Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships
SGS Information Session for Students

FALL 2020

**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. Overview
2. Eligibility
3. Competition Evaluation Criteria
4. Application Process
5. Questions
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship

• Tri-Agency program designed to attract & retain world-class doctoral students to a Canadian University.

• Do not have to be registered or admitted to a graduate program at time of application

• Must be nominated by University

• Full online submission via ResearchNet for all 3 agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) (http://www.researchnet.ca)

• $50,000/yr for 3 years
Eligibility

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, you must:

- be nominated by only one Canadian university, which must have received a Vanier CGS quota;
- be seeking financial support to pursue your first doctoral degree (or combined MA/PhD or MD/PhD);
- have completed no more than 20 months of doctoral studies by May 1, 2021 (started no earlier than Sept 2019);
- have completed no more than 32 months of full-time study in their doctoral program, by May 1, 2021 if enrolled in a joint graduate research program, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD, DVM/PhD.
- have completed no more than 32 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by May 1, 2021 if in a Direct PhD or fast-tracked from a master’s to a PhD (did not complete their master’s before transferring to a PhD).

Note:
All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, will be considered in the evaluation of eligibility.

Successful MD/PhD students may hold the Vanier CGS only during the PhD portion of their program.
Eligibility continued…

• intend to pursue, in the summer semester or the academic year following the announcement of results, full-time doctoral studies and research at the nominating university;

• have achieved a first-class average (A-) in the last two years of full-time study or equivalent; and

• not have already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, SSHRC or NSERC.
Dual Doctoral Applications

Vanier CGS candidates may apply to the same or different federal granting agency’s doctoral awards competition in the same academic year, provided that the research proposed in each application falls within the mandate of the federal granting agency to which the application is submitted. They may not hold more than one agency doctoral scholarship or fellowship.

Students may not apply for a CGS M in the same year as any of the federal doctoral level competitions.
Evaluation Criteria

**Academic excellence**, as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions.

**Research potential**, as demonstrated by the candidates research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, the potential benefit to Canadians, and any anticipated outcomes.

**Leadership** (potential and demonstrated ability), as defined by the following qualities:
- Personal Achievement
- Involvement in Academic Life
- Volunteerism
- Civic Engagement
Emphasis on Recruitment & Student Mobility

Vanier CGS candidates are strongly encouraged to pursue their studies at a university other than that (or those) which granted their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Candidates who are nominated by a university at which they have completed a previous degree must provide a strong and compelling rationale as to why they have chosen to undertake their PhD at the same university.
Selecting the Appropriate Agency

The students’ proposed research project and doctoral program of study must be eligible within the mandate of the agency to which the nomination will be submitted. If in doubt, students are urged to seek written confirmation by the tri-council in advance of submitting their application. Complete guidelines on selecting the appropriate federal granting agency are available at http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=FEE7261A-1
The Federal Tri-Councils

The major federal source of funds for research and scholarship in academic institutions

- **CIHR**: Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- **NSERC**: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- **SSHRC**: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Please Note**: You may submit only one application per year to only one granting agency (NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC).

**Selecting the Appropriate Federal granting agency:**
Leadership (Potential and Demonstrated Ability)

• Given the prestige of the Vanier CGS program, this is an important criterion that has to be assessed in an indirect manner, since there is no opportunity for the selection committee to interview candidates.

• When evaluating this criterion, reference the instructions provided to candidates.

• More information on leadership is available in the SSHRC-funded study, Leadership at the Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Levels [PDF (260 KB)].

• When assessing the leadership criterion, consider how the nominee has gone above and beyond the expected norms in order to overcome obstacles, foster others, spearhead change, or otherwise demonstrate Leadership.
Leadership (Potential and Demonstrated Ability)

• When crafting your Personal Leadership Statement, consider the following:
• Leadership can take many forms. When crafting this statement, be sure to outline not just your accomplishments for the committee, but how those accomplishments required you to leverage your leadership skills to achieve your goals – your personal story.
• Be sure to outline how you have gone above and beyond the expected norms in those areas in order to overcome obstacles, foster others, spearhead change, or otherwise demonstrate leadership.
Define your career goals and trajectory, and outline for the committee the ways in which you have created opportunities for yourself and others, how you have overcome obstacles to your vision, and how your PhD research, knowledge dissemination and mentorship activities will help accomplish those goals.

How have you fostered your ability to lead others, and how have you leveraged that skill?

What led you to doctoral research? How have your life experiences and personal circumstances (which may include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, childrearing, illness, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma and loss, or health-related family responsibilities) shaped your academic, research, and leadership choices, challenges, and successes?

How has your life driven you to share and disseminate your research? How does your nominating institution provide an environment that nurtures your leadership skills?
Application Process

Please refer to the Vanier website for step-by step application instructions

Create an online account on ResearchNet
• Log into your ResearchNet Account;
• Click on “Register for a CIHR PIN;
• Complete and submit the on-line registration form;
• CIHR PIN requests are processed Monday to Friday between 7am and 5pm (ET). You should receive a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN within 24 business hours of submitting your form. If it has been longer than 24 business hours since you submitted your form and you still have not received a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN, please call 1-888-603-4178 or e-mail support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.
Create a Canadian Common CV (CCV) Account
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<td>2020-10-14</td>
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<td>Other: Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement</td>
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<td>2020-11-23</td>
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**Activity Messages**

**Application Process Overview**

Please complete the tasks below and submit your application electronically to your nominating institution.

You must also send your official transcripts of your complete academic record to date to your respective copy of the transcripts.

For more information on how to complete this section, please refer to the [Application instructions](#)

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Under “Enter Proposal Information” section: You must complete the “Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study” field in order for the “Institution Deadline Date” to appear.

Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study

* Institution (required)
  
  CEAA

Faculty (required)

Department (required)

Are you moving from a Bachelors directly to a PhD program (or equivalent degrees)? (required)

No

Certification Requirements

- Human Stem Cells
- Human Subjects
The graduate unit deadline will be earlier than the “Institution Deadline Date” displayed. Make sure you submit your application by your graduate unit deadline date.
Applicant - Fong Di Caterina

* Role *(required)*
  Nominated Principal Investigator

* Last Name *(required)*
  Di Caterina

* First Name *(required)*
  Fong

* PIN *(required)*
  252187

* CCV Confirmation Number *(required)*
  

* Telephone Number (e.g. 613-555-1234 or 011-02-5-225-3586) *(required)*
  416-978-2205

Fax Number
  

* Institution *(required)*
  

Other
### Identify Referee

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<th>Assessment Required Deadline Date (YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm)</th>
</tr>
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<td>2019-09-21 20:00 EDT</td>
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</table>

[Return to Task List](#)
Applicants should enter a deadline at least a week before their graduate unit deadline. The link in the referee email will still be valid after the deadline as long as it's before the institution deadline.
ResearchNet will send two emails to each referee. One “personalized” from the applicant, the other with the unique link to the reference form. Make sure the referees check their junk mail box.

Le français suit l’anglais

Dear Referee:

I would like to request your service to provide a referee assessment for me as a candidate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program. Your assessment would be greatly appreciated. You should be receiving an email from ResearchNet shortly with a link and detailed instructions on how to proceed.

With sincere thanks,

Fong Di Caterina

*******************************************************************************
Le français suit l'anglais.

Dear Major Profession,

Fong Di Caterina would like to request a referee assessment for him/her as a candidate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program (Vanier CGS). Your assessment would be greatly appreciated. If you do not personally know the applicant, please provide the referee assessment based on the information that the applicant provided to you.

Please refer to the Vanier CGS website for information to help you with this task:

The referee assessment must be submitted via ResearchNet no later than 2019-07-13 20:00 EDT.

If the referee assessment is not submitted in time, the applicant will not be able to submit their application.

Once you have completed the form, click the submit button to submit your referee assessment through ResearchNet and it will be linked to the applicant’s submission.

The applicant will be notified that the task is completed, but they will not have access to view the information provided. Applicants can, however, request their referee assessments via an Access to Information and Privacy request.

Once your assessment has been submitted, you can view it by using the link below. However, no further edits can be made.

Click on the link below to access the referee assessment form. If this does not work, copy and paste the link into your browser.

If you are currently logged in to ResearchNet, please ensure you sign out before accessing the referee assessment form.

https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/sponsorSubmission.do?sponsorKey=GwFtOow3ncE2P91Y64zmqQ valid=true
Referee's Assessment

Program
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Assessment Required Deadline Date
2018-09-21 20:00 EDT (1 Day)

Referee's Assessment of a Candidate for a Vanier CGS Award

This report will be used when assessing the candidate's application for the Vanier award in support of doctoral studies. Based on the federal Privacy Act, a candidate will have a right of access to the substance of your assessment.

There are three sections to the report, and all three sections must be completed.

Referees should bear in mind that the candidate will need to assemble a complete application package, including this report, by the competition deadline. The funding agencies will not consider late or incomplete applications.

Referee's Assessment

Subtasks
- Referee Information
- Section 1 - Academic Excellence
- Section 2 - Research Potential
- Section 3 - Demonstrated and Potential Leadership

Assessment Status: Not Submitted

Candidate
Fong Di Caterina

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<td>Position*</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization*</td>
<td>University M</td>
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</table>

Number of years/months that the referee has known the candidate* Years 2 Months 0

Relationship to candidate* 

Contact Information*
Section 1 - Academic Excellence: Provide an assessment of the candidate's academic excellence as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions. Since the review committee is multidisciplinary, please provide an assessment that references the norms and expectations of the student’s discipline. If applicable, please also comment on results achieved outside of the university environment. Maximum of 2250 characters (~ 1/2 page)

Section 2 - Research Potential: Provide an assessment of the candidate's research potential as demonstrated by their research history, interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field and any anticipated outcomes. Include examples to support your assessment in comparison to the norms particular to the research area(s) (e.g. publication norms for the discipline etc.) Maximum of 2250 characters (~ 1/2 page)
Section 3 - Demonstrated and Potential Leadership: Provide an assessment of demonstrated and potential leadership ability. Because there is no opportunity to interview the students, please elaborate for the committee how the candidate has gone above and beyond the opportunities presented in order to achieve a goal, contribute to their community, or how they have taken on responsibility for others. Note that high achievement, while admirable, does not necessarily constitute Leadership. Be sure therefore to provide context for the committee that illuminates how the candidate’s participation in activities (be they volunteer or work, sport or art, and any other participation) goes above and beyond active participation and becomes Leadership.

Maximum of 4500 characters (~ 1 page).

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide referees with the information that they need in order to complete their assessments.
Applicants can “Resend Email” for pending referee forms. If a referee needs to make a revision in a submitted form, applicants must “Delete” the reference and re-add the referee to send a new request. “View” displays the contact information of the referee.
Once the reference is deleted, an automatic email is sent to the referee saying their reference is no longer required. Applicants should warn referees about this email if they are only making edits to reduce confusion.

Le français suit l'anglais.

Dear First Professor,

This email is to inform you that Fong Di Caterina will no longer require you to submit the referee form for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships application.

Thank you for your collaboration.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the applicant.

Sincerely,

Fong Di Caterina via ResearchNet

**************************************************
Applicants upload their own two leadership reference letters in the Identify Participants Task. They’re not confidential.
Transcripts

• You do not upload your own transcripts;
• If you are registered in the fall session, you must provide an official U of T transcript showing fall 2020 registration, along with all previous undergraduate and graduate transcripts to graduate unit;
• Graduate units may use previous transcripts from your admission file.
• Confirm on ResearchNet that documents have been sent.
NEW - Doctoral Studies Timeline form

Applicants are now required to submit the Doctoral Studies Timeline form with the Official Transcripts to the nominating institution. The nominating institution (SGS) must upload the following documents with the applications being nominated to the Vanier CGS program:

1. Official Transcript
2. Doctoral Studies Timeline

Grad units are asked to submit Doctoral Studies Timeline form to SGS with transcripts
DOCTORAL STUDIES TIMELINES

The information contained in this form will be used by CIHR to assess candidates’ eligibility for the following funding opportunities:
- Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award (CGS-D)
- Doctoral Foreign Study Award (DFSA)
- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS)

Candidates must provide a timeline of their doctoral studies to date using the table below. This timeline must be consistent with the official transcripts provided.

1. Candidates must indicate the calendar year (January to December) in the appropriate field.
2. For each term, candidates must indicate if they were/are registered either full time, part time or if they were/are on leave (or not registered) by selecting the appropriate box.
3. If candidates were/are registered in a combined undergraduate and doctoral program (e.g., MD/PhD) they must indicate in which portion of the program they were/are registered for each term (PhD or non-PhD). An appendix is provided as an example on the following page.

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<th>Part-Time PhD</th>
<th>On Leave/Not Registered</th>
<th>Combined Program (Non-PhD portion)</th>
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NEW - Sex- and Gender-based Analysis Plus (SGBA+)

In order to ensure the research we fund is impactful and relevant to the diversity of the population, we now require applicants to systematically examine how differences in identity factors (such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability) affect the outcomes of research and the impacts of research findings. Applicants are now encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see Application/nomination instruction - Task 10).
Enter Proposal Information

This task collects information related to your research project. To complete the task, you must complete the four sub-tasks listed on this screen.

Subtasks
- Overview
- Details
- Descriptors
- Attachments

Enter Proposal Information - Details

* Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study

* Institution *(required)*

[Blank field]

* Faculty *(required)*

[Blank field]

* Is sex ❑ as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? *(required)*

[Drop-down list]

* Is gender ❑ as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? *(required)*

[Drop-down list]

* If yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal.
* If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.

(2000 character limit) *(required)*

[Text box]

* Proposed End Date of PhD studies (YYYY-MM) *(required)*

[Date fields]
### Vanier Results – U of T

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Questions: SGS Contacts

**CIHR Vanier**
Olivera Joksimovic  
Graduate Awards Officer  
P: 416-978-0808  
o.joksimovic@utoronto.ca

**NSERC Vanier**
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p.papathanasakis@utoronto.ca

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staceym.kwan@utoronto.ca