Funding for Graduate Studies at McGill: NSERC
Doctoral Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS)
Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS)

Information for Academic Units

2017-2018 Competition
Presentation Overview

- Update Harmonization of Doctoral program
- Award Overview
- Application Processes (internal)
- Deadlines
- Recommendation Quotas
- Result Announcements
- Resources
- Q & A
Update Harmonization of Doctoral Funding Opportunities

Harmonization of Funding Opportunities

• The selection process will remain unchanged for the upcoming competition cycle. The Harmonization of the Doctoral Funding Opportunities has been pushed to Fall 2018;

• What has been harmonized for the Doctoral Funding Opportunities
  - Paid Parental Leave (PPL)
  - Award Holder’s Guide (As of September 1, 2016)
## Application Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Status at Time of Application</th>
<th>Where to Submit Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Note:</strong> The term “degree program” corresponds to all degree programs and not only those in the natural sciences and engineering.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student is currently registered at (or were registered at during the year of application), or are on an approved leave of absence from, a Canadian university in a degree program.</td>
<td>The Canadian university at which the student is currently, or were registered, or from which you have taken an approved leave of absence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student is currently registered at a foreign university.</td>
<td>Directly to NSERC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student is not currently registered at a university; or is registered, but not in a degree program; and have graduated from a degree program from a Canadian university since January 1 of this year.</td>
<td>The Canadian university from which you graduated in the last 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student is not currently registered at a university; or are registered, but not in a degree program; and has graduated from a degree program prior to January 1 of this year.</td>
<td>Directly to NSERC</td>
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Award Overview

Values and Durations:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>PGS Doctoral</th>
<th>CGS Doctoral</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value &amp; Duration</strong></td>
<td>$21,000/yr (up to 3 years)</td>
<td>$35,000/yr (up to 3 years)</td>
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All NSERC applicants apply for the Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS). Highest-ranked PGS applicants are automatically considered by NSERC for an Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS). There is no separate application.
PGS/CGS-D (Doctoral) Eligibility to Apply

- Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada
- Hold, or expect to hold (at the time you take up the award), a degree in science or engineering;
- Be registered, in the following year, full-time graduate studies and research, in an eligible degree program (see NSERC Eligibility Criteria), either in the natural sciences or engineering at McGill
- Must have completed as of December 31 of the year of application

<table>
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<tr>
<th>0-24 months (full-time studies or equivalent)</th>
<th>Of studies in the doctoral program for which funding is being requested</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-36 months (full-time studies or equivalent)</td>
<td>Of studies if admitted directly from bachelor’s with no registration in Masters</td>
</tr>
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</table>
PGS/CGS-D (Doctoral) Eligibility to Apply

- Have not previously held an NSERC PGS/CGS-D, or IPS 2 or IIS Doctoral (Industrial Innovation Scholarship)
- Have not held or hold a CGS-D or Vanier CGS from either CIHR or SSHRC.
- NSERC will consider all studies counted towards the graduate degree for which funding is requested, whether completed at the degree-granting institution or not.
- If registered in a master’s degree, and subsequently transferred to a doctoral degree, the doctoral degree months will be calculated starting from the first academic session in which you were officially registered in your Ph.D. program.

*Two sessions of part-time study = one session of full-time study. Each full-time session is equivalent to 4 months of study
Doctoral Eligibility to Apply (continued)

Minimum GPA of 3.50/4.00

- To calculate, use current GPA Calculator or the Excel spreadsheet:
  [http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/files/gps/gpacalc-v2.3_0.xls](http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/files/gps/gpacalc-v2.3_0.xls)

- To calculate a foreign GPA, use Transcript key & Foreign Country Grade Conversion Guide (if using GPA calculation sheet):

- GPA calculations cover last 2 years of full-time studies, and must include:
  - Graduate Record to date (Master’s & Doctoral combined)
  - Last year of full-time undergraduate studies (if applicable)
Departments **may** recommend students with slightly lower GPAs, but students must provide compelling justification, including:

- Explanation of circumstances resulting in lower GPA
- Alternate strengths which justify recommendation
- A department letter providing justification for the recommendation is required; must be on department letterhead with original signature (GPD or Department Chair) and submitted to GPS by deadline;
PGS/CGS-D: Program and Research Eligibility

- Both program of **study and proposed research** must be in an eligible field that NSERC supports.
- Applicants who are proposing a clinically-oriented program (e.g. clinical psychology) will be eligible **if** at the time of application:
  - They propose a research project deemed eligible to be funded by NSERC;
- **NOTE:** Joint graduate programs, including those with professional degrees, are not eligible (e.g. MD/PhD)
PGS/CGS-D: Reference Letters

- Two reference letters required:
- Letters are submitted directly online by referee;
- Students must inform referees that hard copy of letter is required by academic unit;
- Referees must print the letter before submitting
- Students should provide referees with pre-addressed (to Unit) envelopes marked TIME SENSITIVE, with the required due date clearly indicated; or
- Student may hand deliver the letter to department in a sealed envelope

Note: Reference letters cannot be completed by a proposed supervisor unless they’ve supervised student previously
PGS/CGS-D: Transcripts

Department responsibilities include:

• Providing students with email address of the department member responsible for uploading transcripts
• Verifying authenticity of official transcripts received (in sealed envelopes, as ordered by student)
• Uploading required documents to online application (Transcripts – University page)
• You will receive an email (Subject: Student’s name) signaling when transcripts may be uploaded (and specifying institutions for which transcripts are required)

**Students are responsible for providing departments with official transcripts to be uploaded to application.**
Transcripts (continued)

- Copy the original on file (i.e. from admission)
- Make sure to mark the following on the transcript:
  - “True copy of document in McGill University file: Department of __________” (include signature)
- In addition to required transcripts, a copy of the university legend (transcript key) must be uploaded
- Note: Transcripts and transcript key must be uploaded as one document. Be sure that all sides are scanned and only one key per transcript.
- Do **NOT** include a GPA calculation sheet in uploaded materials

***Minerva transcripts are not acceptable***
**Transcript (continued): Tips**

- If an additional document shows granting of degree, include it also
- Date stamping should not obscure any text or information
- If you receive several original transcripts, inquire if student is applying to multiple competitions. They may need to have the extras back.
- Save the scan as a .pdf file. Open this file and review it to be sure that all pages are legible, right side up, and complete

**TIP:** Transcripts must be scanned in **black and white**, and all transcripts saved as a single PDF file. The **orientation of the transcript text must be upright (if possible), regardless of whether the transcript itself is in portrait or landscape orientation**. The text must be oriented so that it is readable on a computer monitor from left to right without any adjustment by the viewer. You must include one copy of the legend located on the reverse of each transcript, to help the committees and NSERC understand the grading system at your university. **Do not scan the legend multiple times.**
PGS/CGS-D: Recommendation Quotas

Every Academic Unit may submit:

• 10% of Graduate enrolment or a maximum number of 8 recommendations

• Regardless of enrolment (if 10% of your enrollment is less than 4), you may still recommend up to 4.
Eligibility to Hold an Award

To hold an award, you must:

• accept the terms and conditions of the award, as set out in this Award Holder’s Guide, in the Notice of Award (including attachments) and in the program description found in the NSERC Program Guide for Students and Fellows;

• have been unconditionally admitted and registered in a recognized and eligible doctoral degree program in a field supported by NSERC;

• be registered full-time or part-time* and progressing satisfactorily in a doctoral program at an eligible institution; and

• not hold or accept full-time employment while holding the award.

• Awards may be cancelled without notice if the conditions under which they are granted are violated. Any payment made for a period during which you were not eligible to hold the award must be reimbursed.

• It is your responsibility to ensure that NSERC has your up-to-date contact information and that you respond promptly to any communications from NSERC during tenure of your award. NSERC will use the email on your file for all correspondence. Updates should be sent to schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

• * Part-time registration only for those who are restricted to part-time studies for reasons of disability or family responsibilities.
# PGS/CGS-D: Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>ASAP</th>
<th>Request Copy of Official Transcripts. All transcripts are required even if no grades appear</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Determined by Academic Unit</td>
<td>Registered McGill applicant submit application to their department</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 17, 2016</td>
<td>Units submit Nominations to GPS via GPSO-FAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 15, 2016</td>
<td>Applicants not applying through a university file application directly to NSERC</td>
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What to submit to GPS by October 17, 2015

• Via GPS FAD list of recommended and non recommended applicants
• Department justification letter for low GPA (if applicable) hard copy signed by Chair Department also send a PDF via email to graduatecomp.gps@mcgill.ca.
  – Ensure that file name is correct format: NSERC-PhD-StudentName2017-2018.pdf
• GPS does not require copies of applications
# PGS/CGRS-D: Result Announcements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<tr>
<td>To be determined by Academic Unit</td>
<td>Academic Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>GPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>NSERC</td>
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- Department notifies students of decision following departmental review
- GPS notifies recommended students of internal results
- NSERC distributes award notices in Spring 2017
PGS/CGS-D: Helpful Resources

• NSERC Website: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Index_eng.asp


• GPS NSERC Funding Info Page: http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/fellowships/nserc

• Technical Support:
  • Check the Frequently Asked Questions on how to use the online System
  • Review the instructions available in the application
  • Online Services Helpdesk: webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca or 613-995-4273. Include your e-mail address and telephone number.

• GPS Contact: Graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca