

SGS Award Announcement

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

Re: 2025-2026 Canada Graduate Scholarships - Master's Program (CGS M) CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC

When communicating with students regarding this competition, please be sure to use only English or French as required by the Tri-Agency. Graduate unit instructions and quota information will be sent separately in late November.

Award Overview

Student Deadline:	December 2, 2024 at 8:00 PM (ET)
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:	January 30, 2025
Expected Value/Duration:	\$27,000 for one year
Level of study:	To support master's or, in some cases, doctoral programs in Canada
Required Legal Status:	Domestic (Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or protected person)
Results:	April 1, 2025 via Research Portal

Purpose

The objective of the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGS M) Program is to help develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies. The Tri-council [allocates](#) CGS M awards to universities specifying the number of awards that each may offer to their students annually. CGS M awards can only be offered to students pursuing graduate studies at eligible Canadian universities and the award must be held at the university that has made the offer.

Eligibility to Apply

To be eligible to apply, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a Protected person under subsection 95(2) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (Canada) as of the application deadline date.
- Be enrolled in, have applied for, or will apply for full-time admission* to an [eligible](#) graduate program at the master's or doctoral level at a Canadian institution with a CGS M allocation.
- Respect the internal deadline to apply for admission for your intended program of study – contact the graduate department/unit for admissions application deadlines.
 - a) Note: Applicants who are not currently enrolled in their intended graduate program at the University of Toronto must submit an application for admission to the graduate unit that they selected on their CGS M application by their deadline or by **March 15, 2025**, whichever comes first.
- Have completed, as of December 31, 2024:
 - a) either **between 0 and 12 months** of full-time studies (or full-time equivalent) in the program for which you are requesting funding*, which may be one of the following:
 - a master's program
 - a doctoral program that you are entering directly from a bachelor's program without having ever been enrolled in any graduate programs (direct-entry)
 - a combined master's-doctoral program
 - a master's program that will transition to an eligible doctoral program, either before or after award activation, with no master's degree conferred (fast-track)
 - a master's program for which the degree requirements will be completed before the end of the award, allowing the award to continue into an eligible doctoral program
 - b) or **between 4 and 12 months** of full-time study (or full-time equivalent) in an eligible master's program for which the degree requirements will be completed before activation of the award at that same institution, allowing it to be activated during the first 12 months of the subsequent doctoral program for which you are requesting funding.
- Not have held or be currently holding a CGS M scholarship from CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC.
- Not have held or be currently holding an Indigenous Scholars Award and Supplement
- Have achieved a first-class average** (3.5 GPA or A- average at U of T), in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent). Note: At the University of Toronto, exceptions may be made for highly meritorious applicants who are just below the required minimum.

- Submit a maximum of one scholarship (master's or doctoral) or fellowship application per academic year to either CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC. (Research Portal will allow the application to be submitted to up to three institutions.) Students are not permitted to have active applications for a CGS M and a Tri-Agency doctoral award at the same time. Note: nominations to the [Vanier CGS program](#) and applications to the [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) program do not count toward this limit (other exceptions may apply to CIHR internships).

*Refer to the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) for details regarding part-time admission.

**All studies credited toward the eligible program will be counted, whether or not they were completed at the degree-granting institution.

For full eligibility criteria, visit the [Tri-agency Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's Program website](#).

Program of Study Eligibility

An eligible graduate program must include a **significant research component** that leads to the completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, scholarly publication, performance, recital and/or exhibit that is merit/expert-reviewed at the institutional level as a requirement for completion of the program. If the program requires additional admission into the major research component stream, this acceptance must be confirmed before the applicant can hold the award.

Joint programs with a professional degree (for example, MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/MA, JD/PhD, MBA/PhD, MA/MBA) as well as **clinically oriented programs of study**, including clinical psychology, are eligible if they have a significant autonomous research component, as described above.

Master's programs that are based only on course work are typically not eligible since they do not include a significant research component.

Application Process

Applicants must complete and submit an online application using the [Research Portal](#). Students should refer to the CGS M application [instructions](#) (for all applicants) housed on [NSERC's website](#) to locate details on how to complete their application. Additionally a [Canadian Common CV](#) (CCV) must be completed and the confirmation number entered into the CGS M application on Research Portal.

When completing a CGS M application, students may select up to 3 separate universities (one graduate department per university) where they intend to pursue graduate studies and hold the award. Once completed and submitted online, the application will be accessible by all proposed universities the student has identified. Students applying for an award at U of T are not required to submit a paper application.

A completed CGS M application will include the following:

1. Completed 3-part online application:
 - Identification (application and proposed host institution[s])
 - Summary of Proposal (written in lay language)
 - Activity Details
2. Attachments
 - Outline of proposed research (as PDF attachment)
 - All up-to-date academic transcripts from undergraduate, graduate, and exchange/transfer host institutions where the grade does not appear on the home institution transcript (scanned together as a single PDF document)***
3. Canadian Common CV (uploaded as a confirmation number)
4. Completed Reference Assessments (x2) – invitation initiated and form completed electronically

*****Reminder: The University of Toronto will not reject unofficial transcripts for CGS M.** SGS continues to recommend that applicants submit official transcripts whenever possible, as they will be easier for reviewers to read, and their authenticity will not be questioned. For more information, please see the "Transcript Requirements" section below.

Important Reminders

Application Submissions

Applications are due by December 2, 2024 at 8:00 PM (ET) for all applicants, for all participating universities nationwide. The University of Toronto is unable to provide extensions. Graduate units may not set a separate internal deadline for their applicants. Note that Research Portal does not permit applications to be returned to applicants for corrections or updates after they have been submitted. All submissions are final. Applicants are strongly encouraged to preview all application components for completeness and submit before December 2.

As the application deadline approaches, delays may occur due to a high volume of users on the Research Portal, which may prevent the timely submission of applications. It is the applicant's responsibility to strictly follow the [instructions for completing an application](#). Requests to submit late applications will not be accepted.

Transcript Requirements

Up-to-date transcripts must be provided.

- Up-to-date transcripts are defined as transcripts dated and issued in the fall session of the year of application (if registered) or after the last term completed (for any previous studies).
- If the applicant is registered in a degree program in the fall session of the year of application, a transcript must be provided demonstrating Fall 2024 registration in their program, even if there are no grades or course registration.
- Scanned original transcripts from the student's admission file are accepted, provided that they are also up-to-date (i.e., no missing grades).
- Unofficial transcripts (e.g., ACORN printouts) will not be rejected. However, all transcripts must show, at minimum, the issuing institution's name and the name of the applicant.

Applicants must also adhere to the following guidelines for transcript submissions:

- If a transcript includes transfer credits from another institution, the grades for these credits must be shown. If a submitted transcript includes transfer credits without grades shown, the original transcript from the other institution must be included in the application. (Exception: Canadian college, CEGEP, IB, and high school [Advanced Placement] transcripts are not required, even if they contain transfer credits.)
- Transcripts in languages other than French or English must include an official certified transcript translation.
- One copy of the legend (reverse of each transcript) must be included.
- Transcript text orientation should be upright (if possible) and must be readable on a computer monitor without any adjustment by the viewer.
- Encryption must be removed from official e-transcripts before they can be uploaded or combined with other transcript files. Students may use their internet browser (e.g., Chrome) to "print to PDF" in order to remove the encryption.
- Applicants must submit the transcripts as a single flat PDF (no portfolio PDFs).

While applications containing unofficial transcripts are not rejected, applicants should note that submission of an application will continue to serve as a formal attestation that they provided true, complete, accurate information in the application and its related documents. The Tri-Agency may contact administrative staff at applicants' institutions or applicants directly in order to verify that the contents of the submitted transcripts are true, complete and accurate.

Black Student Researchers

The Government of Canada has deployed additional funds to [increase direct support for Black student researchers](#). CGS M applicants who self-identify as Black and provide consent in their application to be considered for funds designated for specific groups may be able to receive this funding through a scholarship as part of this initiative. Each agency has a limited number of additional CGS M awards reserved for this initiative. For more information, consult the [Frequently asked questions about the new Black scholars funding](#) web page.

Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative

The Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative will provide financial support to meritorious Indigenous students who have applied to the NSERC and SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholars — Master's program. To be considered, applicants must be eligible to apply to the CGS M program, self-identify as Indigenous for the purposes of this initiative, and have had their application deemed meritorious in the CGS M review process. Applicants who are successful in this competition will be asked to provide documentation to support their affirmation of Indigenous citizenship or membership before receiving their award. For detailed instructions on how to apply, see the [pilot initiative description](#).

Results

Results are made available to applicants only through [Research Portal](#) as of April 1. Offers to alternate applicants may be made until January 31 of the next calendar year.

Contacts and Resources

For more information, visit the [CGS M webpage](#) (housed on the NSERC website), the [SGS website](#), and/or contact the SGS Graduate Awards Officer and/or agency listed below:

CGS M CIHR

Janine Harper
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CGS M NSERC

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SSHRC:

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