Hello all,

We invite applications for the 2018-19 NSERC CGS and PGS Doctoral Competition. *(DUE DATE – Friday, Sept. 28, 2018 – to Deborah Paes)*.

Please refer to the information provided below, for further details on this award program, and the application process.

Essentially, to be eligible to apply, you must have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, **between zero and 24 months of studies** (full-time equivalent) in the doctoral program for which you are requesting funding (or between four and 36 months if admitted to the doctoral program directly from your bachelor’s program).

Also, please note that first-class average in each of the last two years of completed study is **no longer an eligibility criterion**. However, academic excellence accounts for 30% of the evaluation, and due to the highly competitive nature of the selection process, students must still have a very strong academic background, and a minimum A- average would be expected. Successful applicants typically have higher than this minimum.

Please refer to the NSERC website for full eligibility and application information. Application forms are only available via the NSERC website: [On-line System Login](#). Detailed instructions for completing an application are available from NSERC.

Please note that the full application (i.e., hard copy of Form 201 + Transcripts) **must be submitted for departmental evaluation and ranking to Deborah Paes (ES1016H) by Friday, September 28, 2018**. Late submissions cannot be accommodated. Also, the complete application (Form 201) **must be submitted electronically by Friday, September 28, 2018**. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that reviewers submit their reports electronically by Friday, September 28, 2018.

MScF students in Year 1 who are planning to transfer to the PhD program, are advised to apply for the NSERC CGS Master’s competition, not the Doctoral competition (award notice for NSERC CGS-M Competition to follow soon)

Funded cohort students are reminded that under the Faculty’s financial support policy, students are **required** to apply for all awards for which they are eligible.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Thanks,
Deborah

Deborah Paes, Graduate Administrator
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**Award Overview**

**Student submission deadline:** Friday, September 28, 2018 (to Deborah Paes – ES1016H)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value/Duration:</th>
<th>PGS D - $21,000 per year for 2 or 3 years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level of Study:</td>
<td>Doctoral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Legal Status:</td>
<td>Domestic (Canadian citizen or permanent resident)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results:</td>
<td>March 31, 2019, directly from NSERC via e-mail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Purpose**

Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS D) and NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (PGS D) provide financial support to high calibre scholars who are engaged in a doctoral program within the natural sciences or engineering. This support allows these students to focus on their studies and to seek out the best research mentors in their chosen fields.
Eligibility to Apply

In order to be eligible, applicants must:

- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;
- intend to pursue, in the following year, full-time graduate studies and research at the doctoral level in an eligible program (see Eligibility Criteria) in one of the areas of the natural sciences and engineering supported by NSERC;
- must have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, between zero and 24 months (between four and 36 months if admitted to the doctoral program directly from your bachelor’s program) of studies (full-time equivalent) in the doctoral program for which funding is requested; and
- you must not hold, or have held, a scholarship or fellowship from SSHRC, NSERC, or CIHR to undertake or complete a doctoral program.

*NEW* for 2019-20 – first-class average in each of the last two years of completed study is no longer an eligibility criterion. Universities are to continue to recommend the top-ranked applications to NSERC.

*NEW* for 2019-20 - joint programs with a professional degree (e.g., MD/PhD) are eligible, provided they have a significant research component (i.e. award would be held during the PhD portion of the program).

Applicants are expected to review the full eligibility requirements as outlined on the NSERC website.

Subject Matter Eligibility

NSERC has clarified its section of the guidelines for Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency to help applicants better identify the appropriate agency when applying for funding. Applicants whose subject matter has a link, overlap, or future application to health (in particular drug discovery, disease diagnosis or treatment/prevention, development of medical devices, and collaboration with pharmaceutical companies), should contact NSERC with a one page summary of their research proposal in advance of submitting an application to seek clarification or a ruling. Applicants are encouraged to consult the Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health, which has additional information and specific examples relating to subject matter eligibility.

NEW: Applicants may apply to both the Vanier CGS program and another doctoral-level scholarship/fellowship program (e.g. NSERC PGS D) under the same or different federal granting agency in the same academic year, provided that the research proposed in each application falls within the mandate of the federal granting agency to which the application is submitted. For more information, please refer to the Vanier website.

Application Process

Students can access the application through NSERC’s On-line System Login. Students should refer to the PGS application instructions on NSERC’s website for detailed guidelines on how to complete Form 201 and the other application components. Students may submit an application to only one federal tri-council agency (NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR) in each competition year.

Registered University of Toronto students must submit their application through their current or proposed graduate program at the University of Toronto. Applicants are to contact the unit’s graduate administrator directly regarding submission process.

Completed applications include the following:

1.  Form 201
2.  Outline of proposed research
3.  Contributions and statements
4.  Justification for Eligibility of Proposed Research
5.  All up-to-date official academic transcripts (undergraduate and graduate)**
6.  Reports on the Applicant (two required)
7.  Appendices if appropriate
The inclusion and completeness of each applicant’s transcripts is essential for NSERC to determine eligibility/confirm current registration, and is an integral part of the evaluation material reviewed by the selection committees. As such, students **must** order and provide transcripts for programs of study in the fall session of the year of application (i.e. Fall 2018) even when no grades are available. It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that transcripts are complete and legible once uploaded, even if a university official (graduate administrator) is responsible for uploading the transcripts.

**NEW: Collection of Self-Identification Data:**
Beginning in August 2018, NSERC (in coordination with SSHRC and CIHR) will be asking all applicants to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, disability and visible minority status. Completing the new self-identification form will be mandatory for applicants and co-applicants but for each category there is an option “I prefer not to answer.”

As in previous years, applicants who are Indigenous [First Nations (North American Indian - Status and Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit] are encouraged to self-identify their status on their NSERC CGS and PGS D application form as universities are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota to the national competition. **New** this year, in order to be considered for this, Indigenous applicants must provide consent within the application form to share this information with their institutions and NSERC. Self-identification data are not seen or used by NSERC’s selection committee members or by the applicant’s references.

**NEW:** In addition to Indigenous applicants providing consent, a similar consent will also be required so that NSERC may increase equity and diversity among qualified applicants by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman if sufficient funds become available.

**Results**

The SGS Graduate Awards Office will notify those who were forwarded to SGS the University competition results in late-November. The results of the national competition are communicated directly by NSERC via e-mail in late-March/early-April 2019.

**Contacts & Resources**

Full details are available at: [NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral Program and Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral Program](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/). Detailed instructions for completing an application are available from NSERC.

For more information, please contact:

Graduate Awards Office  
Tel.: 416-978-8260  
Email: graduate.awards@utoronto.ca

NSERC inquiries  
Tel.: 613-995-5521  
Email: schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca