Banting Fellowships 2024 Competition

AD Pre-launch Information Session
4 April 2024

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Agenda

- Timeline
- Program overview/Eligibility Requirements
- Evaluation Criteria
- Essential Elements of an application
- Characteristics of a successful application
- Roles & Responsibilities
- Round table discussion/Questions

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Timeline

- **April 2024** – Launch of program by Banting, information appears on GPS website, units informed and notified of any changes

- **Now until to June 7, 2024** – Faculties solicit and identify nominees

- **June 7, 2024** – Deadline for Faculty selection of nominees, submission of form for set up of Graphos writing workshops and eligibility check by GPS

- **June 19, 2014** – Banting Crafting your application workshop for PDFs - GPS

- **July 9, 2024** – Banting Supervisor letter workshop - GPS

- **July** and **August** - GRAPHOS offers writing workshops, applicant and supervisor meet with expert and non-expert reviewers, applicant revises documents in consequence.

- **September 2024** – **Submission of <u>complete</u> application to GPS for final vetting, nominees entered in FAD – early September**

- **September 2024**- Letter of Endorsement to successful nominees provided by GPS: **September XX, 2024**

- **FINAL SUBMISSION** - **Nominee submission on ResearchNet deadline: September XX, 2024 at 20:00 EDT**

Program Overview

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships are intended to fund the **very best postdoctoral applicants**, both nationally and internationally, who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social and research-based growth.

> ➢ 2-year awards, $70,000/year
> ➢ **70 fellowships** are awarded annually. Fellowships are distributed equally among CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC
> ➢ **~500-700 applications / year submitted – [you do the math]**

•Banting PDF program aims to:

> ➢ Attract and retain <u>top-tier PDF talent</u>
> ➢ Position them for success as <u>research leaders</u> of tomorrow
> ➢ Develop their <u>leadership</u> skills

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Eligibility Requirements

- Canadian citizens
- permanent residents of Canada
- foreign citizens
- Eligibility window for degree completion (submission of final thesis)

Applicants must have fulfilled all degree requirements for a PhD, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree within the prescribed eligibility window – September 15, 2021 and September 30, 2025 (inclusive) i.e., **before** the start date of their award.

Applicants who have not fulfilled all requirements for their degree at the time of application must submit proof no later than October 15, 2025.

The window of eligibility could be extended by a cumulative **maximum of three years** if the applicant had their career interrupted for extenuating circumstances. It will only be extended by the duration of the eligible delay(s)/interruption(s).

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Evaluation Criteria

Research excellence and leadership in the research domain
- ✓ Track record to date as demonstrated by the quality of the applicants' research contribution (research history)
- ✓ Sphere of influence achieved to date by the applicant (impact of their activities)

Quality of applicant's proposed research proposal
- ✓ Promise and <u>quality</u> of the research proposal (feasibility, timelines, novelty of the research)
- ✓ Proposed institutional <u>environment</u>
- ✓ <u>Career aspirations</u> of the applicant and the potential to make a significant impact (rationale **for why the applicant is working with the proposed supervisor at the proposed institution.**

Institutional commitment and demonstrated <u>synergy</u> between applicant and institutional strategic priorities – examined in terms of:
- ✓ demonstrated commitment of the institution to support the development of the applicant's research and leadership capacity (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development
- ✓ demonstrated research capacity in the area of the applicant's proposed research, enabling the institution to provide an intellectually stimulating environment and position the candidate as a research leader
- ✓ demonstrated alignment and synergy between the applicant's research ambitions and the institution's potential to benefit strategically from its engagement with the applicant (alignment with McGill Strategic Research Plan priorities).

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How are these different from other fellowships?

- Emphasis is on the synergy between the applicant, supervisor and the institution
  - All must demonstrate commitment to the proposed research program and the research environment.
  - Applicant must demonstrate why this supervisor and this research environment is the very best place to carry out their research and vice versa.
- International applicants are eligible
- Emphasis on research leadership

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What does a Banting Fellow look like?

- A future leader in their discipline

- A future societal leader

- An excellent communicator

- An innovator and groundbreaker in their field

- Someone who seeks the maximum impact for their work

- **Tip:** look at previous Banting results

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Selection Criteria (33%)

1. **Research excellence and leadership in the research domain**

- **Research excellence** based on track record and defined by quality of applicant's research contribution

- **Leadership in research** domain defined by the sphere of influence achieved to date by the applicant.

- Stage and career path are considered
- Applicant's role in research contributions important and <u>needs to be stated</u>
- Impact of previous research contributions important and <u>needs to be stated</u>

Selection Criteria (33%)

2. Quality of applicant's proposed research program

- the promise and quality of the proposal;
  - SGBA+ considerations
  - Indigenous Research – community engagement

- **the environment(s)** in which the proposed research will be conducted; and

- the aspirations of the applicant (impactful, research-intensive career).

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Selection Criteria (33%)

3. Commitment and <u>demonstrated synergy</u> between applicant, supervisor and institutional strategic priorities in all sections of the proposal

- Demonstrated **commitment to support development** of the applicant's research and leadership capacity through:
  - **support** (e.g., funding, facilities, equipment, mentorship, environment, etc.)
  - **professional development** (in general and <u>specific to this PDF</u>)
- Demonstrated **institutional research capacity** in the applicant's research area
- Demonstrated **alignment and synergy** between:
  - Applicant's research ambitions and the institution's potential to benefit strategically from engagement with the applicant
  - Alignment with institution's strategic priorities

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Elements of a Banting Application

- Application (completed on ResearchNet)

- Canadian Common CV (CCV)

- 3 referees - referee contact information required in the application; they will complete their assessments online for the applicant according to the 3 evaluation criteria

- Fulfillment of degree requirements form (must be <u>signed</u> by the institution that conferred the PhD degree, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree)

- Significance of <u>research</u> contribution (describe **top 3**, 1 page)

- Significance of <u>leadership</u> contribution (describe **top 3**, 1 page)

- Research Proposal (4 pages)

- Bibliography (max 4 pages)

- Supervisor's statement (4 pages) (guidelines on Banting and GPS webpage)

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Faculty Role & Responsibilities

- Inform GPS (graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca) of your deadline and name of the principle contact person

- Inform supervisors of Faculty selection process and Faculty deadlines

- Provide supervisors with PowerPoint presentation on "Banting Supervisor Statement" and "Banting Guidelines for Supervisor's Statement (both posted on GPS webpage https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/fac-staff/awards/banting-postdoctoral-fellowships under tools and resources).

- Recruit selection committee members for faculty selection and circulate applications to faculty-internal review committee for adjudication – <u>prioritize comments not just ranking</u> – rankings do not help the applicant to make a better application to the funding agency

- Submit **nominee names** to GPS **via MS form on or before June 7, 2024.** Banting 2024 Nominee form

- Facilitate expert and non-expert reviewer face-to-face or zoom meetings with applicant and supervisor in July/August.

- Ensure final application is complete, PDF remains eligible, supervisor letter is on point and covers **all** criterion.

- Submit **final** applications and reviewer comments to gradcomp.gps@mcgill.ca and enter FAD data for **ALL** applicants – including gender – by **September 4, 2024** (If login information is required contact GPS)

Face-to-face review

- Expert and non-expert reviewers identified by supervisor/applicant

- Face-to-face or zoom meetings to discuss all aspects of the application by reviewers, applicants and supervisor during July/August - dates and times for the meeting arranged by applicant

- Applicant and supervisor revise application based on reviewer comments

- Full revised application along with reviewer comments submitted to GPS September 4, 2024

- GPS to review applications

Role & Responsibilities of Nominee Supervisor

- Solicit/respond to eligible prospective applicant(s) and agree to sponsor the application (see Program description for eligibility).

- Assist the applicant in completing the application, particularly the research proposal, and provide editorial input for the entire application.

- Prepare the Supervisor's Statement (4 pages max); Please consult Banting Application Guide for details http://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/en/app-dem_guide.html

- Review all documentation provided by Faculty paying attention to the process and deadlines.

- All applications must go through the internal procedures specified by the respective Faculty.

- GPS does not accept applications forwarded by applicants / supervisors without Faculty-level review OR without face-to-face meeting.

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Role & Responsibilities GPS

- Hold info session for faculty contact and provide resources for supervisors, evaluation criteria, etc.

- Hold info session for applicants.

- Send list of nominees to GRAPHOS (nominees will be contacted by GRAPHOS with invitation to attend workshops/peer review, ~ 40 applicants can be accommodated).

- **Review applications for completeness and eligibility, etc. (mid-September).**

- Provide Institutional Letter to nominees ~2 days before the application submission deadline.

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Tips for Applicant Success

- Applicants must polish and revise the application (repeat), tailor it to a wide audience (pay attention to the review panel membership) https://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/en/rev-eval_selection.html#tab1
- Pay attention to criterion
- Show how project is original, innovative, feasible
    - Convey timeliness of opportunity
    - Avoid jargon and acronyms in the proposal - the committee will include scholars outside their area.

- Aim to demonstrate why they are:
    - The right person
    - With the right project
    - Working with the right research group
    - In the right place to develop a world-leading outcome

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Resources

Banting Website

Banting eligibility requirements

Banting selection committee guide

Banting CCV Guidelines

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Questions