



# SGS Award Announcement

**To:** Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators  
**From:** Fong Di Caterina, Manager, Graduate Awards  
**CC:** Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; John Peever, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid; Lindsay DeClou, Associate Director, Graduate Awards Operations & Postdoctoral Affairs  
**Date:** November 12, 2024  
**Re:** **2025-2026 Mackenzie King Scholarships**

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This announcement is for internal purposes only and should not be posted on websites external to the University.

## Award Overview

<b>Student Deadline to SGS:</b>	<b>January 24, 2025 (no later than 4:30 PM)</b>
<b>Value/Duration:</b>	Travelling Scholarship - \$15,000 for one year Open Scholarship - \$13,000 for one year
<b>Level of Study:</b>	Master's or Doctoral
<b>Required Legal Status:</b>	Domestic or International
<b>Results:</b>	July 2025 by agency

## Purpose

The Mackenzie King Scholarships were established as an independent trust under the will of the late Rt. Hon. William Mackenzie King (1874-1950). Two types of Mackenzie King Scholarships were established to support graduates of Canadian universities who are pursuing graduate studies. U of T is permitted to nominate two (2) candidates from each category to the national competition.

**The Travelling Scholarship** is awarded to applicants who have a degree from a Canadian university and are pursuing graduate studies in the areas of international or industrial relations within the United States or the United Kingdom. The Mackenzie King Selection Committee in the past has interpreted “international relations” broadly, as encompassing a program in any discipline as long as the topic is substantially concerned with the relationship between nations, e.g., studies in law, history, or development studies may qualify as international relations. The Mackenzie King Board receives about 20 nominations annually for four scholarships, each of approximately \$15,000 (number of recipients and value are subject to change – it was \$15,000 in 2024-25).

**The Open Scholarship** is awarded to an applicant who has a degree from a Canadian university and is pursuing graduate studies in any discipline, within Canada or elsewhere. The Mackenzie King Board receives approximately 80+ nominations annually from all universities to award one scholarship of approximately \$13,000 (value is subject to change – it was \$13,000 in 2024-25).

## Eligibility to Apply

Due to the highly competitive nature of these awards and the number of potentially eligible University of Toronto students/alumni, individuals who apply through U of T must meet **all of the following criteria at the time of application**:

- Have applied for admission to a graduate program and will be commencing (or continuing in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of) full-time graduate studies in the upcoming 2025-2026 academic-year;

- Will have obtained a degree from a Canadian university (e.g., bachelor's degree, master's degree) when tenure of the scholarship begins (i.e., September 2025);
- Demonstrate a minimum grade of “A-” (80%, 3.70/4.00) in every undergraduate and graduate course completed to date. Applicants with an A- or lower in any individual course are less likely to be successful (Travelling Scholarship applicants excepted as it is less competitive);
- Are at an early stage of their graduate program (Years 1-3);
- Will not be holding other scholarships that if including the Mackenzie King would total more than their tuition plus \$20,000 (known as the “cap”). The CAD 20,000 figure is subject to change.
  - For example, if a domestic applicant will be holding a major award of \$27,000 at U of T during the 2025-26 academic year, they would be required to decline the Mackenzie King Scholarship, if offered.
  - Note that the cap differs depending on the tuition at the university where the student plans to pursue their studies.
  - If a student knows at the time of application that they will have external scholarship funding for the next academic year that exceeds the “cap”, they should not apply.
  - “Scholarship support” does not include salary for services such as research or teaching assistance.
  - A student may accept a Mackenzie King Scholarship for a reduced amount if they have other scholarship support that leaves them room under the “cap” for only a partial award.

## Application Process

Applications must be submitted through an applicant's “home” university. This is the Canadian university from which the applicant most recently graduated or at which they are currently enrolled.

Applicants currently registered at U of T must submit an electronic copy of their completed application as a single PDF file (excluding confidential letters) via the [Mackenzie King Scholarships - 2025 Online Submission Form](#) by **4:30pm on Friday, January 24, 2025**. U of T alumni who are not registered in any degree program at the time of application may submit their applications via email to [graduate.awards@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.awards@utoronto.ca) by February 3, 2025 (4:30pm), using the subject title “MK 2025 App – NAME OF APPLICANT”.

**Components 1 through 4 are to be combined into a single PDF file** using the file naming convention “Last name, first name – MK 2025 App”. Applications that are incomplete, ineligible or submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Applications or documentation sent directly to the Board administering the national competition will not be considered.

## Application Package

A complete application will include all of the following items in the order listed (no other supporting documentation will be accepted):

1. Completed and signed [application form](#);
2. Supplementary Information on Academic Achievements and Experience (“Sheet A”);
  - May be more than one page
  - List all undergraduate and graduate awards received (including name, year(s) of tenure and annual value)
  - List all work experience related to your field of study (professional or business)
  - List all publications to date relevant to your field of study
3. Personal Statement (“Sheet B”);
  - 600 words maximum (no exceptions)
  - Must be readily understandable to individuals outside your discipline
  - Describe:
    - Academic interests
    - Extracurricular activities
    - Program of study you intend to pursue
    - Your plans for your career

4. Original or certified copies of official transcripts (scanned from paper or e-transcript) from all universities attended (ACORN print-outs not accepted); and
  - Any encryption on e-transcripts will need to be removed before combining with the rest of the application. Students may use freely available PDF software such as Adobe Acrobat Reader or their web browser to “print to PDF” in order to create an unencrypted “copy” of the file, which remain acceptable.
  - Grading legends must be provided with every transcript. Unofficial transcripts will only be accepted if the official transcripts cannot be obtained. If an official transcript cannot be obtained, the applicant must provide a letter from the institution’s transcript office which states that the institution is not able to provide an official transcript at this time along with an unofficial version of the transcript. Transcripts should **not** be separately mailed or emailed to the Graduate Awards Office.
  
5. Three (3) confidential letters of reference by email directly from the referee.
  - Each letter must clearly state the referee’s name and contact information, and display the referee’s signature
  - Two of the letters must be from individuals who match **either or both** of the following descriptions:
    - A person under whom the applicant has performed major work within a university and is able to provide a critical evaluation of the applicant’s plans for graduate study
    - A senior colleague with whom the applicant has been associated in academic teaching / research and is able to provide a critical evaluation of the applicant’s plans for graduate study
  - The third letter must be from an individual who:
    - Also matches one of the descriptions above, or;
    - At least has intimate knowledge of the applicant’s record and ability, and is able to provide a critical evaluation of the applicant’s plans for graduate study
  - Method of Delivery:
    - Each email must come directly from the referee to [graduate.awards@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.awards@utoronto.ca) by the deadline, with the subject title “MK 2025Ref –NAME OF APPLICANT”). For the PDF file, please use file naming convention “Applicant last name, first initial – MK 2025 Referee last name”.

## Results

SGS Graduate Awards Office will notify all U of T applicants regarding the status of their application and whether they are being nominated to the national competition in March.

Decisions regarding the national competition will be announced directly to successful nominees by the Mackenzie King Scholarship Selection Committee in July. Awardees will be asked to disclose any new award information upon accepting the offer. Candidates are not able to accept the scholarship if they have secured other funding that exceeds the “cap” of expected tuition plus \$20,000 (CAD). In some instances, a reduced amount may be offered.

## Contacts & Resources

For more information, visit the [SGS website](#).

Please direct questions regarding this competition to:

Graduate Awards Office  
[graduate.awards@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.awards@utoronto.ca)