

SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
Re: 2025-26 Burstow Scholarship for Studies in Activism from the Margins

Please distribute to your eligible students registered in a program with a thesis.

Award Overview

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| Student Deadline to SGS: | May 9, 2025 (4:30 PM) – Submit application via Online Form |
| Value/Duration: | \$15,000 for 1 year |
| Level of Study: | Master's or Doctoral |
| Required Legal Status: | Domestic or International |
| Results: | Late June 2025 |
| SGS Awards Webpage: | https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/burstow-scholarship-for-studies-in-activism-from-the-margins/ |

Purpose

The Burstow Scholarship for Studies in Activism from the Margins was established with the support of Professor Bonnie Burstow and other donors. This scholarship is awarded based on academic merit to registered graduate students working on a thesis focused on activism by or about populations traditionally thought of as mad, or which would once have been so conceptualized. The School of Graduate Studies is expecting to award approximately eight scholarships per year.

Eligibility

Recipients must:

- Be registered in a full-time master's or doctoral program at the University of Toronto in the 2025-2026 academic year. **Please note that students must be registered in a program with a thesis**; students in professional degree programs without a thesis are ineligible to apply.
- Be conducting research leading to a thesis in the field of radical mad perspectives or mad studies, which may include trans-disciplinary mad studies focused on non-medicalized approaches to madness in relation to disability, history, gender, sexuality, age, culture, normalcy, and other intersections.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed on their merit, quality of research, the vision that they bring to their endeavours, and the significance of the applicant's work, as indicated by:

- The statement of research that demonstrates how the applicant's work falls within the field of radical mad perspectives or mad studies and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in this field;
- Academic achievements, demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;
- Relevant professional, academic, and extracurricular experience, including research training, as evidenced by papers presented at conferences, the candidate's publication record, and community or volunteer work in related areas; and
- The letter of recommendation.

Application Process

To apply, students must complete the [Online Form](#) by the submission deadline (May 9, 2025 at 4:30 PM ET). Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please note that you must have an activated UTORid (with utoronto email address) in order to complete the form. If you are having trouble accessing the form, please try opening the link in a private/incognito window and logging in

using your utoronto email address. If you do not have a UTORid yet but you wish to submit an application, please contact janine.harper@utoronto.ca for assistance.

A complete application will include the following items:

1. A statement of research written by the applicant (maximum 1 page; minimum 10 pt font).
 - The statement must describe the research to be undertaken during the award period, and it must clearly indicate how the applicant's work falls within the field of radical mad perspectives or mad studies.
 - Students currently registered in their program or previous recipients of the award must clearly state the differences between work already completed for their thesis, what they hope to accomplish during the award tenure, and what will remain to be done before the completion of the degree program.
 - A maximum of 1 additional page is permitted for bibliography.
 - The statement (plus bibliography if applicable) must be uploaded as a single PDF file.
2. All undergraduate and graduate transcripts (combined as a single PDF file).
 - ACORN printouts are acceptable for U of T transcripts. All other transcripts must be official transcripts issued by the institution's Registrar's office. Official e-transcripts are acceptable.
 - Transcripts must be current as of February 1st, 2025, including grades for the Fall 2024 session (if applicable).
 - Legends must be included for all non-U of T transcripts.
3. Curriculum vitae (no page limit).
 - Applicants are encouraged to disclose any special circumstances that may have interrupted or had a negative impact on their academic or career paths on the last page of their CV (1/2 page max). SGS asks its selection committee to consider special circumstances that could have affected applicants' research, professional career, record of academic or research achievement, or completion of degrees. Relevant circumstances could include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, child-rearing, illness, disability, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, health-related family responsibilities, trauma and loss, or the COVID-19 pandemic. Specify the dates for any delays or interruptions.
4. One confidential letter of recommendation (maximum 1 page, signed by the referee and on institutional letterhead).
 - The letter must be **emailed directly from the referee to janine.harper@utoronto.ca** as a PDF attachment before the deadline.
 - The subject of the email must be "Burstow 2025 Reference - NAME OF APPLICANT".
 - For the PDF file, please use file naming convention "Applicant Last Name, First Name_Burstow 2025 Ref".
 - The letter should describe how the applicant meets or exceeds the evaluation criteria, e.g., academic merit of the candidate, as well as relevant community or volunteer contributions.
 - The letter should also provide an evaluation of the applicant's research to date and discuss the relevance of the research being undertaken to the field of mad studies or radical mad perspectives.
 - The letter should be from the supervisor/advisor if the applicant has one.
 - The Graduate Awards Office will send an email to the referee confirming that their letter has been received within 2 business days of the letter's receipt. If the referee does not receive a response, they should follow up to confirm receipt.
 - It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their referee submits their letter before the deadline. Applications with late or missing letters of recommendation will not be considered.

Results

The SGS Graduate Awards Office will notify applicants of the results in late June 2025.

Contacts & Resources

Please direct all questions regarding the Burstow Scholarship for Studies in Activism from the Margins competition or application process to:

Janine Harper

Graduate Awards Officer

Phone: 416-978-3555

janine.harper@utoronto.ca