Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral (CGS-D) Program

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

• Competition Timeline
• Program Overview
• Applicant Eligibility
• Eligibility Window
• Program of Study Eligibility
• Application Procedures
• Where to Submit an Application
• Selection Criteria

Graduate Funding
Competition Timeline

- **July 30**: Launch of CGS Doctoral Program
- **End July**: Electronic applications available
- **Summer-Fall**: Direct applications due to agencies
- **October 17**: McGill Academic Institutions set their own internal deadline
- **November 21**: Graduate Funding
- **April**: Decisions are announced
CGS D – Program Overview

Competition: One national competition

Value: $35,000 per year

Duration: 36 months

Tenure: Canadian institutions only
Meritorious CGS-D applicants may also be eligible for agency-specific doctoral awards.

Note: NSERC and SSHRC have their own doctoral award and you should refer to the appropriate literature for further details.
Agency Specific Awards

SSHRC Doctoral Award: $20,000 - Duration Varies (12, 24, 36 or 48 months)
- SSHRC determines the value and duration of an award based on the number of months of full-time study the applicant will have completed by December 31 of the calendar year of application.

NSERC Postgraduate Award (PGSD): $21,000 – Duration 3 years

CIHR: Not applicable

Tenure: May be held abroad
Applicant Eligibility

Open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents and those with **Protected Person Status** *new*

Submit only one doctoral award application in a given academic year. Nominations to the Vanier CGS program do not count towards this limit.

Not have already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC.

Some eligibility requirements for CGS D differ from those of the agency specific doctoral awards.
How do I indicate my protected persons status for NSERC funding?
Application Procedures

How do I indicate my Protected persons status?

SSHRC

Graduate Funding
Application Procedures

Complete the Doctoral Research Award ResearchNet application

1. Identify participants
   If you are a Protected Person, under Citizenship select “Other” and specify your home country in the drop-down.
   IMPORTANT: If you select “Other” and you are not a Protected Person, your application will be deemed ineligible and your application will be withdrawn.

   The applicant must attach their valid proof of Canadian Citizenship, Permanent Resident or Protected Person document. The document must be uploaded in PDF format (unprotected) and the total size cannot exceed 30 MB.

   The following is an acceptable form of proof: Temporary Resident Permit if you are a Protected Temporary Resident.

How to Indicate my Protected persons status CIHR

Graduate Funding

McGill
How do I Indicate my Protected Persons status for CIHR (CCCV)?
Eligibility Window CGSD

• Have completed no more than 24 months of full-time study in their doctoral program (including Fast-tracked) by December 31 of the year of application

OR

• 1*-36 months if transferred directly from an undergraduate program to a doctoral program (must be enrolled in the PhD program at time of application)

• 0-36 months for those in a joint program e.g. MD/PhD, MA/PhD
Eligibility Window - Months in Program

• Eligibility is based on the number of months of full-time study that will be completed by December 31 of the year of application. Two terms part-time = one term of full-time.

• Months of study completed are calculated starting from the date on which you are officially registered in the doctoral program; this also applies to applicants:
  ❖ Fast-track; registered in a Master’s program and subsequently transferred to a doctoral program or
  ❖ Joint program registered in a doctoral program, even if a Master’s degree is obtained as part of the program (e.g., MA/PhD).

• A Direct-entry applicant, who commenced studies in a doctoral program directly from an undergraduate program (i.e., never enrolled in a Master’s program) must be enrolled in their doctoral program at the time of application. These applicants may be eligible to apply to the CGS M program for their first year of doctoral funding.

• The agencies count all studies toward the doctoral degree for which funding is requested, whether or not they were completed at the degree-granting institution.
Program of Study Eligibility

- An eligible doctoral program must include a significant, autonomous research component.

- Joint programs with a professional degree (e.g., MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD, MBA/PhD) are eligible if they meet the above definition.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant’s status at the time of application</th>
<th>Where to submit application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currently registered in a degree program at a Canadian institution with a quota</td>
<td>The Canadian Institution at which the applicant is currently registered.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Note</strong>: This includes applicants on an approved leave of absence from a Canadian institution with a quota</td>
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<tr>
<td>Currently registered concurrently at a Canadian institution with a quota and at a foreign post-secondary institution (e.g., in a cotutelle).</td>
<td>The Canadian institution at which the applicant is currently registered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not currently registered in a degree program but <strong>was registered at any other time during the year of application</strong> in a degree program at a Canadian institution with a quota.</td>
<td>The Canadian institution at which the applicant was registered in a degree program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently registered at an institution (Canadian or foreign) without a quota for the selected agency.</td>
<td>Directly to the appropriate agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not registered at any time during the year of application in a degree program at a Canadian institution with a quota for the selected agency.</td>
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</table>

**Where do I submit my application?**
Application Procedures

**Student affiliated with Canadian Institution**

Complete agency application
- CIHR: ResearchNet
- NSERC: On-Line System
- SSHRC: On-Line System

Submit to institution

Institutions select the best applications and forward them to the granting agencies for their national competition

**Student NOT affiliated with Canadian Institution**

Complete agency application
- CIHR: ResearchNet
- NSERC: On-Line System
- SSHRC: On-Line System

Submit to granting agencies

Graduate Funding
Application Procedures

How find instructions and application forms

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**Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral program**

The Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral (CGS D) program is a federal program of scholarships awarded through national competitions by the granting agencies: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Duration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tenure</strong></td>
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</table>
| **Application deadline** | Through a Canadian institution with a quota: Contact your institution  
Directly to the agencies: October 17 |
| **How to apply** | Refer to the Application procedures and [Where should I submit my application?](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsd-bescd_eng.asp) |
| **Results announced** | April |

**Application forms and instructions**

- CIHR: [ResearchNET and instructions](https://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/grants_funding/applying/courses/forms.html)
- NSERC: [Online System and instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsd-bescd_eng.asp)  
How do I submit my SSHRC Application to McGill?
Application Procedures

How to identify as an Indigenous applicant SSHRC
New EDI requirement for doctoral and postdoctoral award applicants

DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH DESIGN MODULE

❖ Mandatory application component
  o Integrated into SSHRC’s online system.
  o Applicants are asked to indicate whether diversity considerations are applicable to their research and to provide a justification.
  o Part of SSHRC’s efforts to support EDI in research and promote research excellence.

❖ Two-phase implementation
  o 2021: Pilot phase (not subject to merit review)
  o 2022: Integration in merit review

MODULE QUESTION:
Do diversity considerations apply to your proposed research design?

Note: Applicants are also required to provide a justification to their response to this question, using the module text box (1,700 characters maximum).
New EDI requirement for applicants

DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS IN RESEARCH DESIGN MODULE, CONT’D

Tips for Applicants

1. View the module as an opportunity to familiarize yourself with best practices in research.

2. Read the guide that accompanies the module.

3. Reflect on how diversity considerations could strengthen your research design and fully consider their relevance prior to selecting the "NO“ response.

4. Consult peers and supervisors, and consider norms and principles specific to your discipline, area of research, topic and methodology.

Resources

SSHRC website:

Guide on Integrating Diversity Considerations to Research Design for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Award Applicants

Your feedback is welcome!
If you have suggestions on how the module and related guide can be improved, send us an email: fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.
How do I submit my NSERC Application to McGill?
Application Procedures

How to identify as an Indigenous applicant

NSERC

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McGill
NSERC EDI - Component

Prior to preparing your application, you should consider the following question:

Are diversity considerations including, but not limited to, sex and gender taken into account in the proposed research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings?

• If yes, you should ensure that diversity considerations are incorporated throughout your research proposal (i.e. research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings).

• If no, you should use the text box provided in Form 201 to explain why diversity considerations are not relevant to your research design.
How do transcripts get uploaded NSERC Application?
Application Procedures

How do I submit my CIHR Application to McGill?

Must be McGill
Application Procedures

How to identify as an Indigenous applicant CIHR
Application Procedures

How to identify as an Indigenous applicant CIHR

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Agoco-xO24M&t=4s
Application Procedures

How to identify as an Indigenous applicant

Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Awards (CGS D): Voluntary Self-Identification Form for Indigenous Applicants [ PDF (253 KB) ]
EDI in CIHR-Funded Research (SGBA+)

✓ CIHR expects that all research applicants will integrate sex and gender into their research designs, methods, analysis and/or dissemination of findings, when appropriate.

This should be applied within the context of a diversity framework that considers the ways in which other biological and sociocultural determinants of health interact with sex and/or gender to contribute to exposures to various risk factors, disease courses and outcomes.

Learn more about what CIHR is doing to support EDI in the Research System and resources to help you integrate EDI in research.
https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/50068.html
COVID-19 Related Topics

The granting agencies recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted your studies or affected your research.

Special Circumstances (Optional)

All three granting agencies have a section wherein you may:

- Describe any special circumstances that have had an effect on your performance or productivity. This includes delays in disseminating research results due to health problems, family responsibilities, parental leave, disabilities, trauma and loss or other applicable circumstances. Explain any gaps in the chronology of your experience (including relevant employment). This section can also be used to describe the impact of COVID-19 on any aspect of the application.
Transcripts for the Fall 2021 scholarships and fellowships competitions

Canada’s three granting agencies—acknowledge that the widespread disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may hinder the ability of some institutions to provide applicants with official and up-to-date transcripts in advance of the deadline date, particularly at institutions which do not currently provide official electronic versions of these documents. Therefore, for the fall 2021 scholarships and fellowships competitions, the agencies will accept unofficial transcripts if official transcripts cannot be obtained.

- McGill issues electronic transcripts
- Ask your department for copies (SSHRC and CIHR applicants)
- If all else fails use “unofficial”

Submission of an application will continue to serve as a formal attestation that the applicant has provided true, complete, and accurate information in the application and its related documents.

**Note:** Should your application be successful you will be required to submit official transcripts in order to activate your award (receive $$)
Transcripts Official vs Unofficial

Up-to-date transcripts
- Must be dated or issued in the Fall session of the year of application (if currently registered) or after the last term completed (if not currently registered). As new studies may not have been completed, up-to-date transcripts may be missing new entries or grades.

Graduate Funding
### Selection Criteria

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Ability or Potential</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Selection Criteria

Research ability and potential – 50%

Indicators:

• Quality of research proposal
  • specific, focused and feasible research question(s) and objective(s)
  • clear description of the proposed methodology
  • significance and expected contributions to research

• Relevant training, such as academic training, lived experience and traditional teachings

• Research experience and achievements relative to the applicant's stage of study, lived experience and knowledge systems

• Quality of contributions and extent to which they advance the field of research. Contributions may include: publications, patents, reports, posters, abstracts, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, knowledge translation outputs, community products, etc.

• Demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically

• Demonstration of responsible and ethical research conduct, including honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, commitment to safety and to the dissemination of research results and adherence to the use of professional standards

• Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach

• The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats
Selection Criteria

Relevant experience and achievements obtained with and beyond academia 50%

Indicators:

- Scholarships, awards and distinctions (amount, duration and prestige)
- Academic record:
  - Transcripts
  - Duration of previous studies
  - Program requirements and courses pursued
  - Course load
  - Relative standing in program (if available)
- Professional, academic and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community, such as:
  - teaching, mentoring, supervising and/or coaching
  - managing projects
  - participating in science and/or research promotion
  - community outreach, volunteer work and/or civic engagement
  - chairing committees and/or organizing conferences and meetings
  - participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies and/or clubs
Agency specific application notables

**SSHRC**
- Applicant uploads all required documents including transcripts
- Referees complete online references

**NSERC**
- Academic Unit uploads transcripts
- Referees complete online references

**CIHR**
- Applicant uploads all required documents including transcripts
- *Signature page* is **ONLY** to be signed by Primary Supervisor (then uploaded by applicant)
- Special Confirmation of Scientific Area Form signed by Supervisor (then uploaded by applicant)
- Self declaration as Indigenous applicant (if applicable)
Quota

McGill has a set quota* for each granting agency and will select the applicants to put forward to the national competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CIHR</th>
<th>SSHRC</th>
<th>NSERC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>96</td>
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*
• Applicants applying through McGill University must submit their applications by the deadline set by the institution.

**McGill Deadline October 1, 2021 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)**

* Any applications submitted after this date will NOT be considered*

• The institution will review all applications received, rank them and submit the recommended applications to the agencies by November 21.

• For more information about institutional deadlines, applicants should contact their academic unit as they may have an earlier deadline;

• **Applicants applying directly** to one of the agencies must submit using the appropriate agency application portal before 8:00 p.m. (ET) on October 17. If the deadline falls on a weekend, applications can be submitted the following business day before 8:00 p.m. (ET).
Tips for Applicants

START EARLY!

- Consult the application process, refer to the appropriate agency’s instructions:
  - [CIHR instructions](http://cihr-icr.santé-sante.gc.ca)
  - [NSERC instructions](http://www.nserc-cimr.gc.ca)
  - [SSHRC instructions](http://www.SSHRC-NSF.ca)

- Request all university official transcripts (whether program completed or not; including Fall 2021 transcripts) and upload to application (Except NSERC)
  - NSERC requires you to indicate name and email of the person from Academic unit responsible for uploading transcripts to application

- Contact Referees. Provide them with a deadline BEFORE your own, your CV, Proposal, Contributions, and Selection Criteria.

- Contact your Graduate Program Coordinator
  - Academic Unit’s internal deadline
  - Process
  - NSERC applicants – must provide the email address of the person responsible for uploading transcripts to the application;

- Register for workshops offered by Skillsets [https://mcgill.ca/skillsets/events](https://mcgill.ca/skillsets/events)

- Register for GRAPHOS Fellowship Writing Workshop [https://www.mcgill.ca/graphos/workshops](https://www.mcgill.ca/graphos/workshops)

Graduate Funding
CIHR will be hosting the following CIHR 2021 Info Session for Trainees in Health Research. These will assist participants with the different awards funding opportunities requirements and will answer questions on how to apply.

**English sessions - When:**
- Tuesday, 07 September 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EST
- Thursday, 09 September 2021 at 10:00 a.m. EST
  Duration: 60 minutes

**French sessions - When:**
- Wednesday, 08 September 2021 at 10:00 a.m. EST
- Thursday, 09 September 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EST
  Duration: 60 minutes

Links to sessions posted on GPS webpage at
Graduate Funding

Graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca

For further information, contact the appropriate agency:
- CIHR Contact Centre support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
- NSERC schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
- SSHRC fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- CGS-D Harmonized Program harmonization@cgs-besc.gc.ca
Questions?