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

Presented by Alexandra Gunn
Graduate Awards Manager
dgsaward@sfu.ca
Our office is committed to helping you throughout your graduate program. Our team in DGS 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).
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
Applications must be submitted before 5:00 pm! (PST)
Note that in previous years there have been technical issues – we suggest submitting early!
What happened last year...

Applications received: 297

Applications deemed ineligible: 57

Applications deemed non legible: 11

A Listed applications offered awards: 73

Our quota this year is 73:

7 CIHRs 22 NSERCs 44 SSHRC
Subject Matter Eligibility

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

The TriCouncils 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 already received a scholarship or fellowship from SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR to undertake or complete a Masters degree;
• have 0-12 months in the master’s (or master’s/doctoral transfer) program for which you are requesting funding, as of December 31, 2017;
• 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 terms and the previous to that two terms OR between 24-30 Credits per ‘year’

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 or 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

- (https://portal-portail.nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
- Create the CGS-M Program application form
- Select host institutions (up to five) 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/)

- 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
Outline of Proposed Research (1 pg)
Follow the Presentation Standards; 12 pt, single spaced, include your name in header on each page....

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....
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

Take your transcripts to STAPLES. For about $3 they will scan them, remove the extra legends and email the .pdf to you
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 know 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)
Here is the Referee Assessment Form that your referees will complete. Make this easy by giving them the information and concrete examples that they need to complete this!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Assessment Form</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applicant Information</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department/Division:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position title:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have known Applicant Tester in my capacity as</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In providing your assessment in each section below, consider the applicant in comparison to other students in similar disciplines and at a similar stage in their graduate studies, with whom you have interacted during the last five years.

### Academic Excellence

As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions.

- Rating: C Top 2% C Top 5% C Top 10% C Top 25% C Below Top 25% C Unable to comment
- Provide an assessment of the applicant’s skills, abilities, achievements, awards, experience and contributions related to this criterion. Include concrete examples.

### Research Potential

As demonstrated by the applicant’s research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research, its potential contribution to advancement of knowledge in the field, and any anticipated outcomes.

- Rating: C Top 2% C Top 5% C Top 10% C Top 25% C Below Top 25% C Unable to comment
- Provide an assessment of the applicant’s skills, abilities, achievements, awards, experience and contributions related to this criterion. Include concrete examples.

### Personal Characteristics & Interpersonal Skills

As demonstrated by the applicant’s past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations.

- Provide an assessment of the applicant’s skills, abilities, achievements, awards, experience and contributions related to this criterion. Include concrete examples.

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**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.

Need technical help? Contact webapp@nsere-crsng.gc.ca or call 613-995-4273
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, DGS checks apps for eligibility.
- Grad Studies provides each dept with applications & CGPA calculations; departments rank applications.
- DGS 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 1st.
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

Referees:
- Not realizing your referees must submit before you can
- Selecting referee who barely knows you and cannot give examples

Application Form:
- Using a different name & email address on Research Portal & CCV
- Research Funding History: do not list your supervisor’s grants

CCV:
- Not giving yourself enough time to complete the CCV
- Duplicating entries
- Losing your confirmation #

Research Proposal:
- Not providing methodologies, not defining acronyms, tentative writing
Problems? Eligibility Concerns?
Contact dgsaward@sfu.ca