's Assessment of a Candidate for a Vanier CGS Award

This report will be used when assessing the candidate's application for the Vanier award in support of doctoral studies. Based on the federal Privacy Act, a candidate will have a right of access to the substance of your assessment.

There are three sections to the report, and all three sections must be completed.

Referees should bear in mind that the candidate will need to assemble a complete application package, including this report, by the competition deadline. **The funding agencies will not consider late or incomplete applications**.

Referee's Assessment

Subtasks

- ✔ Referee Information
- Section 1 - Academic Excellence
- Section 2 - Research Potential
- Section 3 - Demonstrated and Potential Leadership

Assessment Status:

Not Submitted

View PDF | Submit

Candidate Fong Di Caterina

First Name* Major

Last Name* Professor

Middle Initial

Position* Professor

Organization* University M

Number of years/months that the referee has known the candidate* Years 2 Months 0

Relationship to candidate*

Contact Information*

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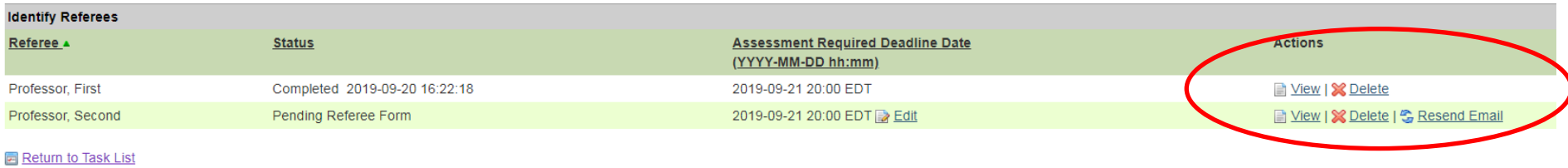
Section 1 - Academic Excellence: Provide an assessment of the candidate's academic excellence as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions. Since the review committee is multidisciplinary, please provide an assessment that references the norms and expectations of the student's discipline. If applicable, please also comment on results achieved outside of the university environment. Maximum of 2250 characters (~ 1/2 page)

Section 2 - Research Potential: Provide an assessment of the candidate's research potential as demonstrated by their research history, interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field and any anticipated outcomes. Include examples to support your assessment in comparison to the norms particular to the research area(s) (e.g. publication norms for the discipline etc.)
Maximum of 2250 characters (~ 1/2 page)

Section 3 - Demonstrated and Potential Leadership: Provide an assessment of demonstrated and potential leadership ability. Because there is no opportunity to interview the students, please elaborate for the committee how the candidate has gone above and beyond the opportunities presented in order to achieve a goal, contribute to their community, or how they have taken on responsibility for others. Note that high achievement, while admirable, does not necessarily constitute Leadership. Be sure therefore to provide context for the committee that illuminates how the candidate's participation in activities (be they volunteer or work, sport or art, and any other participation) goes above and beyond active participation and becomes Leadership. Maximum of 4500 characters (~ 1 page).

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide referees with the information that they need in order to complete their assessments.



Identify Referees

Referee ▲	Status	Assessment Required Deadline Date (YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm)	Actions
Professor, First	Completed 2019-09-20 16:22:18	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT	View | Delete
Professor, Second	Pending Referee Form	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT Edit	View | Delete | Resend Email

Return to Task List

Applicants can “Resend Email” for pending referee forms. If a referee needs to make a revision in a submitted form, applicants must “Delete” the reference and re-add the referee to send a new request. “View” displays the contact information of the referee.

Remind your referee to save a copy of their reference report before submitting. This way, they will be able to reference it in the future and won’t have to start all over if they need to make modifications and you need to delete their online reference.

Once the reference is deleted, an automatic email is sent to the referee saying their reference is no longer required. Applicants should warn referees about this email if they are only making edits to reduce confusion.

Le français suit l'anglais.

Dear First Professor,

This email is to inform you that Fong Di Caterina will no longer require you to submit the referee form for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships application.

Thank you for your collaboration.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the applicant.

Sincerely,

Fong Di Caterina via ResearchNet

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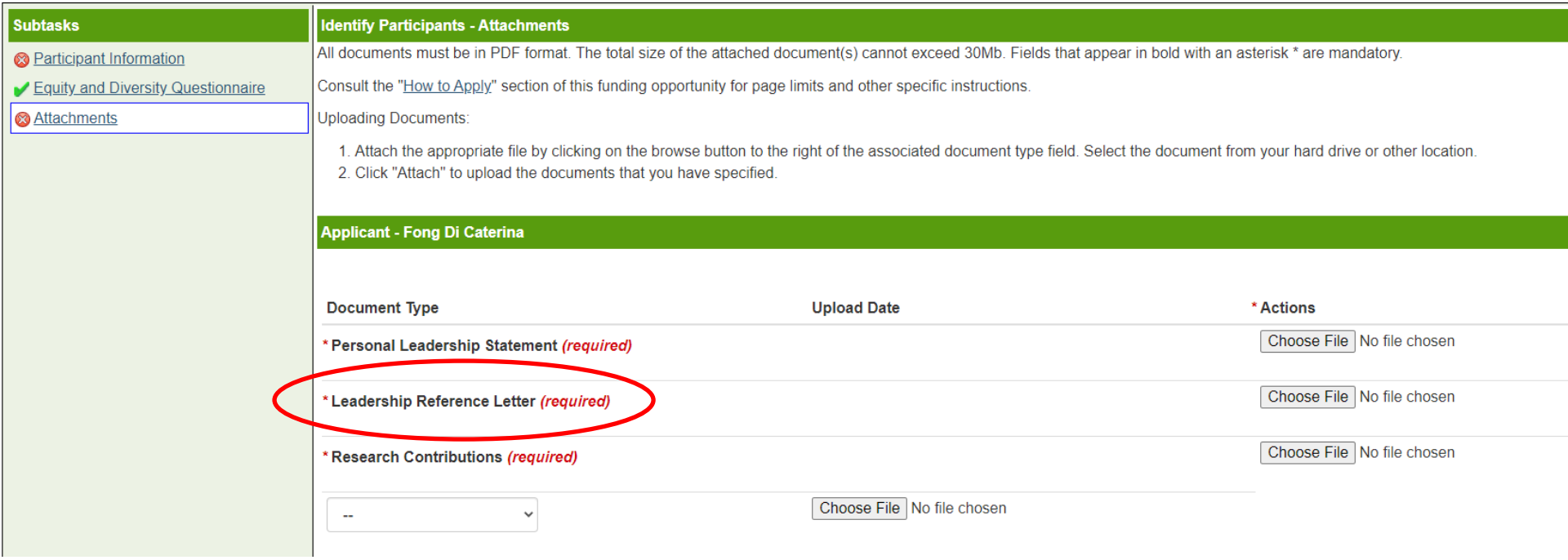
Applicants upload their own two leadership reference letters in the Identify Participants Task. They're not confidential.



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Transcripts

- You do not upload your own transcripts;
- If you are registered in the fall session, you must provide an official U of T transcript showing fall 2022 registration, along with all previous undergraduate and graduate transcripts to graduate unit;
- Graduate units may use previous official transcripts from your admission file.
- Applicants can confirm on ResearchNet that documents have been sent.

Transcripts (cont'd)

- **Summary of Foreign Transcript Form (Updated):**
  Institutions must attach a 250-word summary to describe the variations in the grading system from the country of the transcript and the Canadian level equivalents, and/or explain international credentials and equivalencies. The summary should be a PDF document attached at the beginning of their transcripts. In order to assist with this task, foreign transcripts submitted by the applicant should be accompanied by a grade legend.
- Accordingly, graduate units should attach to the beginning of foreign (non-US) transcript file, a completed Summary of Foreign Transcript Form (use attached template).

Sex- and Gender-based Analysis Plus (SGBA+)

In order to ensure the research we fund is impactful and relevant to the diversity of the population, Vanier encourages applicants to systematically examine how differences in identity factors (such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability) affect the outcomes of research and the impacts of research findings. Applicants are encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see Application/nomination instruction - Task 10).

Enter Proposal Information

This task collects information related to your research project. To complete the task, you must complete the four sub-tasks listed on this screen.

Subtasks

- Overview
- Details
- Descriptors
- Attachments

Enter Proposal Information - Details

* **Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study**

* **Institution** *(required)*

* **Faculty** *(required)*

Other

* **Is sex as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?** *(required)*

--

* **Is gender as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?** *(required)*

--

* **If yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal.**
If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.
(2000 character limit) *(required)*

* **Proposed End Date of PhD studies (YYYY-MM)** *(required)*

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Vanier Results – U of T

	2022-2023				2021-2022				2020-2021			
Vanier Council	**# app Received**	**Quota**	**successful**	**success rate of initial application**	**# app Received**	**Quota**	**successful**	**success rate of initial application**	**# app Received**	**Quota**	**successful**	**success rate of initial application**
CIHR	123	45	14	11%	102	42	17	17%	106	42	12	11%
SSHRC	60	23	6	10%	57	24	6	11%	53	23	7	13%
NSERC	49	19	6	12%	63	19	7	11%	49	19	10	20%
Total	232	87	26	11%	222	84	30	13%	208	84	29	14%

Current Vanier Recipients Guests

- Elaine Thai – 2021 CIHR Vanier – Department of Biochemistry
- Justin Wang – 2021 CIHR Vanier – Institute of Medical Science

Questions: SGS Contacts

CIHR Vanier
Janine Harper
Graduate Awards Officer
P: 416-978-3555

janine.harper@utoronto.ca

NSERC Vanier
Stacey Kwan
Graduate Awards Officer
416-978-2205
staceym.kwan@utoronto.ca

SSHRC Vanier
Carla Serpe
Acting Graduate Awards Officer
416-978-2386
carla.serpe@utoronto.ca

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