Canada Graduate Scholarships - Master’s Program (CGS-M Competition)

Presented by Alexandra Gunn
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Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

Our office is committed to helping you throughout your graduate program. Our team in GPS oversees:

- Graduate Program Admission
- Graduate Program Records (including transcripts, leaves, appeals…)
- Scholarships & Awards (including GA3)
- Thesis Defence committees & procedures

Additionally, the Centre for Academic and Professional Engagement (CAPE) customizes services and programs for international students, postdoctoral fellows, Indigenous students while also offering a full suite of professional development programs (APEX).

Welcome to the Office of

GRADUATE STUDIES & POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

Future Students

Our internationally recognized graduate programs will expand your intellectual horizons, strengthen your skill set and enhance your professional network.

- How to Apply
- Graduate Programs
- Tuition and Fees
- Application Process
- Scholarships and Awards

Current Students

We are here to help you complete your graduate program and acquire the necessary skills for success after graduation.

- Virtual Orientation
- Graduate Student Admission Handbook
- Academic Dates and Deadlines
- Summer 2015 Schedule of Classes
- Academic Drama
Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Program

CIHR – Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships
NSERC – Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships
SSHRC – Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Value: $17,500 for 12 months

Application Deadline: December 1st using the online system (weekend so following business day – Dec. 3)
Applications must be submitted before 5:00 pm! (PST)
Note: there have been technical issues in previous years – submit early!

SFU Admissions Application Deadline (if applicable): January 31, 2019 or dept deadline, whichever is earlier

If submitting to other institutions, check their deadlines and process
What happened last year...

Applications received: 286

Applications deemed ineligible: 64

Applications deemed non legible: 3

A Listed applications offered awards: 73

Our quota this year is 70:

6 CIHR  22 NSERC  42 SSHRC
Subject Matter Eligibility

Tri-Agency guidelines:  www.science.gc.ca

The Tri-Agencies are strict about subject matter eligibility!

Choose your subject area designation carefully; we cannot transfer your application to the correct agency after the deadline has passed.

If in doubt, talk to your supervisor. If still in doubt send a ½ page summary of your research to Graduate Awards Manager (dgsaward@sfu.ca)
Eligibility

- be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- not have previously held a CGS M (Note: CIHR & NSERC have lifetime max for scholarship support for grad studies);
- have 0-12 months FTS in master’s (or master’s/doctoral transfer) program which you are requesting funding, as of December 31, 2018;
- have received a first class average (A- or 3.67) in each of the last two completed years of study

Common Mistakes:
- Not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Have completed + 12 months of their master’s
We consider the ‘last two years of study’ as the last two/three terms and the previous to that two/three terms OR between 24-30 Credits per ‘year’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2011 Summer</th>
<th>2012 Summer</th>
<th>2012 Fall</th>
<th>2013 Spring</th>
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<td>MATH 242</td>
<td>MATH 316</td>
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<td>Job Practicum I</td>
<td>Job Practicum II</td>
<td>Intro to Analysis I</td>
<td>Numerical Analysis I</td>
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<td>Term GPA : 0.000 Term Totals : 0.00</td>
<td>Term GPA : 3.920 Term Totals : 59.00</td>
<td>Term GPA : 4.170 Term Totals : 12.00</td>
<td>Term GPA : 3.960 Term Totals : 71.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cum GPA : 4.110 Cum Totals : 61.00</td>
<td>Cum GPA : 3.900 Cum Totals : 59.00</td>
<td>Cum GPA : 3.960 Cum Totals : 101.00</td>
<td>Cum GPA : 3.900 Cum Totals : 110.00</td>
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2nd Last Period CGPA is 3.67 over 25 credits

Last Period CGPA is 3.96 over 27 credits
has an allocation for the field of research they intend to pursue. Applications deemed by a host institution to have been labeled incorrectly will be re-labeled according to the agency’s research subject matter guidelines (refer to Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency). Applicants should contact the Faculty of Graduate Studies (or its equivalent) at the institution where they intend to hold the award for further guidance on subject matter eligibility.

**Application Procedures**

To apply to the CGS M Program, applicants must complete and submit an application using the Research Portal. Applicants should consult the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Program Instructions for Completing an Application.

The Research Portal will instruct applicants to select up to five institutions where they intend to hold the award. Applicants must only select institutions where:

- they are currently admitted or enrolled full-time in an eligible program of study and intend to pursue their studies; or
- they will apply for full-time admission to an eligible program of study by the deadline set for their intended graduate program or by March 15, whichever comes first.

**Allocations**

Each eligible institution is assigned a separate allocation of awards to offer from each agency. Institutions must respect the agency-specific allocation. Refer to the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Award Allocations page for a list of allocations by institution and by agency.

**Deadlines**

- **Application deadline** (date by which the complete application must be submitted by the applicant): December 1, before 8:00 p.m. (ET). Applications must be submitted by the deadline using the Research Portal. If the deadline falls on a weekend, applications must be submitted by the following business day before 8:00 p.m. (ET).
- **Results deadline** (date on which institutions may begin posting their competition results using the Research Portal): April 1 of the following calendar year.
- **Acceptance and declines of offers**: Applicants will have 21 days from the date...
Application Components

Application Form on the Research Portal

- Create the CGS-M Program application form
- Select host institutions (up to three)
  - be aware of your University’s admission deadlines
- Create Outline of Proposed Research (1 pg + 1pg)
- Order official transcripts
- Approach/send invite for two references

The CCV ([https://ccv-cvc.ca/](https://ccv-cvc.ca/))

- Give yourself plenty of time to complete the CCV!
- Don’t complete the entire generic CCV. Instead, under the heading CV ▶ select Funding ▶ select CGS-Master’s as the Funding Source and CV Type
Follow the instructions as provided on the website:
Provide **background information** for your project within the context of the current knowledge in the field.

State the **objectives and hypothesis**, and outline the experimental or theoretical approach to be taken.
State the **methods** and procedures to be used.

State the **significance of the proposed research** to a field or fields in the health sciences, natural sciences and/or engineering or social sciences and/or humanities, as appropriate

+1 page for bibliography/citations; use the format common in your discipline.
Writing a Strong Research Proposal

- Write with enthusiasm
- Why is this research necessary? What problem will you solve? Clearly establish the need for the research
- Avoid jargon and undefined acronyms
- How will you measure success?
- Be realistic and focused; avoid overly ambitious or premature projects

General vs. Clarity
Tentative vs. Confidence
Ambition vs. Realism
Be confident! No timid or indecisive language allowed. You are strong, capable and intelligent – let it show!

Check your writing for any tentative language:
NOT: my research might show...
USE: My research will show...

NOT: The research questions I hope to ask...
USE: The research questions are...

NOT: This may demonstrate...
USE: I intend to demonstrate....

Never, ever do I want to read that you have downplayed your accomplishments!
Avoid “Although I was third author...even though I only got an A-...with help from others....
Transcripts

Up-to-date official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies should be included.

Retain paper copy of any uploaded transcripts, as you may be asked to provide it for verification purposes.

Up-to-date transcripts:
• dated or issued in the fall session of the year of application (if currently registered) or
• after the last term completed (if not currently registered).

Transcripts not in English or French:
• must provide a certified translation of the transcript.
Tips for Upload/Scanning your official Transcripts

Transcripts must conform to the presentation standards:
• PDF format (.pdf extension); unprotected
• Maximum file size of 10 mb (black and white recommended)
• Page size 8 ½ in. x 11 in. (216 mm x 279 mm) or A4 (210 mm x 297 mm)
• Must be scanned as a single document
• Transcript must be uploaded in portrait orientation. Text should be upright if possible.
• One copy of the legend (reverse of each transcript) must be included; **do not scan the legend multiple times**

Scanners at libraries – free to use
Referees

- You need to invite 2 referees
- DO NOT USE future/proposed supervisor, unless that person has supervised you in the past
- Provide your referee with enough time to write and submit their letters
- Talk to your referee before you invite them on the system; we suggest providing your referee with an outline of the criteria and your specific examples

I have known the application for __ in my capacity as ___

**Academic Excellence** (Likert scale + 2000 characters)
**Research Potential** (Likert scale + 2000 characters)
**Personal Characteristics & Interpersonal Skills**
(Likert scale + 2000 characters)
50% Academic Excellence: academic record, awards related to GPA, duration of studies, type or program pursued, course load, relative standings.

30% Research Potential: Interest in discovery, quality/originality of contributions to research, relevant work experience, significance of proposal, critical thinking, independence, initiative.

20% Personal Characteristics & Interpersonal Skills: Work experience, leadership experience, project management including organizing meetings/conferences, ability to communicate concepts clearly and logically, involvement in academic life, volunteerism, community outreach.
How is your application adjudicated?

**Academic Excellence – 50%**
- Academic record, Scholarships and awards held, Duration of previous studies, Type of program and courses taken, course load, relative standing

**Research Potential – 30%**
- Quality and originality of contributions to research, relevance of work experience and academic training to field, significance, feasibility and merit of proposed research, ability to think critically, initiative/ autonomy and independence

**Personal Characteristics & Interpersonal Skills  20%**
- Work experience, leadership experience, project management including organizing conferences and meetings, ability/potential to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats, involvement in academic life, volunteerism and/or community outreach
What happens to your application?

• All institutions selected in your app will have access; at SFU, Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) checks applications for eligibility

• GPS provides each dept with applications & CGPA calculations; departments rank applications

• GPS creates a university wide committee to review all top ranked applications

• A final list is submitted to the agencies, which reviews and approves

• Grad Studies enters results on Research Portal and they are published April 1\textsuperscript{st}
Here are the common CGSM mistakes we see:

Transcripts:
• Not ordering transcripts on time
• Not getting a ‘certified true copy’ of your transcript or translation
• Missing transcripts – must include transcripts where transfer credits originated if no grades shown
• Not providing official non-SFU transcripts
• Not providing up-to-date transcripts
Common CGSM mistakes continued:

Application Form:
• Using a different name & email address on Research Portal & CCV
• Research Funding History: do not list your supervisor’s grants
• Incorrect start date, program

CCV:
• Not giving yourself enough time to complete the CCV
• Duplicating entries
• Losing your confirmation #
Common CGSM mistakes continued:

Research Proposal:
• Not providing methodologies, not defining acronyms, tentative writing

Referees:
• Not realizing your referees must submit before you can
• Selecting referee who barely knows you and cannot give examples
Problems? Eligibility Concerns?
Contact dgsaward@sfu.ca