Welcome!

Alexandra Gunn

NSERC (Doctoral only)
NSERC Programs
Is my research topic eligible?
Am I eligible?
What is the application process & deadlines?

Writing a Successful Application
Writing Tips
Evaluation Criteria
Reports on the Applicant
Attachments
Common Mistakes

About the Office of Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral Fellows
(www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies e-mail: dgsaward@sfu.ca)

For awards: we promote funding opportunities, help students apply, oversee the university’s adjudication process and set up/pay awards
Discover /

We invest in scientific discovery and people for the benefit of Canada – science and engineering at the frontier of knowledge.

Innovate /

We ensure businesses are the first to know – use discoveries to accelerate R&D. We provide the feedback loops from industry to academia to optimize technologies and to inform future discovery research.

Featured News

Latest News

Government support helps transform promising research into innovative business opportunities

September 7, 2016
NSERC’s Funding Programs (* indicates those administered by GPS)

**Undergraduate Programs**
Undergraduate Student Research Awards in university (USRA) *
Undergraduate Student Research Awards in industry (I-USRA)
Various other undergraduate supplements

**Graduate Programs**
Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGSM/CGSD)*
Post Graduate Scholarships (PGSD)*
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships*
CGS - Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS)*
Foreign Study Supplements in Taiwan
Aboriginal Ambassadors in the NSE Award (AANSE)
NSERC Student Ambassadors

**Postdoctoral Programs**
Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships*
Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF)
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellowships (JSPS)
Aboriginal Ambassadors in the NSE Award (AANSE)
NSERC Student Ambassadors
Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Doctoral Program and NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)

About the Awards
Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) and NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS)
• provide financial support to high calibre scholars
• engaged in master's or doctoral programs
• in the natural sciences or engineering

Values/Durations
CGS D: $35,000 a year (for two or three years)
PGS D: $21,000 a year (for two or three years)

How to Apply
Notably, no separate application form/process for CGSD. Highest ranked PGS applicants automatically considered by NSERC for a CGSD. Application done through NSERC’ s On Line System with Form 201.
NSERC - Alexander Graham Bell Scholarships (CGSD + PGSD)

Eligibility of Subject Matter
NSERC has strict regulations regarding subject matter eligibility
  Applications submitted to NSERC that should have been sent to SSHRC or CIHR will be ruled ineligible.

Complete guidelines on selecting the appropriate federal granting agency are available at www.science.gc.ca.

If in doubt, please send a short summary of your research to the Office of Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral Fellows (dgsaward@sfu.ca)

NSERC does not support clinically-oriented research
(e.g. clinical psychology or clinical neuropsychology).
CIHR supports all research in psychology that has direct relevance to or ultimate impact on health.

You must upload a Justification for Eligibility attachment if your proposed research is in psychology, management studies, geography, physical education, bio-medical engineering, health sciences, bioinformatics, biostatistics…
What do you write in the **Justification for Eligibility attachment**?

- Describe the natural sciences and engineering challenges of the research project

- Clearly explain why the proposed research should be considered research predominately in the natural sciences and engineering;

- Mention any approval received from NSERC or GPS regarding the subject matter

Also:

- applicants whose application is rejected because of ineligible subject matter will not be allowed to submit the justification afterwards

- max 1 page limit
NSERC - Alexander Graham Bell Scholarships (CGSD + PGSD)

General Eligibility

To be considered eligible, as of application deadline date (Oct 15), you must:

1) be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;

2) hold, or expect to hold (at the time you take up the award), a degree in science or engineering from a university whose standing is recognized by NSERC (if you have a degree in a field other than science or engineering, NSERC may accept your application at its discretion); and

3) intend to pursue, in the following year, full-time graduate studies and research at the doctoral level in an eligible program in one of the areas of the natural sciences and engineering supported by NSERC.
### NSERC - Alexander Graham Bell (CGS D + PGS D)

#### Eligibility
Awards available in the competition and the eligibility window for each category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Value/Year</th>
<th>Max Duration</th>
<th>Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CGS D</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>0-24 Months of studies in doctoral program for which funding is requested. Jan 2017 &amp; onward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PGS D</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>OR 4-36 months of studies in doctoral program for which funding is requested if admitted directly to PhD from Bachelor’s. Jan 2016 – Sept 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eligibility should be calculated as of Dec 31st 2018.
What do I submit and where?

Transcripts

To GPS (c/o Alexandra Gunn) by October 4
MBC 1100, Burnaby campus

2 Reports on the Applicant

Referees must submit online **before** you can submit

Form 201 + Attachments

Submit online by October 15\(^{th}\) (8pm EST= 5pm!)

You will receive an email confirmation from GPS by October 20th
Transcripts

To GPS by October 4th

NSERC will only accept “Up-to-date official transcripts”

Submit a current SFU transcript, even if there are no grades; NSERC requires them as proof of registration

You will need to identify the University Designate for Transcripts on the application form as Alexandra Gunn: dgsaward@sfu.ca
Reports on the Applicant “References”

Referees must submit online

Through Form 201, you invite them to complete the report.

Warning – when you save the page, the email invite is sent.

Once they submit their report you will see “Document Completed”

You cannot read the report(s), but you can unlock them for edits

You cannot submit unless your referees have submitted their reports!
Form 201 + Attachments

Submit online by October 15

Attachments include;
Outline of Proposed Research (max 1 pg)
Contributions/Statements (Doctoral 2 pgs max)
Justification for Eligibility of Research, if applicable (max 1 pg)

Follow the guide when formatting attachments

Attachments are to be converted into .pdf format and uploaded

Any questions about completing Form 201?
What happens to my application?

Departments adjudicate all applications received.

Departments forward decisions and list of nominees to GPS.

GPS organizes SFU Committees (USSC) to select top applications to go forward to NSERC.

GPS forwards all required documentation to NSERC by our deadline date.

GPS will notify all applicants by December 10th with SFU’s decision (going forward to NSERC or not).

NSERC announces the outcome of their competition around late-Spring 2019.
Writing a *Successful* Application
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection Criteria Weightings</th>
<th>CGS/PGS D</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>
</tbody>
</table>
**Evaluation Criteria**

- **Academic excellence (30%)**
  - Academic record
  - Scholarships and awards held
  - Duration of previous studies

- **Research ability or potential (50%)**
  - Quality of contributions to research & development
  - Relevance of work experience & academic training to field of proposed research
  - Significance, feasibility, & merit of proposed research, & justification for location of tenure
  - Ability to think critically
  - Ability to apply skills & knowledge
  - Judgment
  - Originality
  - Initiative & autonomy
  - Enthusiasm for research
  - Determination & ability to complete projects within appropriate period of time

- **Communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities (20%)**
  - Ability or potential to communicate scientific concepts clearly & logically in written & oral formats. e.g., could incl.:
    - quality of application's presentation;
    - participation in preparing publications; &
    - awards for oral presentations or papers
  - Professional & relevant extracurricular interactions & collaborations. e.g., could incl.:
    - mentoring;
    - teaching;
    - supervisory experience;
    - project management;
    - chairing committees;
    - organizing conferences & meetings; &
    - elected positions held
Reports on the Applicant (References)

- Choose the right person to write the Report on the Applicant:
  - Choose wisely
    - Who can speak to your strengths?
    - Who is qualified to report?
    - Must include your current supervisor or someone else who is very familiar with your research.

- Choose early
  - Ask your references soon (tonight!)
  - Provide them with your most current Curriculum Vitae (CV) & your current draft of your “Contributions to research and development”
  - Provide them with your most current “Outline of Proposed Research”
  - Give them a deadline (Prior to October 15)
  - Once you have agreement, add them to the system – get their family & given name and their email address correct; put your strongest referee first so that your strongest letter will appear first
Contributions and Statements

- 2 page maximum

- Three Parts:
  - Part 1: Contributions to research and development
  - Part 2: Most significant contributions to research and development
  - Part 3: Applicant’s Statement
    - Research experience (do not repeat info from part 2)
    - Relevant activities
    - Special Circumstances
Outline of Proposed Research

- 1 page max

- Be specific

- Provide **background information** to position your proposed research in the context of the current knowledge

- **State objectives/hypothesis**

- Outline **the experimental or theoretical approach** taken (citing pertinent literature)

- **Methods and procedures** to be used

- State **the significance of the proposed research** to a field or fields in the natural sciences and engineering

- **What our Tri-Council Scholars say:**
  - Use the wording of the evaluation criteria wherever possible
Common Mistakes

- Name
- Number of months of studies
- Proposed starting date of award
- Academic background
  - If Master-PhD transfer, select “Yes” in Master’s section in “Transferred to PhD without completing master’s” field
    - For PhD, start date is when you’re officially registered in a PhD program
  - If currently registered in program (e.g. Sept. 2018), it must be included
- Missing transcripts, forget to add university designate, submit transcripts late, transcripts not up-to-date/official
What’s next?

- Order transcripts and drop them off at GPS to be scanned
- Arrange for your ‘Reports on the Applicant’
- Work on related attachments
- Work everyday on your application
  - Especially your Proposed Research & Contributions/Statement
- Arrange a time to discuss your research with your supervisor and find out how they’d like to work with you on your application
Award Application Resources

As a graduate student, you are eligible to apply to a wide range of scholarships and awards. This resource page will provide you with tips to help you prepare your scholarship application package.

General Advice/Resources

- Tips for Effective Scholarship Applications (pdf)
- Thoughts on Proposal Writing (pdf)
- How to Email your Professor (link)
- CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC? How to Select the Correct Granting Agency (link)
- Not sure how your GPA measures up? check the Canadian University Grading Table (pdf)
- SSHRC’s Resource Center for Students (link)

Reference Letters

- University Affairs: "How to Ask for a Reference Letter"
- Social Psychology Network: "Advice on Letters of Recommendation"
- Bardia: "Letters of Recommendation: Help your writers!"
- Student Reference Letters: Let Me Give You a Hand

Professional Development

Scholarship adjudication committees prefer applicants who have made significant contributions to their fields or their communities.
Thank you and Good Luck!

dgsaward@sfu.ca

Questions?