

FALL 2023

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)



SSHRC  CRSH

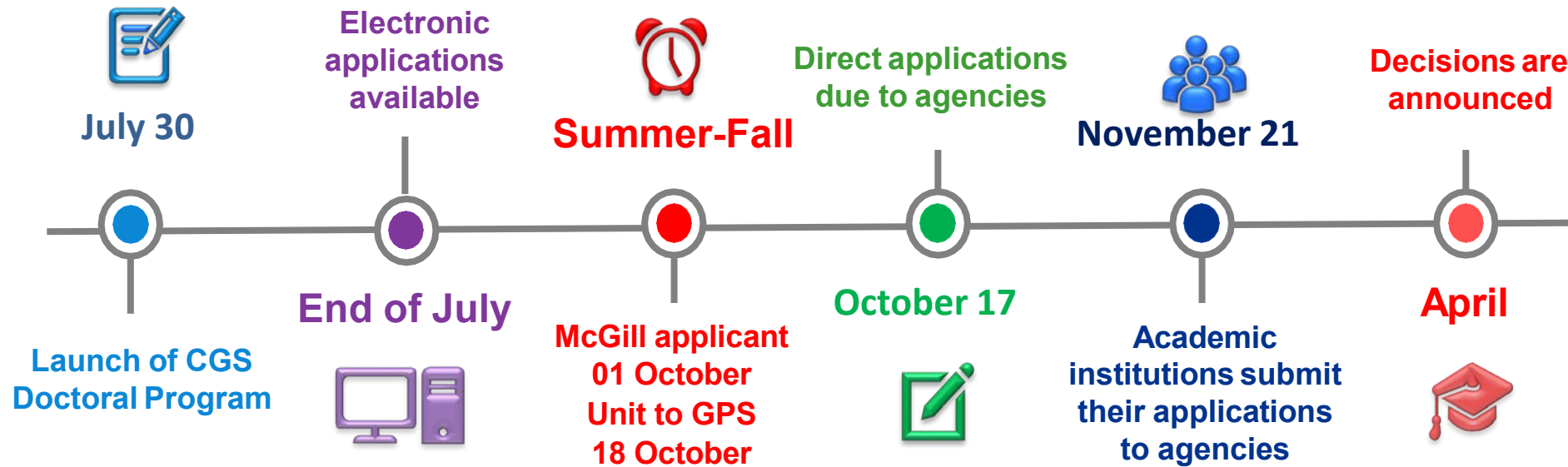


Agenda

CGSD & Vanier Programs

- Timeline
- Program overview
- Eligibility
- Application Procedure
- Selection criteria
- Quota
- Vanier Canada Graduate Doctoral Scholarship Program
- FRQ

Competition Timelines-(CGSD)



Competition Timelines-*(McGill GPS)*

01-Oct		Student submit online applications
02-04 Oct		GPS Downloads Applications
04-06 Oct		GPS Applications and List to Unit
18-Oct		Unit submits to GPS (if it falls on the weekend then next working day)
23-Oct		GPS Files to Committee
15-Nov		Committee final selection to GPS
21-Nov		GPS submit selected applicants to Agency

Program Overview

CGS-D Program	
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: 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 and those with Protected Person Status *reminder*



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



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

Not hold a tenure-track appointment concurrently with CGSD.

Some eligibility requirements for CGS D differ from agency specific doctoral awards.

Applicant Eligibility



completed no more than 24 months of full-time study in doctoral program or PhD portion of joint program

Submit only one doctoral award application in a given academic year. Nominations to the Vanier or Banting programs 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.

Eligibility Window



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



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)



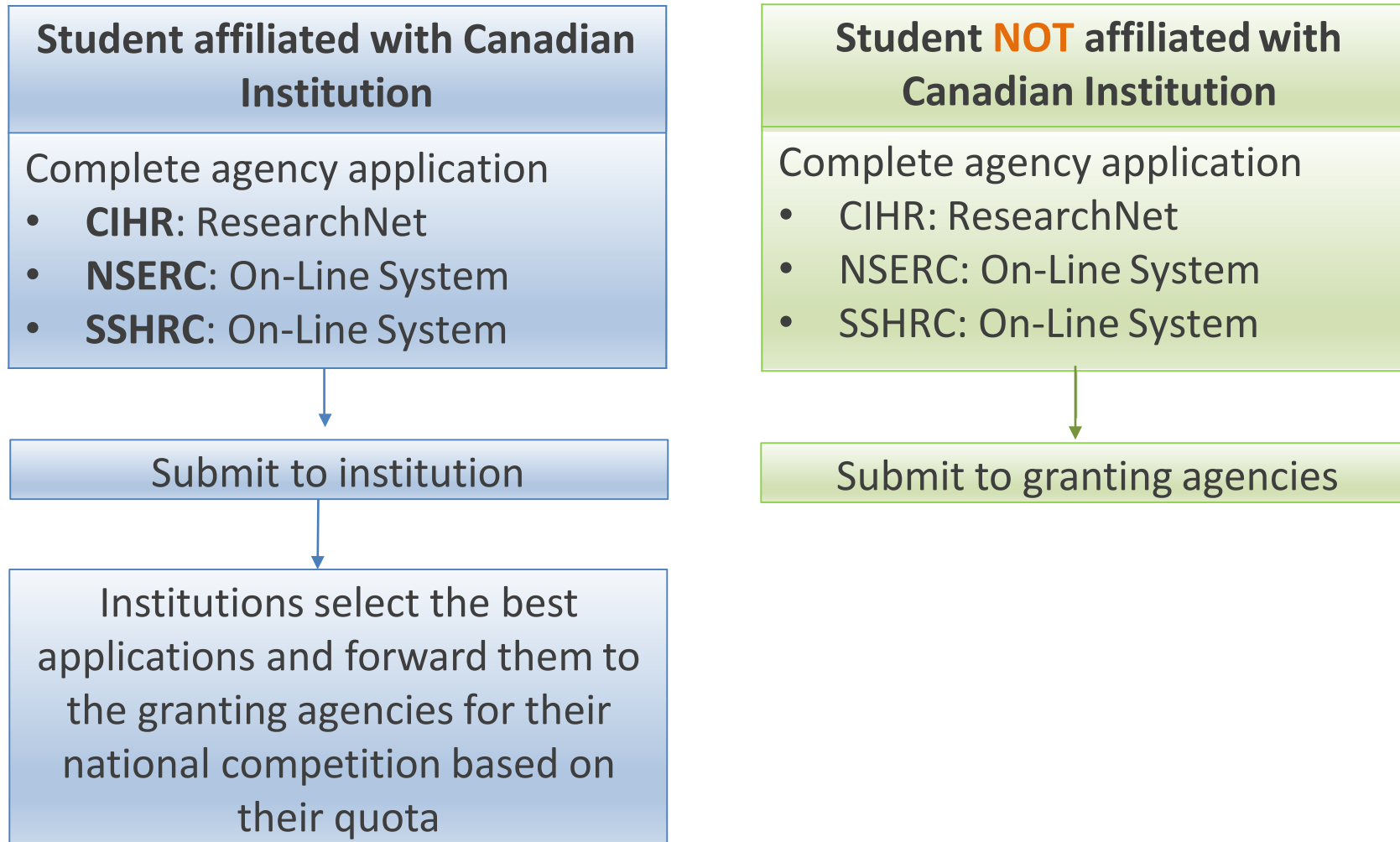
0-36 months for those in a **joint UG/PhD program e.g. MD/PhD, MA/PhD** (if not previously completed or enrolled in a graduate program, then must be enrolled in joint UG/PhD program at the time of application)

Program of Study Eligibility

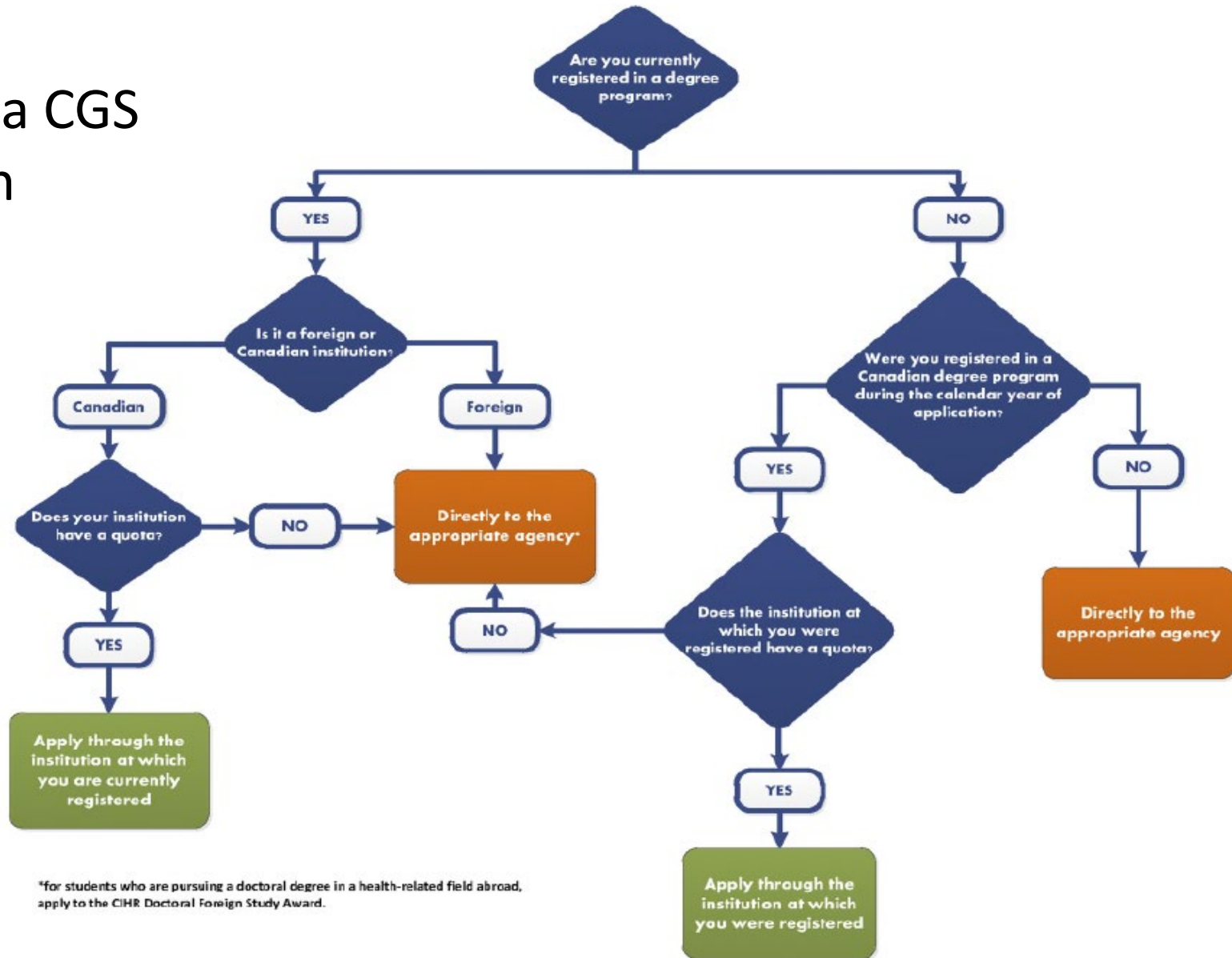
- An eligible doctoral program must include a significant, autonomous research component
- Joint programs with a professional degree (e.g., MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD, MBA/PhD) **are eligible if they meet the above definition**



Application Procedures



Where to submit a CGS Award application



*for students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in a health-related field abroad, apply to the CIHR Doctoral Foreign Study Award.

If currently at McGill or registered here any time after **01 January** of this year



Black student researchers – NSERC & SSHRC

Reminder

- The Government of Canada has deployed additional funds to [increase direct support for Black student researchers](#).
- CGS D applicants who self-identify as Black and provide consent to be considered for funds targeted towards specific groups, may be selected to receive this funding.
- Each agency has a limited number of additional CGS D awards reserved for this initiative.
- For more information, consult the [Frequently asked questions about the new Black scholars funding](#).
- **NOTE:** The ethnicity of an applicant is **not** shared with committee members.

Indigenous student researchers

Reminder

- Indigenous applicants are forwarded over and above McGill's Quota
 - Application will still be reviewed for completeness and eligibility and sent to GPS Selection Committee.
- Applicants must complete the self-declaration document in the application
- Each agency has it in a different place so please look for it.
- **NOTE:** The Indigenous status of an applicant is not shared with committee members.

CGS-D quota formula

Average of the number of **successful doctoral applicants** by institution (institution of registration in the year of application) over 3 most recent years

X

Factor

Example:

Institution Y has an average of 10 successful applications over the past 3 years

10 X a factor of 1.5 = quota of 15 applications

Quota

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

CIHR	SSHRC	NSERC
69	113	93

Academic Units may submit up to 10% of their eligible Graduate enrolment, to a maximum of 10 per agency

Units where the 10% of enrolment is less than 4, may submit up to 4.

*Applications from Indigenous applicants may be submitted beyond the institution's quota of doctoral applications

Selection Criteria

Criteria	Value
Research Ability or Potential	50%
Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia	50%

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

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

Applicant uploads transcripts

Referees complete online references

Optional Voluntary Self-Identification as Indigenous, Inuk, or Métis

NSERC

Applicants uploads all required documents

NEW NSERC- Student will now upload transcripts;

NEW EDI module incorporated in form 201

Referees complete online references

Optional Voluntary Self-Identification as Indigenous, Inuk, or Métis

CIHR

Applicant uploads all required documents

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)

Optional Voluntary Self-Identification as Indigenous, Inuk, or Métis

Update on Transcripts

Applicants should be aware of the following:

- Electronic transcripts provided by an institution's registrar's office are considered to be official transcripts. Applicants should check with their institution(s) to verify whether this option is available to them prior to submitting an application.
- **McGill will only accept OFFICIAL transcripts from all other institutions.**
- However... the Tri-Agency will not immediately reject applications that include unofficial transcripts in lieu of official transcripts BUT this is **ONLY** when official transcript **cannot** be obtained. This means **we require a sufficiently extenuating circumstance** to accept a non-official document.

Official Languages

- Applicants may submit their application in the official language of their choice.
- McGill has mechanisms in place to review both English and French applications.



Fond de recherche Québec – FRQ-SC/NT/S Maximizing External Funding

- **Open to all international and out of Province Students**
- McGill international students had a really good success rate;
- GPS will be holding info session for students. (schedule on coming slide)
- Students apply directly no internal process
- Request that students provide you with the application #;
 - Units to enter information on FAD
- GRADPROG message to go out soon with reminder of obtaining application number from students;

Reminders

- **Non- thesis program not eligible (FRQNT, FRQS)**
- **Harmonized evaluation criteria across the three agencies**

Encourage students to apply!

Fond de recherche Québec – SC/NT/S

Fall 2021 FRQ funding competitions

Canadian or PR		
Agency	Doctoral	Masters
FRQNT	56	28
FRQSC	35	24
FRQS	70	32
Total	161	84

International		
Agency	Doctoral	Masters
FRQNT	63	14
FRQSC	31	3
FRQS	53	3
Total	147	20

Fall 2022 FRQ funding competitions

Canadian or PR		
Agency	Doctoral	Masters
FRQNT	60	46
FRQSC	38	19
FRQS	71	33
Total	169	98

International		
Agency	Doctoral	Masters
FRQNT	81	9
FRQSC	48	2
FRQS	51	5
Total	200	16



Student Information Webinars

<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/maximize-my-chances>

Check your
McGill
email! Often!

Info Session	Dates
Tri-Agency Doctoral Canada Graduate Scholarships (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)	29 August 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Intro to Provincial-FRQ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doctoral• Master's	30 August 2023 at 4:00 p.m. 31 August 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
Tri-Agency Master's Canada Graduate Scholarships (NSERC, SSHRC & CIHR)	20 October 2023 at 4:00 p.m.
CIHR Doctoral (webinars given by CIHR staff)	English sessions - Date & time TBD French sessions - Date & time TBD
NSERC Doctoral (Q&A session by NSERC staff)	Date & time TBD

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Fall 2023

<https://mcgill.ca/gps/funding/fac-staff/awards/vanier>

<http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>

Deadline for Units - **September 20, 2023**

- all recommended and non-recommended applicants are to be submitted on [Fellowships Awards Database \(FAD\)](#).
- all required documents for recommended applications are to be submitted to GPS Graduate Funding electronically at gradcomp.gps@mcgill.ca.
 - As per checklist - Transcripts (one file) and nomination letter.
One email per candidate please.

(NO Hard Copies required)

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders 2023

Reminder: French applications - Personal Leadership Statement and Research Proposal page limit 2.5 pages.

Reminder: Lay Abstract - To help the selection committee members identify the supervisor, nominee will be asked to indicate the supervisor's name and Institution at the beginning of the lay abstract

Reminder: International Transcripts - If a nominee has international transcripts: Institutions (academic units) must attach a 250-word summary to describe the variations in the grading system from the country of the transcript and the Canadian level equivalents, and/or explain international credentials and equivalencies. The summary should be a PDF document attached at the beginning of their transcripts. This information is being requested by the selection committee.

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders 2023

Reminder - College or CEGEP (college of general and professional education) transcripts should be submitted only if credits earned at a college or CEGEP have been transferred and the grade does not appear on the university transcripts.

Reminder - International recruitment In keeping with the aim of attracting doctoral students to Canada, we encourage you to continue to strengthen your efforts to recruit new foreign doctoral students. Your collaboration is essential in achieving the goal of building strong brand recognition for the Vanier CGS program as Canada's most valuable, prestigious, and sought-after doctoral scholarship. By attracting international candidates to Canadian institutions, we will enrich our campuses now and into the future.

Reminder - Nomination Letter - The rationale for choosing the candidate should be emphasized in the letter. This is the primary purpose of the nomination letter.

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders 2023

Reminder - Sex- and Gender-based Analysis Plus (SGBA+)

In order to ensure the research funded is impactful and relevant to the diversity of the population, tri-agency requires applicants to systematically examine how differences in identity factors (such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability) affect the outcomes of research and the impacts of research findings. Applicants are now encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see [Application/nomination instruction-Task 10](#)).

Reminder - Research respectfully involving Indigenous communities

The Application/Nomination guide (see **Task 10 > Overview**) and Selection committee guide (see 3.1 Selection Criteria and 3.2.4 Review and pre-scoring of nominations(as reviewers) now provide a more detailed explanation of what constitutes research respectfully involving Indigenous communities.

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders

NEW (not really but better wording) - Eligibility: Calculating months of doctoral studies

All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, are considered in the evaluation of eligibility, and are considered to be continuous, full-time, and uninterrupted unless otherwise confirmed by the institution (including the summer months, unless on official leave). The Vanier-Banting Secretariat will count two months of part-time studies as one month of full-time studies.

The Vanier-Banting Secretariat will start all calculations of the number of months completed from the date on which an applicant is officially registered in the doctoral program with the following exceptions: **Fast-track and combined programs**

Fast-Track - For those registered in a Master's program who subsequently transferred to a PhD program (no Master degree); months of study are calculated from the **start of the PhD enrolment**.

Combined - For those registered in a doctoral program in which a **Master's degree is obtained as part of the program** (e.g., MA/PhD), the months of study are still calculated starting from the date on which an applicant is officially registered in the **combined program** (including the Master's portion of the program).

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders

Reminder - Research respectfully involving and engages Indigenous communities

The proposed research must be in accordance with the policies and principles outlined in the following two main documents:

- [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)
- [SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)

Nominating institutions must describe how collaborations are developed and provide details corroborating information included in the research proposal **(Part of department Nomination Letter)** see template on GPS webpage.

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders

Reminder - Reference Assessments

Applicants can **manage the deadline by which referees must submit their assessments.**

By default, the *Assessment Required Deadline Date in ResearchNet* is **set for two days before** the applicant's deadline (Applicant deadline is **September 10th**) However, applicants can adjust this to any date prior to the applicant's deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with referees to ensure the assessments are submitted in sufficient time.

Applicants are able to follow the status of the assessment under this task and are encouraged to follow up with the referees if the task is not completed shortly before the deadline.

Applicants are responsible for supplying their referees with the documents necessary for them to write their respective letters. ResearchNet does not grant the referees access to view the application or its attachments. (see Task 8 > Overview)

UNITS must ask applicant to request referees to send you directly a copy of assessments.

Vanier (CGS) Program News and Reminders

REMINDER (updated): Equity, diversity and inclusion

Nominating institutions are encouraged to consider diversity on multiple levels (e.g., research discipline, gender, official language, cultural background, citizenship) when considering which applicants to nominate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS) program.

Equity and diversity must be considered at all levels of the selection/recruitment, endorsement/Nomination and review processes of a Vanier application. The Vanier-Banting Secretariat is actively engaged in promoting equity and diversity, as well as increasing awareness of implicit (or unconscious) bias with everyone involved in the selection of a Vanier Scholar. To this end, please review the [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion page](#).

An important component ensuring EDI is reflected in the selection process is the careful consideration to each applicant's career interruptions and personal circumstances. The review of an applicant's track record will take into consideration the availability of research and leadership opportunities. **Applicants are thus encouraged to identify any circumstances that may have delayed or interrupted their academic and/or career advancement (if applicable) in the Personal Leadership Letter attachment of their application.**

Please use this handy tool to calculate at a glance the number of months completed in PhD or Graduate Study to verify eligibility of Vanier CGS Applicants.

Note: this is for uninterrupted regular full-time studies.

Students with Master's degree		Fast-track, Direct-Entry & Combined MSc/PhD Students	
Number of months completed in PhD program at 01 May 2024		Number of months completed in GRADUATE STUDIES (including ALL Master's level) at 01 May 2024	
Term of 1st PhD Registration	Months of Study Completed	Term of 1st Graduate Registration	Months of Study Completed
Fall 2024	0	Fall 2024	0
Summer 2024	0	Summer 2024	0
Winter 2024	4	Winter 2024	4
Fall 2023	8	Fall 2023	8
Summer 2023	12	Summer 2023	12
Winter 2023	16	Winter 2023	16
Fall 2022	20	Fall 2022	20
Before this date = ineligible		Summer 2022	24
		Winter 2022	28
		Fall 2021	32
		Before this date = ineligible	

Vanier Quota

Vanier Secretariat awards Up to 166 scholarships are awarded annually

McGill University Quota for 2022 Competition

- CIHR 24
- NSERC 12
- SSHRC 14

McGill awards for the past 3 years

Year	CIHR	NSERC	SSHRC
2020-2021	9	10	7
2021-2022	10	6	6
2022-2023	10	5	4

Academic Unit Quotas

Academic unit quotas are determined by doctoral enrolment numbers:

Total doctoral enrolment	Quota
Less than 20	1
21-50	2
51 to 149	3
150 student and over	4

Note: Additional applications from truly exceptional students may be permitted with justification and approval from the Dean of GPS.

CIHR is the only discipline that may add an extra 2 (two) to their quota.

GPS – tips, tricks, and tools

Guidelines for Unit to Run Competitions - [Competition Toolkit](#)

The following files hold valuable tools and information that will help guide you through running a Fellowship competition. These are by no means exhaustive and as always, should you have questions or concerns, contact graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca

[Funding Competition Handbook](#)

[Competition Set-up Checklist](#)

[Committee Score Sheet template](#)

[How to submit nominations to GPS](#)

At any time, questions can be directed to

Graduate Funding

Graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca

CGSD Contact for further information, contact the appropriate agency:

CIHR

support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

NSERC

schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

SSHRC

fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

harmonization@cgs-besc.gc.ca