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)
Agenda

- Background
- Competition Timeline
- Program Overview
- Applicant Eligibility
- Eligibility Window
- Program of Study Eligibility
- Application Procedures
- Where to Submit an Application
- Selection Criteria
The goals of the CGS-D harmonization:

- Have consistent processes across the three agencies.
- Simplify the application and adjudication processes.
- Remove barriers
**Competition Timeline**

- **Launch of Harmonized CGS Doctoral Program**
  - June 27
  - CGS D landing page becomes live

- **Electronic applications available**
  - Summer-Fall

- **Direct applications due to agencies**
  - October 17
  - Academic institutions set their own internal deadline

- **McGill October 1**
  - October 17
  - Academic institutions submit their applications to agencies

- **Decisions are announced**
  - November 21

- **Graduate Funding**
  - April
CGS D – Program Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition:</th>
<th>One national competition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value:</td>
<td>$35,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>36 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tenure:</td>
<td>Canadian institutions only</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Meritorious CGS-D applicants may also be eligible for agency-specific doctoral awards.

Note: each agency has its own doctoral award and you should refer to the appropriate literature for CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC for further details.
Applicant Eligibility

• Open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents
• Have not completed no more than 24 months of full-time studies in their doctoral program by December 31 of the year of application (no more than 36 months if transferred directly from Bachelors to PhD or enrolled in a Joint program e.g. MD/PhD
• 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
Eligibility Window-Months in Program

- Eligibility for CGS D 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 of part-time study count as one term of full-time study.

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

- An 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.
## Where do I submit my Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant’s status at the time of application</th>
<th>Where to submit application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> This includes applicants on an approved leave of absence from a Canadian institution with a quota</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Deadlines

• Applicants applying through McGill University must submit their applications by the deadline set by the institution.

  McGill Deadline October 1, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

• 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).
## Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Ability or Potential</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<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
  - Referees complete online references

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

- **CIHR**
  - Applicant uploads all required documents
  - *Doctoral Studies Timelines* form completed and uploaded by applicant as part of transcripts document
  - *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)
Tips for Applicants

• Consult the application process, refer to the appropriate agency’s instructions:
  - CIHR instructions
  - NSERC instructions
  - SSHRC instructions

• Request all university **official** transcripts (whether program completed or not; including Fall 2019 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

Graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca

For further information, contact the appropriate agency:

- CIHR Contact Centre support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
- NSERC scho@nserc-crsg.gc.ca
- SSHRC fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- CGS-D Harmonized Program harmonization@cgs-besc.gc.ca
Questions?