VANIER Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS)  
NSERC, SSHRC & CIHR  
2017-2018
Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Program overview
3. Eligibility criteria
4. Roles and Responsibilities
5. Deadline dates
6. Q & A
Vanier Scholarship

The scholarships are administered by Canada's three federal granting agencies: CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC.

**Value:** $50,000 per year

**Duration:** Up to 3 years

**Start date:**

Vanier Scholars may take up their Vanier CGS on May 1, 2017, September 1, 2017 or January 1, 2018. The start date chosen must not overlap with any prior federal granting agency funding received and the Vanier scholar must be registered for full-time studies at the nominating Canadian institution as of the Vanier CGS start date.

The Vanier CGS must be taken up at the institution that nominated the scholar for the Vanier CGS. If the Vanier Scholar wishes to study at another Canadian institution, they must decline or terminate the Vanier CGS.
Eligibility Criteria for Nomination

- be nominated by only one Canadian university;
- Open to applicants that are foreign, Canadian or permanent resident of Canada
- Applicant must be pursuing first doctoral degree (or combined MA/PhD or MD/PhD). Note that only the PhD portion of a combined degree is eligible for funding;
- have achieved a first-class average (3.7 or 3.5 in Law), as determined by McGill University, in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent.
- not have already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC to undertake or complete a doctoral degree. However a student who is Canadian or a permanent resident applying for a Vanier is also eligible to apply for the doctoral competition as long as it is in the same discipline.
- have completed between zero(0) and twenty(20) months of doctoral studies as of May 1, 2017.
Calculating months of doctoral studies

• All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, are considered in the evaluation of eligibility.

• The **first 12 months of graduate level study** will not be counted for students that fall under the following enrolment statuses:
  - Those enrolled in a combined MA/PhD or MSc/PhD program
  - Those enrolled in a direct entry doctoral program
  - Those who are accelerated from a master’s program into a doctoral program without obtaining a master’s degree

• Students who are registered in a joint undergraduate/graduate research degree program, the undergraduate (MD, DVM, JD) portion will not count towards the number of months at the doctoral level. Only the PhD portion of counts when calculating the number of months of study,
Selection Criteria

Candidates are evaluated and selected on the basis of the following three criteria, which are weighted equally by the selection committees:

- **academic excellence**; as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions.
- **research potential**; as demonstrated by the candidates research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, the potential benefit to Canadians, and any anticipated outcomes.
- **leadership** (potential and demonstrated ability). Given the prestige of the Vanier CGS program, this is an important criterion that has to be assessed in an indirect manner, since there is no opportunity for the selection committee to interview candidates.

The tricouncil’s commitment to fund only the most meritorious of doctoral candidates, a minimum threshold score for funding has been instituted. In order for an application to be considered fundable, all candidates must achieve a score of at least 3.1 in each individual criterion; [http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/selection_committee_guide-comite_selection_lignes.html](http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/selection_committee_guide-comite_selection_lignes.html)
Quota

The agencies implemented equal annual targets within a three year span.

- All Canadian institutions are provided a yearly quota within the existing three year allotment
- Any unused quotas will not be carried forward for future years
- Floating quotas can be used in either of the three years

- NSERC 12
- SSHRC 13
- CIHR 24

Floating quota 1 per granting agency
The governing principal for this funding opportunity is to put forward candidates to be among the top doctoral students Canada-wide.

Units with a **doctoral enrolment** may submit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total doctoral enrolment</th>
<th>Quota</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-50</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51 to 149</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>150 student and over</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
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**NOTE:** additional applications from truly exceptional students may be permitted with justification and approval from the Associate Dean of GPS.
Unit* responsibilities

• Establish internal processes for the following:
  – Soliciting nominees
  – Selection of eligible nominees
  – Internal review and editing of application – working with the student and supervisor.
• Conduct internal review of the applications from your nominees and provide feedback, editorial support (Supervisor, GPD, Chair of funding Committee)
• Inform student of departmental results
• Review application for completeness (as per GPS checklist)
  **September 21, 2016 (8:00 PM)** is deadline for **student** to submit application on ResearchNet.
• The nomination letter must be written and signed by the Unit/Department Head nominating the candidate.
Nomination Letter

Nomination letters – to be written/signed by the Department Head nominating the candidate

• This nomination letter must be completed and signed by the Department Head nominating the candidate (equivalent or designate) and must be on the institution's letterhead. If signed by someone other than the Department Head, it should be clearly indicated in the letter that the signee has authority to nominate candidates to the Vanier CGS program. (MAX 2 Pages)

• Must address the following points:

1. Rationale for the choice of candidate
   - Highlight the factors used to determine why the student is deserving of a Vanier CGS. Clearly articulate the excellence of the candidate according to the three selection criteria: academic excellence, research potential and leadership (potential and demonstrated ability). Ensure that the letters focus on leadership potential and demonstrated abilities.

2. Research training environment
   - Elaborate on the appropriateness of the supervisor in terms of resources, funding, publications, their research and training environment. Examples may include (but not limited to) funding, facilities/resources and personnel that will be available to support the candidate as they carry out their proposed research and develop their leadership potential.
   - Discuss how the research interests/background of the student and supervisor align with the institution’s priorities (Ensure that claim about uniqueness of the research environment are accurate.)
   - Provide details that suggest that the Candidate has selected the appropriate supervisor and research environment. Discuss how the supervisor’s commitment will be available to support the candidate in furthering their professional and leadership development.
   - If known, comment on the research group and/or faculty with whom the candidate will interact and how the Canadian institution will support the development of the candidate’s leadership potential.
   - If unknown, please address the reasons behind why the candidate has not selected a supervisor and research environment.
Nomination Letter cont’d

3. Potential benefits to the Canadian institution of recruiting the candidate:
   - Clearly justify the institution's nomination of the candidate in light of the institution's research environment and articulate how the applicant will benefit from being award a Vanier CGS. If known, also elaborate on the benefit the candidate will bring to the Canadian institution. (e.g., role model, networking, etc.)

4. Recruitment and student mobility:
   - Comment on how the institution's nomination of the candidate promotes the recruitment of new foreign or Canadian candidates to Canadian institutions.
   - If the candidate has completed a previous degree within your institution, provide justification for the lack of mobility and an explanation as to why it is in the candidate's best interest to stay at the same institution (i.e. research/paid institution (or its affiliate), supervisor or co-supervisor, availability of specialized equipment).
Deadlines for Unit nominations

- **September 21, 2016 (8:00 PM)** student deadline to submit application on ResearchNet;

- **September 26, 2016** for *Unit to* submit to GPS
  - **ALL** postsecondary official transcripts (hardcopy and PDF format only for recommended applicants) **NEW: including college and CEGEP transcripts**
  - nomination letter from Unit head (signed letter PDF)
  - Submit recommended and non recommended on applicants of GPS-FAD
GPS Responsibilities

- **Sept 27-29:** Upload transcripts and department nomination letter to ResearchNet for recommended applicants only.
- **Sept 30 – October 17:** GPS Review Committee evaluates and ranks applications
- **Oct. 18:** Fellowships Office informs Units and students of decision
- **Oct. 18 – Nov 1:** GPS will provide feedback to applicant/supervisor for final editing of application package (If applicable) **only for selected applicants**
- **November 2:** GPS submits recommended applicants on ResearchNet
Resources

- GPS Faculty & Staff http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/fac-staff/awards
For all questions concerning:

VANIER Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS)

Please contact:

Graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca