SGS Student Award Information Session:
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
Fall 2019

presented by Stacey Kwan
Graduate Awards Officer
University of Toronto, School of Graduate Studies

ogs@utoronto.ca

Important Disclaimer!
What is said (or not said) at this workshop does not supersede the material contained in the guidelines or application packages
Agenda

1. Program Overview

2. Eligibility Requirements

3. Application Information & Tips
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 2020-21

- **Must be held at the awarding University**

- **2020-21 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 2020-21 academic year for at least two consecutive sessions (cannot be completing degree requirements prior to December 2020)

- Canadian citizens and permanent residents must apply to 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.
 Ontario Graduate Scholarship

Award Overview

**Award Category:** Admission Awards, Doctoral Awards, Government-Funded Awards, In-Course Awards, International Awards, Master’s Awards

**Student Deadline:** Date set by graduate unit

**Application Dates:** Fall / Winter / Summer

**Graduate Unit Deadline:** June 3, 2019 (not for students—unit must forward all OGS nominations to SGS by this date)
1. Confirm Deadline

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology, Dept of</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
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<td>Architecture, Landscape &amp; Design, John H. Daniels Faculty of</td>
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<td>11-Mar-2019</td>
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<td>Art, Graduate Dept of Fine</td>
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<td>22-Mar-2019</td>
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<td>18-Mar-2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biochemistry, Dept of</td>
<td>Medicine, Faculty of</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
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<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>
<td>17-Apr-2019</td>
<td>8-Mar-2019</td>
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<td>Chemical Engineering &amp; Applied Chemistry, Dept of</td>
<td>Applied Science &amp; Engineering, Faculty of</td>
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<td>1-Mar-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Arts &amp; Science, Faculty of</td>
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<td>25-Mar-2019</td>
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<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

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

Applicants must submit an OGS application to their proposed graduate unit using the U of T School of Graduate Studies centralized online OGS application. Each graduate unit will have their own internal submission deadline to which applicants must adhere. See detailed OGS Application Instructions here.

Once completed and submitted online, the entire application will be available to the proposed graduate unit(s) for review and consideration.

Important note for prospective students: Students must submit an OGS application to each institution for which they are seeking admission. OGS awards are not transferrable from one university to another. If applying to multiple departments within the U of T, a separate OGS application must be submitted to each department.

Important note for visa students: Applicants holding or will be holding a valid student visa by the graduate unit’s OGS visa application deadline (or at the graduate unit’s discretion by March 31, 2019 at the latest) are eligible to apply following the same application process and internal deadlines set by their current or proposed graduate unit. Graduate units will select and forward a limited number of applications to the School of Graduate Studies to compete in a centralized adjudication.
2. Review Application Instructions

https://qa-www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards-funding/scholarships-awards/ontario-graduate-scholarship-application-instructions/?highlight=OGS
3. Apply!

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

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3. Apply

Please select your preferred single sign-on method for logging in:

- Click on the method to Sign-in
- Only currently registered U of T students can sign-in using their UTORid
Application Dashboard

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

Applicant Form

Welcome to the Ontario Graduate Scholarship application for the University of Toronto. Prior to commencing, please refer to your graduate unit/department's website to confirm details on their OGS submission deadline, click here for more information.

To create a new application, click "Start New Application" below.

Once you start a new application, it will be listed under the "Applications in Progress" section where you may edit, delete, or review and submit your application. After submission to the graduate unit, the application will move under the "Submitted Applications" section where you may view, save a copy, and be notified of the result of the submitted application.

Both references must be complete and submitted to the system before you can submit your application. Once your references are "Completed", you will need to return to your application in progress to "Review and Submit". Detailed instructions can be found in the OGS Application Guide.

Applications in Progress

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Graduate Unit/Department</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Reference 1 Submission Status</th>
<th>Reference 2 Submission Status</th>
<th>Application Submission Status</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Each graduate unit has their own timeline for adjudication. The result of your submitted application is expected to appear under the "Application Result Status" column in the table below by the end of June. It is strongly recommended that you save a copy of your application for your records.

Submitted Applications

You do not have any applications that have been submitted to the graduate unit.
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

Applicant Form

The 2016-17 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) competition at the University of Toronto is now CLOSED. Thank you for your interest in this competition.

Start New Application

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>⚠ Waiting for reference</td>
<td>⚠ Waiting for reference</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Edit</td>
</tr>
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OGS Application Modules

1. Proposed Study for 2020-2021
2. Applicant Profile
3. Academic Background
   - Transcripts (unofficial copies accepted)
4. Awards & Financial Aid
5. Academic Achievements
6. Plan of Study
7. Academic References (submit request early)
8. Review

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

Proposed Study for 2019-2020

Please provide information regarding the department 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:  
Department:  
Required

Program:  
Required

Research Discipline (For statistical purposes only):

Level of study:  
- Master’s
- Doctorate
Required

Expected year of study for 2019-2020:
Select...
Required

Session you expect to begin your proposed study/OGS Award:
- May 2019
- September 2019
- January 2020
Required

Expected date of completion of degree requirements for the proposed study; this date cannot be prior to December 31, 2019 (mm/yyyy):
Required

Save and Continue
Academic Background (transcripts)

- 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 degrees listed in the “Academic Background” module must have a corresponding transcript, including a U of T transcript
  - Include a legend for transcripts outside of U of T

- All transcripts must combined and be uploaded as one PDF file
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 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
  - 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.
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 information you would like to be included on the reference form
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<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Cell and Systems Biology</td>
<td>Cell and Systems Biology</td>
<td>✔ Completed</td>
<td>✔ Completed</td>
<td>In progress</td>
<td>Edit Delete Review and Submit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Writing Support

- 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/
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/
Registration for September 2019 GCAC courses opens on Friday August 30th at 10:00 a.m.

Students may register in a maximum of two GCAC courses in the September session

Note: If you need to know the location of a course in which you are registered, please check your registration confirmation email. That email is sent to the address that is listed in your official U of T profile.

Registration Instructions & Attendance Policies

September 2019 Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline-Specific Courses</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day and Time</th>
<th>Duration Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Writing CIHR Proposals (Physical and Life Sciences)</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues. 5:00 – 7:00</td>
<td>Sept. 10 – Sept. 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Writing NSERC Proposals (Physical and Life Sciences)</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mon. 10:00 – 1:00</td>
<td>Sept. 9 – Sept. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Writing SSHRC Proposals (Humanities and Social Sciences)</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fri. 10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td>Sept. 20 – Oct. 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/resources-supports/gcac/current-terms-courses/
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 straightforward, 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
Graduate Awards Officer
School of Graduate Studies
Email: ogs@utoronto.ca