NSERC Doctoral Awards
SGS Information Session
for Students

FALL 2021

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.
TEAMS - ASKING QUESTIONS

• We are recording this session to be uploaded to the SGS website.
• Quick clarification questions on a particular slide may be entered in the “chat” section during the presentation.
• Save all other questions to the end of the presentation.
• Slides will be available on the SGS website under the specific award page:
  https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/canada-graduate-scholarships-doctoral-cgs-d%e2%80%8b-program%e2%80%8b/#section_5
AGENDA

1. Overview – The Federal Tri-Councils

2. NSERC PGS/CGS Competition
   - Overview
   - Eligibility
   - Competition Evaluation Criteria & Weightings
   - Tutorial Videos
   - Application Process & Components
   - Previous Results

3. Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement

4. Questions
THE FEDERAL TRI-COUNCILS

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

– Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
– Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
– Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Please Note: You may submit only one application per year to only one granting agency (NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC), with the exception of Vanier. Applications to multiple agencies will be disqualified.
NSERC BASIC CRITERIA

• The program of research must be primarily in the natural sciences and engineering;

• The intended objectives of the research must be, primarily, to advance knowledge in one of the natural sciences or in engineering.

• Selecting the Appropriate Federal granting agency

http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FEE7261A-1#NSERC1
NSERC has clarified its section of the guidelines for Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency to help applicants better identify the appropriate agency when applying for funding.

Applicants with questions on subject matter eligibility or those whose subject matter has a link, overlap, or future application to health (in particular drug discovery, disease diagnosis or treatment/prevention, development of medical devices, and collaboration with pharmaceutical companies), should contact NSERC with a one page summary of their research proposal in advance of submitting an application to seek clarification or a ruling.

The Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health has additional information and specific examples relating to subject matter eligibility.
PGS/CGS COMPETITION

1. Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS)

2. Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS)
   - 2 Awards Available: CGS D, PGS D
   - Single application for both programs
   - Highest-ranked applicants will be offered a CGS D, next highest ranked will be offered a PGS D

NSERC PGS D can be held abroad if you hold a degree from a Canadian University, a CGS D cannot be held abroad
## PGS/CGS Award Details

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>PGS D</th>
<th>CGS D</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value (Per Year)</strong></td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>36 months</td>
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BASIC PGS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

• Canadian citizen, permanent resident or Protected Persons
• Intend to pursue full-time graduate studies and research at the doctoral level in the natural sciences and engineering
• Joint programs with a professional degree (e.g. MD/PhD) are eligible, provided they have a significant research component (i.e. award would be held during the PhD portion of the program)
• Not hold or have held a Tri-Agency Doctoral level scholarship e.g. PGS D, CGS D, or a Vanier CGS

 Applicants are responsible for consulting the FULL eligibility requirements outlined by NSERC and available at:

PGS D/ CGS D ELIGIBILITY

• **Months of PhD Study**: applicants must correctly count their months up to December 31, 2021

• Cannot be more than **24 months** if in a regular PhD program, or those registered in a master’s program and subsequently transferred to a doctoral program without completing their masters (Fast Tracked)
  o Fast tracked: the months of study completed are calculated starting from the date on which an applicant transfers into the doctoral program.

• Cannot be more than **36 months** if:
  o direct entry PhD (must be between 4 and 36 months - direct-entry applicants must be enrolled in their doctoral program at the time of application)
  o in a joint program e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD - if a master's degree is obtained in the joint program, the months of study are calculated starting from the date on which an applicant is **officially registered in the joint program** (including the master’s portion of the program).
# APPLICATION WEIGHTING

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<td>Research Ability/ Potential</td>
<td>50 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia</td>
<td>50 %</td>
</tr>
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</table>

SELECTION CRITERIA

Research Ability or Potential

✓ Research proposal: focused, feasible, clear methodology, and significance of the project
✓ Relevant training: academic, research, lived experience, and work experience
✓ Quality of contributions to research and development i.e. publications, patents, reports, posters, etc.
✓ Demonstrate critical thinking, sound judgment, originality, initiative, and enthusiasm for research
✓ Ability to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written & oral formats
SELECTION CRITERIA

Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia

✓ Scholarships, awards & distinctions
✓ Academic record (entire record)
✓ Professional, academic and extracurricular activities and collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community
  • mentoring, teaching, outreach, chairing committees, participating in organizations, and/or clubs, etc.
THE APPLICATION PROCESS

**Step 1** Determine where to apply:

- If you have been registered in a degree program at U of T at any time since January 2021 you should apply through a graduate unit at U of T.

**Step 2** – If applying through U of T, consult your graduate unit regarding their application deadline, the method of submission, and the contact details for the ‘University Designate’ representative.
• Create an online account on NSERC’s website
PILOT SITE NOTICE
Our Pilot Site is no longer available. The On-line System may be used for training purposes; however, test applications must not be submitted to NSERC.

For Authorized Institutional Representatives: Before you register to access the On-line System or the Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation (FDSR) System, ensure that you have completed, signed and emailed the pertinent registration form to NSERC and read the instructions and the frequently asked questions provided. You will find the forms, instructions and frequently asked questions, for one or the other system, at the On-line System Overview and FDSR Overview pages.

On-line System Users
Select On-line System Login to create or access an application.

Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation
Security, Privacy and Use and Disclosure of Information

Before using NSERC’s On-Line System, please read the following documents and register your acceptance below:

- NSERC’s Security Statement and details on the retention periods of the data;
- NSERC’s statement on the federal Access to Information Act and Privacy Act;
- For applicants and co-applicants: Use and Disclosure of Personal Information Provided to NSERC; and
- For Referees: Instructions to Referees on the Privacy Act, Confidentiality and the Use and Disclosure of Information.

When you login and use this system, it means that you understand and accept that these policies and conditions apply.

Login

You will be automatically logged out of the system if there has not been any activity (e.g., Save, Preview, etc.) for an extended period of time. To avoid having to login again, we recommend that you select Save every 10 to 15 minutes.

**Account name**

(User ID) (30 chars)

Forgot your Account name?

**Password**

Forgot your Password?

Must be 8-10 characters long, must contain at least one special character (! @ $ % ^ & * () += { } | > < \ _ - [ ] ?) and no spaces. May contain numbers (0-9), lower and upper case letters (a-z, A-Z). Please note that your password is case sensitive. (10 chars)
• Begin working on PGS application (Form 201) – Make sure you follow the “Presentation Standards” defined by NSERC – font size, etc. Click “Save” each time you complete a page.
**Person Profile** – full name, citizenship, email, etc.

*NSERC PIN – can leave blank if you don’t already have one.

*Self-Identification - Aboriginal students are forwarded automatically to NSERC

- **Addresses** – current, previous, etc. – NSERC uses this info to contact you. If you move or change email addresses, before the results are out, update your online profile and contact them directly.

- **Academic Background** – all degree studies, college programs can be included under “Other” – transcripts not required.

- **Experience** – paid or unpaid work, research, projects, etc. Applicants must indicate if they gained the experience during the course of a program of study (if work contributed to their degree). Up to 6 entries.
COLLECTION OF SELF-IDENTIFICATION DATA

Beginning in August 2018, NSERC (in coordination with SSHRC and CIHR) are asking all applicants to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, disability and visible minority status.

A harmonized self-identification data collection process allows the granting agencies to monitor the equity performance of its programs and design new measures that achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise.

Completing the new self-identification form will be mandatory for applicants but for each category there is an option “I prefer not to answer.”
INDIGENOUS APPLICANTS

Applicants who are Indigenous [First Nations (North American Indian - Status and Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit] are encouraged to self-identify their status on their NSERC CGS and PGS D application form as universities are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota to the national competition.

In order to be considered for this, Indigenous applicants must provide consent within the application form to share this information with their institutions and NSERC. Self-identification data is not seen or used by NSERC’s selection committee members or by the applicant’s references.
INDIGENOUS/WOMAN APPLICANTS

In addition to Indigenous applicants providing consent, a similar consent will also be required so that NSERC may increase equity and diversity among qualified applicants by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman if sufficient funds become available.
Form 201 - Person Profile

This information was transferred from the New User Registration Information screen. If you need to update these fields, use the Maintain User Profile function under Account Management on the eConsole screen.

Family name [Redacted]
Given name [Redacted]
Initial(s) of ALL given names [Redacted]
Previous family name [Redacted]
NSERC PIN [Redacted]
Email address [Redacted]

Citizenship

Date of landing as stated on official immigration document [Redacted]

Self-identification statement:

Please note: Answers to the self-identification statement are not seen or used during the review process or by an applicant’s references.

Statement 1: I self-identify as Indigenous.
- I agree with Statement 1. I consent to this information being shared with my institution and used for my PGS D application for the purpose of being considered above my institution's application quota.
- Statement 1 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 1.

NSERC may increase equity and diversity by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman, if sufficient funds are made available.

Statement 2: I self-identify as Indigenous.
- I agree with Statement 2. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 2 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 2.

Statement 3: I self-identify as a woman.
- I agree with Statement 3. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 3 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 3.

What languages do you:
Read English ☐ French ☐
Write English ☐ French ☐
Speak English ☐ French ☐

Preferred language of correspondence English
• **Awards** – competitive (i.e. not needs based) can include Dean’s lists, and non-monetary awards and declined awards. Up to 10 competitive awards can be included. May use contributions statement section to describe significant but not-well known awards. Or ask referees to talk about them.

• **Location of Tenure** – must list at least one choice, up to three permitted (justification for PDF only)
Scholarship & Fellowship Information – months of graduate studies; months of study in program funding is being requested for. Be sure to enter the number of months accurately.
Thesis – all theses in progress or completed; do not duplicate info in Outline of Proposed Research.

Form 201 - Thesis Information

Information on theses completed or in progress. For completed degrees, indicate the date by which you completed all degree requirements (not the convocation date). This includes your thesis defence, corrections, and deposition of thesis.

- **Degree**
- **Supervisor**

**Date degree requirements completed**

**Title of the thesis**

200 (200 chars)

**Degree**

**Supervisor**

**Date degree requirements completed**

**Title of the thesis**

200 (200 chars)

Summary of thesis most recently completed or in progress. Use plain language. Do not reproduce the thesis abstract. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.
Thesis – include a summary of thesis most recently completed or in progress

Summary of thesis most recently completed or in progress. Use plain language. Do not reproduce the thesis abstract. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.
• **Research Subject Code** – important for determining your Selection Committee. Click on the links to next slide to see who is on the current committee.

• **Key Words** – up to 10 to describe proposed area of research/research project – also important for specific committee member selection.
NSERC SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS SELECTION COMMITTEES

• 168 – Geosciences (formerly Earth Sciences) (Competition 2021)
• 169 – Evolution and Ecology (Competition 2021)
• 177 - Mathematical Sciences (Competition 2021)
• 178 - Physics and Astronomy (Competition 2021)
• 179 - Chemistry (Competition 2021)
• 187 - Cellular and Molecular Biology (Competition 2021)
• 194 - Chemical, Biomedical and Materials Science Engineering (Competition 2021)
• 195 - Plant and Animal Biology (Competition 2021)
• 196 - Psychology (Competition 2021)
• 197 – Electrical Engineering (Competition 2021)
• 198 - Computing Sciences (Competition 2021)
• 201 – Civil and Industrial Engineering (Competition 2021)
• 202 - Mechanical Engineering (Competition 2021)
• 1078 - Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (Competition 2021)
Applicants should refer to the new Guidance document: **Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations at each stage of the research process** for more information.
OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

• Summary of future research endeavours included as a pdf attachment
• See the presentation standards provided by NSERC
• Specific, clear, enthusiastic, without being too jargon-laden
  ✓ Background, Objectives, Hypothesis, Experimental/theoretical approach/Methods (citing literature pertinent to the proposal)
  ✓ Address the methodology and rationale for including sex, gender and diversity considerations in your research.
• Do not repeat information from Thesis section (you can refer to it)
• Focus on what you will be working on during the tenure of the award
• Clearly explain the significance to the NSE
• Maximum of 2 pages in length, figures permitted
• Detailed instructions: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp
BIBLIOGRAPHY

• Max 5 pages
• NSERC expects applicants to properly reference ideas or text belonging to others. Use this section to list references to works that are cited in or directly relevant to your application (that is, do not list additional or unnecessary references to fill up the space).
• Follow the citation conventions that are appropriate to your research discipline or field.
JUSTIFYING THE ELIGIBILITY OF YOUR RESEARCH (AS PER NSERC)

• Complete the *Justification for Eligibility of Proposed Research* section if your research has any potential overlap with health or social sciences.
• This section is used by NSERC staff to determine the eligibility of your proposed research; it is not seen by the selection committees.
• Use plain language to explain why you believe that your research is intended to advance knowledge in NSE.
• It should not be another description of your research project.
• It should be a short explanation (a paragraph is fine, you do not need to use the whole page).
COMMON MISTAKES WHEN WRITING PROPOSAL / CONTRIBUTIONS / STATEMENT (AS PER NSERC)

• Lack of focus or coherence
• Repetitiveness
• Failure to cite important & relevant work in the area
• Citing too many irrelevant articles
• Spelling or grammatical mistakes
• Too much detail on minor issues; too little detail on major issues
• Research contributions not properly highlighted (too modest)
• Impact / importance of research not explained
GCAC offers bootcamp/intensive courses and workshops for proposal writing. They also offer one-on-one appointments to help review proposals.
CONTRIBUTIONS AND APPLICANT’S STATEMENT (MAX 2 PAGES TOTAL)

• Part 1: List articles published, accepted, submitted
  - Explain role and contribution if not 1st author. Do not include any articles that are currently in preparation or those on which you do not appear as an author.

• Part 2: Most significant contributions to R&D
  – Comment on the importance of your top three contributions to the research area.

• Part 3: Applicant’s statement, group comments under the follow heading:
  – research experience
  – relevant activities (describe what leadership role you took, not just position title, i.e. teaching, mentoring, managing, industrial work experience)

• No updates accepted once application is submitted to NSERC
• Many contributions to industry or other end-users take the form of technical or internal reports that are confidential, to protect proprietary information, or are subject to patent or copyright protection.

• If student record includes contributions of this kind, a one-page letter from an institution or company researcher involved with technology transfer should accompany application, and this letter should attest to the nature and significance of the contribution in as specific terms as possible. The letter will be forwarded to the selection committee for consideration only if it clearly addresses and demonstrates the confidential or protected nature of the contribution.
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

• The Special circumstances section is now integrated within Form 201 and will no longer be an optional attachment. The length of the section will remain equivalent to 1/2 a page.

• Describe any special circumstances that have had an effect on performance or productivity, e.g. health problems, family responsibilities, parental leave, disabilities or other applicable circumstances.

• Explain any gaps in the chronology of your experience (including relevant employment).

• The selection committee members are asked to recognize delays and assess the quality of the applicant’s performance and productivity during their active period (that is, excluding the period of special circumstances).

• If the supervisor is unable to provide a Report on the Applicant, they may use this section to provide an explanation.

• This section can also be used to describe the impact of COVID-19 on any aspect of the application. Describe any special circumstances that may have delayed, disrupted or interrupted studies or research, or otherwise affected the performance on which the assessment for funding will be made.
SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES – COVID-19

• Using the Special Circumstances section to describe COVID-related delays will allow applicants to devote the entire Research Proposal section to their research plans and not their COVID contingency plans. This allows them to stay on an equal footing with past and future applicants and students in more advanced stages of their degree.

• Do not be shy about describing delays and disruptions in this section.

• E.g. Delays in publications, data collection, and cancelled conferences.

• May also add a brief statement in the research proposal section saying that the proposed research is assuming a return to normal by the start of the award.
• Applicants will be required to enter the name and email of the University Designate who will upload transcripts

• Applicants must check with their unit to see what transcripts are already on file and can be used

• Official transcripts required before **graduate unit deadline**

• Designate will upload all undergrad and graduate transcripts **in one file** – include legends whenever possible, especially for those from universities outside of Canada.

• Make sure all pages that have grades are present. Summer exchange course transcripts must also be included if grades do not appear on the home institution’s transcript.

• If registered for Fall 2021, must include new official transcripts showing fall registration, regardless of grades

• Official Transcripts as per NSERC "are defined as transcripts issued by the institution's registrar's office". Transcripts from other sources, such as those printed from the student’s account on the institution’s website, are not official
• No ACORN print-outs - students may scan and email electronic copies of their **official paper transcripts** to graduate administrators

• Official e-transcripts are acceptable but should be “printed to PDF” before uploading or combining with other transcripts to remove encryption (e.g. using Adobe Acrobat Reader, or freely available PDF software).

• Due to COVID-19 IF official transcripts cannot be obtained, NSERC will accept unofficial transcripts issued from a registrar’s office. It’s better to have a complete and up-to-date unofficial transcript than an incomplete official transcript.

• Transcripts from outside North America –certified copies - If you have transcripts written in a language other than English or French, you must provide a certified English or French translation

• You are responsible for ensuring all transcripts have been uploaded according to the guidelines and are readable. Applications with missing transcripts will be rejected by NSERC.
Form 201 - Transcripts - University

The university designate is appointed by the university. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the designate has all official and up-to-date transcripts relating to their application. The applicant must provide a transcript for all programs listed in the "Academic Background" module.

Enter the Family name, Given name and E-mail address of the university designate who will scan and upload your university transcripts.

Transcripts

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<td>Given name</td>
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<td>E-mail address</td>
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Enter the Family name, Given name and E-mail address of the university designate who will scan and upload your university transcripts.

Transcripts

Status: Document completed

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<td>E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Email address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:blog_dispatcher@utoronto.ca">blog_dispatcher@utoronto.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Organization: Toronto
Department: Aerospace Studies, Institute for
Preview Application

This page allows you to view and print individual sections of the application. View an individual section by selecting it.

Form 201 - Application for a Postgraduate Scholarship or Postdoctoral Fellowship

Transcripts - University
REPORT ON THE APPLICANT

• Each application must be accompanied by **two reports** on the student. Students will invite reviewers through the online system.

• Reports required:
  
  – **Report #1**: From a person very familiar with applicant’s research and other abilities. Able to provide specific examples and knowledgeable in the proposed area of research. Usually the thesis supervisor.
  
  – **Report #2**: Person sufficiently familiar with applicant's research and other abilities to provide a meaningful commentary.

• Should not be from a proposed supervisor unless they have already supervised you before.

• Ensure you set an early deadline for their report – do not list it as the day applications are due to your graduate unit.

• You will not have access to the reports, but will be able to see when it is completed, and have ability to “unlock” allowing referees to make amendments.
REPORT ON APPLICANT (CONT’D)

- Contact your proposed referees early to ensure they are willing to complete a positive & enthusiastic report for you.

- Feel free to remind them of your contributions and information you would like to have in the letter (screenshot of referee form available in this presentation);

- Referees are asked to review your Form 201 on the report so be sure to complete as much of it as you can before sending the reference request.

- Follow-up prior to the deadline (note you must have both references completed before you can submit your application); and

- Remember to give them a big thank you.
NSERC expects reviewers to consistently guard against the possibility of unconscious bias influencing the decision-making process, whether these biases are based on schools of thought, the perceived value of fundamental versus applied research, areas of research or research approaches (including emerging ones), size or reputation of an institution, age, gender, and/or other personal factors associated with the applicant. To assist members in recognizing potential bias, all members are asked to complete the [Unconscious Bias in Peer Review online learning module](#). Members are also encouraged to complete one of the [Sex and Gender training modules](#) produced by CIHR.

Encourage your supervisor and referees to also complete the [Unconscious Bias in Peer Review online learning module](#) so that they can be aware and minimize unconscious bias when writing reference reports, e.g. using different types of adjectives to describe male vs female applicants, such as outstanding male but hard-working female
## Form 201 - Reports on the Applicant

Provide information on the two referees who will each complete the Report on the Applicant. The reports must be completed by persons capable of making an informed assessment.

After the data is saved, the system will automatically generate an e-mail to each referee inviting them to complete a Report on the Applicant.

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<td><strong>Complete by</strong></td>
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### Report

Delete | Resend | Unlock

### Proactive Disclosure

Delete | Resend | Unlock

### Proactive Disclosure

Delete | Resend | Unlock
### Form 201 - Reports on the Applicant

Provide information on the two referees who will each complete the Report on the Applicant. The reports must be completed by persons capable of making an informed assessment.

After the data is saved, the system will automatically generate an e-mail to each referee inviting them to complete a Report on the Applicant.

#### Report 1 of 2

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#### Report 2 of 2

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I have read the applicant's Form 201: No.

Comment on the applicant's research ability/potential and on the applicant's communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities (see instructions for further details). In accordance with the Privacy Act, this report will be accessible to the applicant. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.
FINAL STEP: VERIFY AND SUBMIT

Applications

Your in-progress and completed applications are listed in the table below (see Security Statement and Access to Information Act and Privacy Act for detailed information). To create a new application, select the appropriate form from the drop-down box below. To edit, preview/print or verify the completeness of a given application, click on the appropriate button below. Note that the Scholarships & Fellowships applications must be submitted electronically.

Application forms and related literature are revised annually and made available a few months prior to the application deadline indicated in the program description. If the name of the program to which you wish to apply does not appear in the list upon creation of your application on the On-line System, the form is not currently available. The forms for programs that do not have set deadline dates will remain accessible at all times.

Applicants interested in applying for support at the master’s level should refer to the CGS M Program description.

Select form to be created

Scholarships & Fellowships

PGS D applicants applying through a Canadian University

1. Select Verify to ensure your application is complete (status will appear as Completed).
2. Submit your application to your institution for approval (status will appear as Submitted). This action is the equivalent of you signing the application. Refer to Electronic Submission of Applications and What do the electronic or original signatures on the application mean?
3. Your institution submits your application to NSERC for consideration (status will appear as Approved).

PGS D and PDF applicants applying directly to NSERC

1. Select Verify to ensure your application is complete (status will appear as Completed).
2. Select Submit to forward your application to NSERC (status will appear as Submitted). This action is the equivalent of you signing the application. Refer to Electronic Submission of Applications and What do the electronic or original signatures on the application mean?
3. Once submitted and received by NSERC, the status will appear as Received.
NSERC TUTORIAL VIDEOS

Playlist - Scholarships & Fellowships program application tutorials:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6ox0GB7vXYIhaAY7mEqwmMqYK9TGCp1E
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION?

1. **Graduate unit review** - graduate unit reviews all applications submitted to the unit and nominates a quota number of applications to SGS for review.

2. **SGS review** – SGS reviews all applications received from units for the university-wide competition, at SGS there are three NSERC doc sub-committees, which select the top applicants to forward to NSERC for the national competition. Each file is read by three committee members who are outside of the applicant’s department.

3. **NSERC review** – NSERC reviews all applications received for the national competition and selects the recipients of the 2022-2023 NSERC CGS D and PGS D awards.

You should receive an email from your dept letting you know if your application was forwarded to SGS. If forwarded to SGS, we will also let you know whether your application is being forwarded to NSERC.
NSERC staff verify eligibility → Members review and score applications → Final ranked list produced

Top-ranked applicants offered CGS D, next tier offered PGS D → Results announced in April

What happens at NSERC?
## NSERC RESULTS - CANADA WIDE

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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Forwarded</strong></td>
<td>1586</td>
<td>1542</td>
<td>1687</td>
<td>1693</td>
<td>1878</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Awarded</strong></td>
<td>701</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>769</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Success Rate</strong></td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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## NSERC Results - UofT

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applications Reviewed at SGS</strong></td>
<td>271</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applications Forwarded</strong></td>
<td>225</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Awards Received</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Success Rate</strong></td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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</table>
MSFSS OBJECTIVE

- To support high-calibre graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions outside of Canada.
- Available to active CGS Master’s, CGS Doctoral or eligible Vanier CGS holders
- Up to $6,000
ELIGIBILITY TO HOLD AN AWARD

- hold an active CGS at the time your study period abroad starts;
- be registered full time in a graduate research studies program at a Canadian institution for the duration of the time abroad;
- take up the award within one year of receiving the notice of award for the CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement *some exceptions made due to COVID
- return to complete your degree in Canada.
MSFSS KEY DATES

• Deadline for universities to submit applications to the granting agencies: June 10\textsuperscript{th} and October 10\textsuperscript{th}

• Students submit application and all required documents to the School of Graduate Studies for consideration by Sept. 20, 2021
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
• 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
QUESTIONS

NSERC Scholarships & Fellowships:
schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

University of Toronto:
Graduate Awards Office
Pascal Papathanasakis
Tel: 416-978-8260
Email: p.papathanasakis@utoronto.ca