



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators Div 3 & Div 4
From: Margaret Meaney, Acting Graduate Awards Officer
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: December 18, 2024
Re: **2025-26 Walter C. Sumner Memorial Fellowship**

When communicating this information to students, please provide them with **your graduate unit's information**, such as your internal deadline and contact information for submission of the application packages.

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Unit:	Date set by graduate unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:	March 7, 2025 (4:30 PM)
Value/Duration:	Approx. \$6,000 for one year*
Level of study:	Doctoral
Required Legal Status:	Canadian citizen
Results:	Early June 2025

Purpose

The Walter C. Sumner Memorial Fellowships are awarded nationally to doctoral students who are registered or about to commence studies in either Chemistry, Physics, or Electronics (including Electrical Engineering or Computer Science).

*At the discretion of the Foundation, the amount and value of the fellowships awarded could vary each year depending on applicant pool.

Eligibility to Apply

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a Canadian citizen (Permanent Residents of Canada are ineligible);
- Be a resident of Canada (although at the time of application, a candidate may be studying outside the country). Preference will be given to those born in Nova Scotia, followed by those born in any of the other Atlantic Provinces;

- Be registered or commencing (May or Sept 2025) doctoral studies in Chemistry, Physics, or Electronics (including Electrical Engineering or Computer Science) at a participating Canadian university. See the [application form](#) for full list; and
- Hold a degree from a Canadian university other than the one at which the doctoral studies will be conducted during the tenure of the fellowship.
- Either hold a master's degree **or** applicants, who only hold a bachelor's degree (i.e.
- **Applicants, who only hold a bachelor's degree** (i.e. direct-entry PhD or those who have not conferred a master's degree at the time of application), **must have** a minimum of two years of either teaching or industry work experience (to include teaching assistantships).

Successful applicants who are later awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship (NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC) must inform the Walter C. Sumner Foundation immediately.

Application Process

Applicants must ensure that Part I of the application form, proof of citizenship, their official transcripts, and Part II referees' forms are submitted to their graduate unit by the unit's internal deadline. Applications that are incomplete, ineligible or are submitted after the deadline will not be considered.

A completed application will consist of the following documents (no other supporting documentation will be accepted):

1. [Application Form](#);
2. Proof of Canadian citizenship (i.e., copy of valid Canadian passport, birth certificate, or citizenship card); and
3. **Official** up-to-date transcripts from all universities attended, including a current University of Toronto transcript. Up-to-date transcripts are defined as transcripts dated or issued in the fall session of the year of application (if registered) or after the last term completed (if not currently registered). Web-based printouts are not accepted.

Notes regarding Application Form:

- a) **Part I** –To be completed by the applicant.
- b) **Part II-A**: To be completed by Supervisor of most recently completed thesis and submitted directly to the graduate unit. Referee may also attach additional sheet for comments.
- c) **Part II-B**: To be completed by Prospective Supervisor or Current Supervisor and submitted directly to the graduate unit. Referee may also attach additional sheet for comments.
- d) **Part III-A**: To be completed by Associate Chair, Graduate or Graduate Chair of the applicant's U of T graduate unit.
- e) **Part III-B**: This section will be completed by SGS after graduate units have submitted their nominations.
- f) **Applicants, who only hold a bachelor's degree** (i.e. direct-entry PhD or those who have not conferred a master's degree at the time of application), **must submit** a brief statement (one-page maximum) that describes their two most recent years of either teaching or industry work experience.

Renewals

Current recipients are eligible for a renewal request to hold the award for one additional year. (A two-year lifetime maximum.) A new application form is not required.

Awardees should submit the following documentation via their graduate unit:

1. A one page report which includes information on:
 - a) the research completed;
 - b) any papers in press or published;
 - c) papers or posters presented; and
 - d) any other relevant information.
2. Official up-to-date University of Toronto transcript issued in the fall session (or later) of the year of the renewal request.
3. A letter from the recipient's research supervisor co-signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies (SGS will obtain this signature for applicants), indicating that, in their view, satisfactory progress has been made by the student. The letter must also disclose whether the applicant has been awarded a Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS D) for their second year of study.

Results

SGS will notify all nominees of the results of the University competition in mid-April, and relay the Walter C. Sumner Foundation national results in early June.

Contacts & Resources

Visit [SGS' Walter C. Sumner Memorial Fellowships webpage](#) for further information.

For inquiries please contact:

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