NSERC Information Session
Scholarships and Fellowships
2018-2019
Simon Fraser University
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Kristina Dixie
September 18, 2018

Agenda
• EDI initiatives at NSERC
• Postgraduate programs
• How to apply
• Tips and advice
• Contact information

Equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives at NSERC

NSERC’s focus on EDI
• NSERC is committed to implementing policies and processes to identify and mitigate barriers and biases within our programs
• Sound EDI practices at NSERC will:
  o increase access to the largest pool of qualified applicants
  o enhance the integrity of our application and selection processes
  o increase the overall excellence of the research

Why is addressing EDI issues important?

"Despite recent progress, the gender gap is especially large in authorship positions associated with seniority, and prestigious journals have fewer women authors.”
What features does NSERC have in place to enhance EDI for students/postdocs?

- Diversity on selection committees
- EDI training for staff and members
- Extensive list of examples of activities demonstrating communication, interpersonal, and leadership abilities
- Parental leave policies
- Evaluation of applicants based on active period
- Collection of equity data
- Special circumstances section
- Applications from Indigenous applicants

EDI data collection

This new data is important for monitoring the equity performance of our programs and informing future measures to increase equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise.


Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>What is your date of birth?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] [0000-YYYY]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] I prefer not to answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Select the option that you identify with.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] Woman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] Non-binary (e.g., gender fluid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[ ] Prefer not to answer</td>
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</table>

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships–Doctoral and Canada Graduate Scholarships–Doctoral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSERC PGS D</th>
<th>CGS D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value and duration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Value and duration</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$21,000 per year for 2 or 3 years</td>
<td>$35,000 per year for 2 or 3 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who can apply?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Who can apply?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Canadian citizens</td>
<td>• Canadian citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Permanent residents of Canada</td>
<td>• Permanent residents of Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where can you hold the award?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Where can you hold the award?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Canadian university</td>
<td>• Foreign university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Only if you already have at least one Canada</td>
<td>• ONLY if you already have at least one</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility as of December 31 of the year you</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eligibility as of December 31 of the year you</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apply</td>
<td>apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s to PhD: 0-24 months in PhD</td>
<td>Bachelor’s to PhD (direct-entry): 4-36 months in PhD</td>
</tr>
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Selection criteria and weightings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection criterion</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic excellence</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research ability or potential</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where do you apply and when?

- **Apply through your current institution if:**
  - You are currently registered at, or are on an approved leave of absence from, a Canadian institution a degree program

- **Apply through the institution where you were registered if:**
  - You are not currently registered at an institution or are registered, but not in a degree program, and you graduated from a degree program from a Canadian institution during the calendar year in which you are applying

Deadline: verify with your institution!
Apply directly to NSERC ONLY if:
• You are currently registered at a foreign institution
• You are not currently registered at a institution or are registered, but not in a degree program, and you graduated from a degree program prior to January of the year of application

Deadline: Applications must be received electronically by 8 PM (ET) on October 15

What happens to your application at your institution?
- You submit your application electronically by the institution deadline
- SLO gives read access to department/external selection committees for their recommendation
- Internal selection committees select applicants to fill NSERC quota
- Institution forwards quota of applications electronically to NSERC
- Institution informs students of their results in the internal selection process

What happens to your application at NSERC?
- NSERC staff verify eligibility of applicant and proposed research
- Members review applications
- Final ranked list is produced
- Top-ranked applicants are offered CGS D
- PGS D offered to next group of meritorious applicants
- Results are announced by email by the end of March

Scholarships and fellowships selection committees
- Cellular and molecular biology
- Evolution and ecology
- Chemical, biomedical, and materials science engineering
- Mathematical sciences
- Chemistry
- Mechanical engineering
- Civil and industrial engineering
- Physics and astronomy
- Computing sciences
- Plant and animal biology
- Earth sciences
- Psychology
- Electrical engineering

IMPORTANT: The research subject code you select in your application will determine your selection committee. Your application may be transferred to another selection committee if it is deemed more appropriate.

Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements
- CGS-MSFSS
- Value: Up to $6,000 (covers travel, living and other non-research related costs)
- Open to:
  • Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada
  • registered at an eligible Canadian institution
- Requirements:
  • must have accepted or hold a CGS (Master’s or Doctoral) or Vanier CGS (if eligible)
  • must not have accepted a previous CGS-MSFSS
- How to apply: Applications are submitted through your institution
- Duration: 2 to 6 months

* Contact your faculty of graduate studies for the institution-specific deadline
Foreign Study Supplements in Taiwan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FSS Taiwan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline: February 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Value: CAD $4,600 from NSERC and TWD 41,000 from Ministry of Science and Technology in Taiwan (MOST)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements: • you must hold an active NSERC PGS, CGS or Vanier CGS; or • your academic supervisor must hold an active NSERC Discovery Grant, Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Grant or Strategic Partnership Grant; and • you must be pursuing studies in natural sciences or engineering or both.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to apply: Apply directly to NSERC. Contact <a href="mailto:schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca">schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a> for application form and instructions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration: 8 weeks (dates are set by MOST for the orientation session)</td>
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NSERC student ambassadors

• Promotion of STEM to Canadian youth by Canadian youth
• To encourage post-secondary students and fellows to share their NSE experience with underrepresented youth (K-12)
• Outreach activity must be organized independently by the applicant
• NSERC pays $1,000 in support of event costs

Aboriginal Ambassadors in the Natural Sciences and Engineering Award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AANSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
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<tr>
<td>To be eligible, you must: • be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada • be an Aboriginal person* • be registered full-time in an NSE degree program at an eligible Canadian institution OR • be employed at an eligible institution as postdoctoral fellow in the NSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to apply: • No deadline; Apply minimum 2 months prior to your visit. • Consult AANSE webpage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum average for students: B or B- (or equivalent) over the last year (minimum 2 terms)</td>
</tr>
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*NSERC uses the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982 definition of Aboriginal peoples as including the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

How to apply

Completing Form 201 – application for a postgraduate scholarship or a postdoctoral fellowship

Online system

Form 201 – application profile
Form 201 – scholarship/fellowship information (PGS D/CGS D only)

Form 201 – thesis information

Form 201 – keywords/research subject code

Advice and tips on completing Form 201

Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvUsRO9ZB8E

General (but important!) tips

- Read the program description
- Read the application instructions
- Read the selection committee guide
What makes a good research proposal?

• Write the proposal yourself
• Be as clear as possible
• Describe the objectives, hypothesis, experimental approach, methods, significance, etc.
• Clearly explain the significance to the NSE
• Make your proposal understandable for all members (consider their broad range of expertise)
• Do not repeat info from the thesis section (you can refer to it)
• Focus on what you will be working on during the tenure of the award
• Describe how EDI is considered in the research plan and design, if applicable (see Guide for Applicants)
• Maximum of one page in length (including references)

Making sure your research and your program are eligible at NSERC

• Major challenges must lie in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE), other than the health sciences
• Consult NSERC’s eligibility criteria (guidelines and addendum)
• Applications containing research proposals that are not eligible under these guidelines may be rejected
• You can only apply to one agency per academic year

Justifying the eligibility of your research

• Complete the justification for eligibility of proposed research section if your research overlaps with health or social sciences
• used by NSERC staff to determine eligibility of your proposed research; not seen by the selection committee members
• use plain language to explain why you believe that your research is eligible at NSERC
• should not be another description of your research project
• should be a short explanation (a paragraph is fine, you do not need to use the whole page)

Contributions and applicant’s statement

Important to refer to instructions when completing this section!

• Part 1: Articles published, accepted, submitted
• Part 2: Most significant contributions to R&D
• Part 3: Applicant’s statement:
  o research experience
  o relevant activities
  o special circumstances

Page limits: PGS D – 2 pages / PDF – 4 pages
No updates accepted once application is submitted

Things to watch out for when writing proposal/contributions/statement

• Impact/importance of research not explained
• Repetitiveness throughout the application
• Citations
  o Missing recent relevant/important work in the area
  o Irrelevant articles included
  o Relying on secondary sources (lack of understanding)
• Contributions to research not properly highlighted
• Lack of focus or coherence
• Spelling mistakes
• Repetitiveness
• Too much modesty
• Convey your passion for the research you are doing!

Transcripts

• Follow the transcript guidelines in the Form 201 instructions; your application will be rejected if you do not adhere
• Transcripts must be:
  o up-to-date (dated or issued in the current fall session or after the last term during which you were registered, even if there are no grades or updates)
  o official (issued by the Registrar’s Office, not web transcripts)
  o included for each program listed in your application (for PDF, you only need your doctoral transcripts)
• You are responsible for ensuring all transcripts have been uploaded according to the guidelines (even if your institution does the uploading)
Reports on the applicant

- Who should you ask to write your reports?
  - Your thesis supervisor
  - Another person familiar with your research and other abilities
  - Not your proposed supervisor (unless they have been or are currently your supervisor)

- How do you invite your references to complete the reports?
  - Enter their names and email addresses in the online system; the system will send them an email with instructions
  - Invite them well in advance of the deadline; your application cannot be submitted without these reports

Where to get additional information

- Resource videos
  - Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship
  - Demystifying the review process for NSERC scholarships and fellowships
  - CGS M instructions for completing the reference assessment form

- Program literature
  - Program guide for each program
  - Form 201 instructions
  - Selection committee guide
  - Tri-Agency research training award holder’s guide

- See NSERC website for other opportunities and supplements
- Talk to your supervisor – you may have an opportunity to receive indirect support through their grant

Contact information

- NSERC scholarships and fellowships:
  scho@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

- Online services helpdesk:
  webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
  (613) 995-4273