



SGS Award Announcement

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

Re: 2025-2026 Google PhD Fellowship

When communicating this announcement to students, **please include information specific to your graduate unit's internal process** (e.g. internal deadline(s), contact information for the submission of the applications). Please also note that Google has not yet updated their website for the 2025-26 award cycle; this information is being circulated in advance of a formal announcement from Google to allow applicants and graduate units adequate time to prepare and review application files. We anticipate minimal to no changes in the requirements and application process for this year's cycle.

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Graduate Unit:	Date set by graduate unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:	March 28, 2025 (not for students—units must forward all nominations to SGS by this date)
Value/Duration:	Up to 2 years of funding: Full tuition and fees (enrolment fees, health insurance, books), stipend (for living expenses, travel, and personal equipment), and matched with a Google Research Mentor
Level of Study:	Doctoral
Required Legal Status:	Domestic or International
Results:	Summer 2025

Purpose

The [Google PhD Fellowship Program](#) recognizes outstanding graduate students doing exceptional and innovative research in areas relevant to computer science and related fields. Fellowships support promising PhD candidates of all backgrounds who seek to influence the future of technology. Google's mission is to foster inclusive research communities and encourages people of diverse backgrounds to apply.

Eligibility to Apply

Applicants must:

- Be full-time graduate students pursuing a PhD in one of the research areas listed below.
- Not be Google employees, their spouses, children, or members of their household.

Recipients must:

- Have completed all graduate coursework by the time the Fellowship begins.
- Remain enrolled full-time in the PhD program for the duration of the Fellowship or forfeit the award.
- Not be already supported by a comparable industry award (government or non-profit organization funding is exempt).

Note: past Google PhD Fellowship awardees are not eligible to apply again.

Research areas (additional specific research areas will be listed on Google's application forms during the application/nomination window):

- Algorithms and Theory
- Distributed Systems and Parallel Computing
- Health and Bioscience
- Human-Computer Interaction and Visualization
- Machine Intelligence
- Machine Perception
- Natural Language Processing
- Networking
- Quantum Computing
- Security, Privacy and Abuse Prevention
- Software Engineering
- Software Systems
- Speech Processing

Underrepresented groups

At least two out of the four U of T nominees for this award should self-identify as a woman, Black/African descent, Hispanic/Latino/Latinx, Indigenous, and/or person with a disability.

Selection Criteria

Applications are evaluated on the strength of the research proposal, research impact, student academic achievements, and leadership potential. Research proposals are evaluated for innovative concepts that are relevant to Google's research areas, as well as aspects of robustness and potential impact to the field. The proposal should include the direction and any plans for where the applicant's work is going in addition to a comprehensive description of the research they are pursuing.

Essay responses are evaluated in addition to application materials to determine an overall recommendation.

A nominee's status as a member of a historically marginalized group is not considered in the selection of award recipients.

Research should align with [Google AI Principles](#).

Application Process

The University of Toronto may submit up to four (4) nominations university-wide (with two (2) from an underrepresented group being encouraged) for the Google PhD Fellowship competition. Given the extremely competitive and prestigious nature of this international award, graduate units are asked to carefully consider and **forward only the highest quality applications to SGS for nomination.**

Applicants must submit **an electronic copy** of their completed application as a single flat (not portfolio) PDF file via email to their graduate unit by the graduate unit's application deadline, with the subject title "NAME OF APPLICANT – Google 2025".

Please note: Reference letters should not be sent to the Graduate Awards Office. Students must ensure that letters are sent to their **graduate unit**.

Graduate units must submit all nominations to SGS using the MS Form linked in the Graduate Unit Instructions document no later than March 28, 2025.

Application Package

A complete application package will include all of the following items in the order listed:

1. Cover sheet signed by the Department Chair or designate confirming that the student passes the eligibility requirements, as stated above (to be supplied by graduate unit before forwarding to SGS).
2. Student CV with links to website and publications (if available).
3. Short (1-page) CV of the student's primary supervisor.
4. Research / dissertation proposal (**maximum 3 pages, excluding references**).
5. Student (research) essay response (**maximum 350 words**): Describe the desired impact your research will make on the field and society, and why this is important to you. Include any personal, educational and/or professional experiences that have motivated your research interests.
6. Student (leadership) essay response (**maximum 350 words**): Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes or contributed to group efforts over time. (A leadership role can mean more than just a title. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or taking the lead role in organizing an event or project. Think about what you accomplished and what you learned from the experience. What were your responsibilities? Did you lead a team?)

How did your experience change your perspective on leading others? Did you help to resolve an important dispute at your school, church, in your community or an organization? And your leadership role doesn't necessarily have to be limited to school activities. For example, do you help out or take care of your family?)

7. Transcripts for all current and previous undergraduate and graduate studies to date. Scans of official transcript are preferred but unofficial and web-based transcripts are accepted.
8. 2-3 letters of recommendation from those familiar with the nominee's work (at least one must be from the applicant's thesis advisor). Letters must be emailed by each referee as a PDF attachment **directly to the graduate unit (not SGS)** with the subject title "Google 2025 Ref – NAME OF APPLICANT" by the graduate unit's application deadline.

Applicants should list their Google Research Area(s), in order of relevance if more than one, in the body of the submission email to their graduate unit.

Underrepresented group applicants only: if you self-identify as a member of an underrepresented group, please indicate your identification in the body of your submission email. Your underrepresented group status will not be disclosed during SGS Committee review, and applications will be reviewed based solely on the strength of the submitted materials.

Results

The University competition results will be communicated by the SGS Graduate Awards Office in late April. The results of the international competition will be communicated in Summer 2025.

Contacts & Resources

For more information, visit the [Google PhD Fellowship FAQ page](#) and/or contact phdfellowship@google.com or Janine Harper
Graduate Awards Officer
Graduate Awards Office, School of Graduate Studies
janine.harper@utoronto.ca
416-978-3555