Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) SGS Information Session for Students

Important Disclaimer!
What is said (or not said) at this info session does not supersede the material contained in the agencies’ guidelines or application packages.
Agenda

1. Program Overview

2. Eligibility Requirements

3. Application Information & Tips
Program Overview

The Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program is designed to encourage excellence in graduate studies at the master’s and doctoral levels at universities in Ontario.

- Value of the OGS: $5,000 per session
  - 2-Session award: $10,000
  - 3-Session award: $15,000

- Each university in Ontario has its own application and application procedure
  - For students applying to graduate school, applications must be submitted to each University to which you are seeking admission for 2021-22

- Must be held at the awarding University

- 2021-22 Competition at U of T will open in late October
General Application Information

• Students applying for OGS at U of T must apply to the graduate unit using the SGS OGS online application and adhere to internal graduate unit deadline.
  – Incoming applicants applying to multiple graduate units for admissions must submit separate applications to each graduate unit

• Internal deadlines will be posted on the SGS website in late October.

• Last year’s application instructions are available for reference on the SGS OGS website.
Eligibility Conditions to Apply

• **Master’s level max**: Up to 2 OGS/QEII-GSST awards in total while in any master’s degree program.

• **Doctoral level max**: Up to 4 OGS/QEII-GSST awards in total while in any doctoral program.

• There is **lifetime maximum** of six years of government-funded student awards. This maximum includes awards offered by OGS, QEII-GSST, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, and Vanier.

• Student may not hold a scholarship from NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, Vanier, Trillium, QEII-GSST, or OGS (from prev. year) at the same time as OGS.
Eligibility Conditions Continued

• Applicants must be planning to pursue, or continue in, full-time studies in a master’s or doctoral degree for the 2021-22 academic year for at least two consecutive sessions (cannot be completing degree requirements prior to December 2021)

• Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons are eligible for the domestic competition

• International students must have a valid study permit by the departmental deadline in order to be eligible to apply for OGS International awards
Academic Eligibility

At the time of application:

**Undergrad, 1st and 2nd year graduate students:**

- Must have an average of at least A- in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent).

**3rd + year graduate students:**

- Applicants in their third year or beyond of graduate studies at the time of application must have an overall average of at least A- for **ALL** graduate level courses completed.
Eligibility Conditions to Hold

- Must register and remain enrolled as a full-time student at U of T in an eligible program at the graduate unit from which the OGS was awarded;

- Who withdraw, transfer to part-time status, complete degree requirements prior to the end of their award, or fail to complete the full session will be required to repay the funds received for the incomplete session;

- Must be in good standing with the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP).
Eligibility Conditions Continued

• May accept research assistantships, part-time teaching positions, or other paid employment that does not affect their status as a full-time graduate student and is commensurate with the graduate unit policies. Typically, students holding full-time paid employment are not eligible to receive an OGS from the University of Toronto; and

• Cannot hold an OGS award in the same session (overlapping) or in the same award year as a scholarship from SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, QEII-GSST, or another OGS.
Ontario Graduate Scholarship

ON THIS PAGE

- Award Overview
- Value & Duration
- Purpose
- Eligibility
- Application Process
- Additional Info
- Indigenous Scholars Award
- Contacts & Resources

https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/ontario-graduate-scholarship/
1. Confirm Your Deadline

- Student Deadlines
- Application Instructions
- View Results
- Referee Instructions

**Note:** JOINid does not function for logging into the OGS Application.

Award Overview
1. Confirm Deadline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Unit Name</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Domestic (Canadian &amp; PR) Students: Unit OGS Deadline</th>
<th>International (Study Permit) Students: Unit OGS Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aerospace Studies, Institute of (aka &quot;UTIAS&quot;)</td>
<td>Applied Science &amp; Engineering, Faculty of</td>
<td>Please contact the unit directly</td>
<td>Please contact the unit directly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology, Dept of</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
<td>18-Jan-2019</td>
<td>18-Jan-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture, Landscape, and Design, John H. Daniels Faculty of</td>
<td>Architecture, Landscape &amp; Design, John H Daniels Faculty of</td>
<td>25-Apr-2019</td>
<td>11-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art, Graduate Dept of Fine</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
<td>10-May-2019</td>
<td>22-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics, Dept of</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
<td>6-May-2019</td>
<td>18-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry, Dept of</td>
<td>Medicine, Faculty of</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, Institute of</td>
<td>Applied Science &amp; Engineering, Faculty of</td>
<td>3-May-2019</td>
<td>22-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell &amp; Systems Biology, Dept of</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
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<td>8-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering &amp; Applied Chemistry, Dept of</td>
<td>Applied Science &amp; Engineering, Faculty of</td>
<td>9-Apr-2019</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry, Dept of</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
<td>29-Apr-2019</td>
<td>25-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinema Studies program</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
<td>19-Mar-2019</td>
<td>19-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering, Dept of</td>
<td>Applied Science &amp; Engineering, Faculty of</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Review Application Instructions

- Student Deadlines
- Application Instructions
- View Results
- Referee Instructions

Note: JOINid does not function for logging into the OGS Application.

Award Overview
2. Review Application Instructions

https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards-funding/scholarships-awards/ontario-graduate-scholarship-application-instructions/?highlight=OGS
3. Create an Application

- Student Deadlines
- Application Instructions
- Apply Now
  
  **Note:** JOINid does not function for logging into the OGS Application.
- Referee Instructions

Award Overview
Logging In

School of Graduate Studies Forms Tool
Division of the Vice-President and Provost

In order for you to use this system you need to authenticate.

Proceed to Login
Before Logging in

Keep in Mind

1. Log in using a valid **UTORid** or **BlueAccount**
   - **JoinID** cannot be used with the OGS application system

2. Only the most up to date versions of Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari are compatible with the OGS application system

3. If you have are having issues logging in:
   - Clear your cache (Ctrl+Shift+Delete for Windows, Command+Shift+Delete for Macs)
   - Use a Private Browsing or Incognito window
Logging In

U of T Applicant:
Log in using your UTORid

Incoming/non U of T Applicant without a valid UTORid: Log in with BlueAccount

To create a BlueAccount select “Log in with BlueAccount”
BlueAccount Login

Don't have an account? Register here.

Email

Password

Log in  Forgot / Reset password

Remember: Completely exit your browser when you are finished.
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Award

A graduate award available to students at both the master's and doctoral levels to fund all disciplines of academic study.
OGS Application Modules

1. Proposed Study for 2021-2022
2. Applicant Profile
3. Academic Background
   - Transcripts (unofficial copies accepted)
4. Awards & Financial Aid
5. Academic Achievements
6. Plan of Study
7. Supporting Forms (Academic References)
8. Applicant Consent and Declaration
9. Review

❖ Remember to click “Submit”!
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

Proposed Study for 2020-2021

Please provide information regarding the graduate unit and program to which you will (or intend to) be registered, and where your OGS application should be submitted for consideration at the University of Toronto.

Faculty

Graduate unit

Program

Research discipline

For statistical purposes only.

Level of study

© Master’s
© Doctorate

Year of study

© May 2020
© September 2020
© January 2021

Award start session

Date of completion of degree requirements

The date cannot be prior to December 31, 2020.
Academic Background (transcripts)

- **All degrees** should be listed in the “Academic Background” module and any degree listed must have a corresponding transcript, including a U of T transcript
  - Include a legend for transcripts outside of U of T

- Scanned **unofficial** or student issued transcripts are permitted;
  - If you have online access to your academic history (e.g. ACORN) you may submit screenshots (printscreen/snipping tool)

- All transcripts must combined and be uploaded as **one PDF file**
Awards & Financial Aid

Awards and Financial Aid

Current OSAP Status

One of the eligibility requirements for OGS is that if you have had previous OSAP or Canada Student Loan (CSL) loans, they must be in good standing.

- Have you previously received an OSAP or CSL loan? [Yes] [No]
- Is your loan currently in good standing? [Yes] [No]

A loan is in good standing if it is not in default and has no restrictions.

- Declare if you have previously held OSAP or CSL loan and if you are in good standing or not
Awards & Financial Aid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous Government Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Vanier CGS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen Elizabeth II (formerly Ontario) Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (QEIGSST/OGSST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario Trillium Scholarships (OTS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of years awarded.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Declare how many previous federal and provincial awards you have held, do not include decline awards.
Awards & Financial Aid

Would you like this OGS application to be considered in other graduate award competitions (e.g. QEII-GSST, awards for Black and/or Indigenous students) for which you may be eligible at the University of Toronto? Separate application requirements may be necessary.

- Indicate if you would like to be considered for other graduate award competitions – particularly the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarships in Science & Technology competition and/or awards for Black and/or Indigenous students
Academic Achievements

- List **Scholarships and Awards** that are competitive, include their value
  - Include all awards you have been offered, even if you later declined the offer
  - Limit awards to those achieved during your University years

- Examples of **Research Contributions** are publications, conference presentations or posters, other significant work that was submitted to an external organization
  - Briefly describe your role in contributions listed
  - Enter N/A if you have no Research Contributions to report

- If there are **special circumstances** that you would like the review committee to take into consideration when evaluating your application, there is a “Leaves of Absence and/or Special Circumstances” section in the Academic Achievement module of the application.
Plan of Study

- Maximum **one page** plus one page for Bibliography/Citations
- Uploaded as a PDF file
- Clear and concise statement or plan
- Review the OGS Application Instructions for specific details regarding what should be included in your Plan of Study based on your **degree type** and **current enrollment status** (incoming or registered)
- This is one of the most important components of your application
Academic References

- **Two Academic References** are required

- Contact and **send the reference invitation** to your referees as early as possible
  - To send a reference invitation to your referee you must complete the “Academic Reference” module of the application

- Cannot submit until both references have been completed by your referees
  - If your referee has not completed the reference form, follow-up with your referee well before your deadline to submit

- **Remind** your referees of your contributions and information you would like to be included on the reference form
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referees</th>
<th>First name</th>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>Email address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fong</td>
<td>Di Caterina</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:fong.dicaterina@utoronto.ca">fong.dicaterina@utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>Who</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ogs@utoronto.ca">ogs@utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delete</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To resend or change a reference

Click on **Delete** button associated with the specific referee. You may then add a new reference or re-enter the referee information and click 'Next' at the bottom of the page to send the request.
Keep in Mind

If you remove a referee to re-send the request the previously issued link will become inactive and the associated reference will be removed (permanently deleted)

References cannot be edited once it has been submitted, if a change must be made, the reference must be deleted and re-submitted.
Returning to your Application
Returning to your Application

Click anywhere on the table that displays your application to open the Details Panel. If you have more than one application be sure to click the correct application row.
Returning to your Application

The Details Panel will appear on the right hand side. Click “View Form” to edit your application.
Details Panel

The Details Panel also shows the current status of your Academic References, aka "supporting forms".
Submitting

To Submit go to the Review page of your application
Submitting

If your Academic Assessment Reports have not yet been submitted by your referees, you will receive an error message. The form cannot be submitted for the following reason(s):

- Not all supporting forms have been completed.

Once all components are complete, the Submit button will turn blue and you will be able to submit.
Submitting

Keep in Mind

Both Academic References (supporting forms) must be **COMPLETED** before you will be able to submit your application.

Once you have submitted your application you will not be able to make any changes. Review all application components to ensure everything is accurate and present.
Review Process

- Once submitted, applications are received and reviewed at the graduate unit indicated in the “Proposed Study” module.

- **International competition**: two-tier adjudication
  - Tier 1: Review by graduate unit (Results: late April)
  - Tier 2: Review by School of Graduate studies Awards Committee (Results: mid-May)

- **Domestic competition**: applications are only reviewed by the graduate unit (unit results: early June / official award offers: mid-July)

- Payment is issued through ACORN
The following departments/faculties offer writing support through one-on-one consultations:

- Architecture
- OISE
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Pharmacy
- Physical Education
- Social Work

If you are not part of these departments, you may also visit the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication: [https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/resources-supports/gcac/](https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/resources-supports/gcac/)
Welcome to the Graduate Centre for Academic Communication (GCAC). GCAC provides graduate students with advanced training in academic writing and speaking.

We are now located on the first floor of the McMurrich Building (12 Queen’s Park Crescent West).

Graduate students need to be able to communicate sophisticated information to sophisticated audiences. As you prepare to attend your first conference, to write your first proposal, or to publish your first paper, you will need stronger communication skills than those needed in undergraduate work. By emphasizing professional development rather than remediation, GCAC can help you cultivate the ability to diagnose and address the weaknesses in your oral and written work.

https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/resources-supports/gcac/
Additional Tips
What Makes a Great Merit Based Application?

Advice from Graduate Awards Office & Prof. Malcolm Campbell - Former Vice-Principal Research, UTSC

• Reviewers spend **6-8 minutes** on each application. You have a short period of time to sell yourself on paper.

• Selection/Evaluation Criteria – make sure you “hit” them all
Academic Achievements

• Reviewers look heavily at **PROGRESS**. Ongoing awards look good. Publications, historical grade trends, and **PRODUCTIVITY**

• Your contributions/role in a project, impact of the work, awards, presentations, research background, communication achievements, leadership roles (volunteer, elected positions, clubs, sports, etc.)

• Limit to university level achievements
Research Proposal/Plan of Study

• Write a clear and concise research proposal that an educated non-expert could understand
• Give your proposal to as many people as possible to review – ideally a professor/senior graduate student who can critique it
• Read the proposal out loud to yourself and others. If it doesn’t sound natural, then it needs more work
• Engage the reviewer by highlighting the Importance/Significance – you want your reviewer to advocate for your application
Writing Style/Formatting

• Make it easy for the reviewer to find key information
  – Use headings
  – Apply boldface or underlined text strategically
• Be clear, succinct, scholarly but understandable
• Be straight forward, emphasize strengths, not a time to be shy
• Follow formatting standards
Your Reference Letters

- Must be very strong
- Be enthusiastic
- Provide additional information (skills and past achievements) and demonstrate how your attributes and qualifications surpasses selection criteria & worthy of the award
- Big thank you!
Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology

- Arts and Science (Faculty) at Mississauga campus
- Aerospace Studies
- Astronomy & Astrophysics
- Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering
- Cell & Systems Biology
- Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Dentistry
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Forestry
- Geography & Planning
- Health Policy, Management & Evaluation
- Immunology
- Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology
- Materials Science & Engineering
- Mathematics
- Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
- Medical Biophysics
- Medical Science
- Molecular Genetics
- Nursing Science
- Nutritional Sciences
- Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Pharmacology & Toxicology
- Physics
- Physiology
- Public Health Sciences
- Rehabilitation Science
- Statistical Sciences
Questions

Stacey Kwan
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School of Graduate Studies
Email: ogs@utoronto.ca