Hello all,

We invite applications for the 2019-20 CGS Doctoral (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC) Competition. **(DUE DATE – Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 – to Deborah Paes).**

For details on these award competitions, please refer to the information provided below in the SGS Announcement. It can be noted that Canada’s three federal granting agencies, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) have been working together to harmonize the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral (CGS D) Programs. As a result, there will be a harmonized application timeline and program descriptions for all competitions. In other words, this notice is applicable for both NSERC and SSHRC applicants—a separate notice for SSHRC applications will not be forthcoming, as has been the case in past years. Since all competitions have a common deadline, both NSERC and SSHRC applications are due on Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019.

The SGS Award Announcement below provides important details about eligibility and the application process. I have highlighted some of these:

- Essentially, to be eligible to apply, you must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. Also, as of December 31st of the year of application, you must have **completed no more than 24 months of full-time study** in your doctoral program (or no more than 36 months if admitted to the doctoral program directly from your bachelor’s program).

- A reminder that although ‘first-class average in each of the last two years of completed study’ is no longer an eligibility criterion, 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. The evaluation of CGS D applications is based on the following criteria:
  - 50% for research ability or potential
  - 50% relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia

- Applicants must access the online application through the respective granting agency’s portal:
  - NSERC CGS D: [NSERC On-line System](#); see NSERC instructions.
  - SSHRC CGS D: [SSHRC Online System](#); see SSHRC instructions.

- Applicants must submit a printed, hard copy of the full online application **for departmental evaluation and ranking to Deborah Paes (ES1016H) by Wednesday, September 25, 2019.** Late submissions cannot be accommodated. Also, the complete application **must be submitted electronically by Wednesday, September 25,**
2019. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that reviewers submit their reports electronically by Wednesday, September 25, 2019.

- **Transcripts:** In addition to transcripts for all previous degree programs (complete or incomplete), applicants must order and include their transcript for the fall session of the year of application (i.e. Fall 2019), even when no grades are available. SSHRC applicant can upload their transcripts directly to the online application. NSERC applicants must submit their transcripts to Deborah Paes, since the administrator is required to upload the transcript to the applicant’s online application. It is the applicants’ responsibility to ensure that transcripts are complete and legible once uploaded (e.g. SSHRC), even if a university official (graduate administrator) is responsible for uploading the transcripts (e.g. NSERC).

- **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). Undergraduate students who are applying for direct entry into the PhD program should also apply for the CGS M competition.

- 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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SGS Award Announcement

Award Overview

Graduate Unit (Forestry)  NSERC/SSHRC:  Wednesday, September 25, 2019 (to Deborah Paes – ES1016H).
deading:
Value/Duration:
CGS D - $35,000 per year for 36 months
NSERC PGS D - $21,000 per year for 36 months
SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship - $20,000 per year for 12 to 48 months

Level of Study:
Doctoral

Required Legal Status:
Domestic (Canadian citizen or permanent resident)

Results:
April 2020, directly from Tri-Agency

Purpose

The Canada Graduate Scholarships—Doctoral (CGS D) program is a federal program of scholarships awarded through national competitions by the granting agencies: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The program aims to promote continued excellence in Canadian research by rewarding and retaining high-calibre doctoral students at Canadian institutions. By providing support for a high-quality research training experience to awardees, the CGS D program strives to foster impacts within and beyond the research environment.

Eligibility to Apply

Please refer to the Tri-Agency CGS D website for complete eligibility requirements.

Applicants must:
- be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada, as of the application deadline date;
- have completed no more than 24 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by December 31st of the year of application (no more than 36 months if transferred directly from Bachelors to a PhD; fast-tracked or enrolled in joint program, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD)
- submit only one doctoral award application in a given academic year. Nominations to the Vanier CGS program do not count towards this limit;
- not have already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC.
- Reminder – 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 the Tri-Agency.
Please refer to the appropriate literature for CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC for further details on the agency specific doctoral awards as eligibility requirements may vary, e.g. tenable at foreign institutions, months of study.

**Notes:**
The agencies count all studies toward the doctoral degree for which funding is requested, whether or not they were completed at the degree-granting institution.

**New for SSHRC:**
1. SSHRC applicants who are beyond the eligible months of study for the CGS D, may continue to apply up until their 48th month of study (as of December 31st) and will be considered for a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship.

2. The months of study completed are calculated starting from the date on which an applicant is officially registered in the doctoral program; this also applies to applicants:
   - registered in a Master's program and subsequently transferred to a doctoral program (fast-track);
   - registered in a doctoral program, even if a Master's degree is obtained as part of the program (e.g., MA/PhD).

3. Undergraduate students applying to a direct entry doctoral program (i.e. never enrolled in a master's program) should apply for a CGS M to hold in their first year as they are ineligible to apply for a CGS D until they are registered in the doctoral program. In other words, students in a direct entry doctoral program must wait until they are registered in their first year of their doctoral studies in order to apply for a CGS D.

**Subject Matter Eligibility**
NSERC and SSHRC applicants whose subject matter has a link, overlap, or future application to health (in particular drug discovery, disease diagnosis, treatment/prevention, development of medical devices, collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, disease population, therapy or health systems), should email NSERC or SSHRC with a one page summary of their research proposal well in advance of submitting an application to seek clarification or a ruling. NSERC/SSHRC typically responds to these types of inquiries within 3-4 business days.

Applicants working in research areas where boundaries overlap or are interdisciplinary are strongly advised to write a compelling justification in their application as to why they believe their proposal is appropriate for support by the agency to which the application is being submitted.

NSERC 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.

SSHRC applicants are encouraged to review SSHRC’s website, which has additional information and some examples relating to subject matter eligibility. Note, the use of social sciences or humanities theories, methodologies and hypotheses is, in and of itself, not sufficient to make a proposal eligible for SSHRC funding.

**Selection Criteria**
*(New)* The evaluation of CGS D applications is based on the following criteria:
- 50% for research ability or potential
- 50% relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia

For full description, refer to the CGS D website.
Note: Indigenous SSHRC applicants are encouraged to complete the “Allowable Inclusion” section of their application form to describe special circumstances that may have had an impact on their academic or career paths (e.g. cultural or community responsibilities, and/or challenging socio-economic contexts). This information should be taken into account by selection committee members.

Application Process

Students registered in a U of T graduate degree program at any time between January 1- December 31, 2019, or on an approved leave of absence must complete the appropriate agency's online application form submit through their current or proposed graduate program at the University of Toronto. Applicants are to contact the unit’s graduate administrator directly regarding the submission deadline and process.

In addition to the CGS D, each agency offers its own doctoral awards. Applicants complete and submit one application to be considered for both a CGS D scholarship and an agency doctoral award. CGS D scholarships are offered to top-ranked eligible applicants.

Applicants must access the online application through the respective granting agency’s portal:

- CIHR CGS D: ResearchNet; see CIHR instructions.
- NSERC CGS D: NSERC On-line System; see NSERC instructions.
- SSHRC CGS D: SSHRC Online System; see SSHRC instructions.

Please note the following reminders:

Transcripts: The inclusion and completeness of transcripts are essential for the Tri-Agency to determine eligibility/confirm current registration, and is an integral part of the evaluation material reviewed by the selection committees. As such, in addition to transcripts for all previous degree programs (complete or incomplete), applicants must order and include their transcript for the fall session of the year of application (i.e. Fall 2019) even when no grades are available. It is the applicants’ responsibility to ensure that transcripts are complete and legible once uploaded, even if a university official (graduate administrator) is responsible for uploading the transcripts (e.g. NSERC).

Collection of Self-Identification Data: Beginning in August 2018, the Tri-Agency has been asking all applicants to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, disability and visible minority status. Though completing the self-identification form will be mandatory for applicants and co-applicants, each category has a “I prefer not to answer” option.

Indigenous applicants [First Nations (North American Indian - Status and Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit] are encouraged to self-identify their status on their application form as universities are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota to the national competition. Self-identification data are not seen or used by Tri-Agency selection committee members or by the applicant’s references.

- NSERC and SSHRC applicants must provide consent within the application form to share this information with their institutions and the Tri-Agency.
- CIHR applicants should email their graduate unit separately to notify the university that they have self-identified their status on their CIHR application as this information is not disclosed by CIHR to the universities.

Results

The SGS Graduate Awards Office will notify those who were forwarded to SGS of the University competition results in late-November. The results of the national competition are communicated directly by the Tri-Agency in April 2020.
Contacts & Resources

For more information, visit the Canada Graduate Scholarships - Doctoral Program Website (housed on the NSERC website), and/or contact appropriate Awards Officer at the SGS Graduate Awards Office:

**CIHR CGS D**
Olivera Joksimovic
Graduate Awards Officer
P: 416-946-0808
o.joksimovic@utoronto.ca

**NSERC CGS D**
Pascal Papathanasakis
Graduate Awards Officer
P: 416-978-8260
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**SSHRC CGS D**
Stacey Kwan
Graduate Awards Officer
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**CIHR:**
support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
 CIHR Doctoral Research Award Programs Website

**NSERC:**
schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
 NSERC PGS D Website

**SSHRC:**
fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
 SSHRC Doctoral Awards Website