Tri-Agency and Ontario Graduate Scholarships Information Session

CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC CGS-Master’s
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
SSHRC Doctoral
2020-2021

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graduatestudies.uoguelph.ca
graduatestudies.uoguelph.ca/current/funding

Funding Graduate Studies

Financial Planning

Making plans for financial support is very important as you start for the next stage of your education as a graduate student. How do you handle your financial concerns? Financial planning for graduate students is a must. Learn more about successful financial planning strategies. You will want to make sure that you know your income and your expenses. Income may be made up of any or all of the following: scholarships, Graduate Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Research Assistantships, or other employment. To assist you in your financial planning please consult these https://www.uoguelph.ca/graduatestudies/future/fees.

Support for Graduate Students

The University of Guelph is committed to providing a minimum stipend of $17,500.00 for all domestic and international doctoral students for a period of three years. Many graduate programs offer stipends to master’s students, so please check with the program for details. In some programs a student may be admitted where that student does not require funding. In these instances the program will submit a waiver request, explaining the reasons for the recommendation. All income and funding commitments are contingent on satisfactory progress in the program, as defined by the academic unit. The university reserves the right to amend the commitments made in the student funding agreement should satisfactory progress not be achieved.

Funding & Employment

As a graduate student you will have received a funding package made up of a number of components. The options may be one or more of the following:

- Graduate Teaching Assistant (TGA)
- Graduate Research Assistant (GRA)
The Lingo

• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
  – Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship – Masters (CGS-M)
• Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
  – Alexander Graham Bell CGS-M
• Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
  – Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS-M

Value

• $17,500/year for one year
  – At Guelph, also receive $5,000/year top-up
• Non-renewable
Fact Finding

• Google “Guelph CGS-M”
  – For details on Guelph’s internal process
  – Link to NSERC website for eligibility, application, instructions, and subject matter eligibility

Important Dates

• Dec 2, 2019 – Application Due Online (8 p.m. EST)
• April 1, 2020 – Earliest results available online
  – 21 days later – Applicant must respond to offer(s)
Eligibility Criteria

- Canadian or permanent resident
- Full-time in an eligible Master's program
- Completed O-12 months of full-time study or equivalent of:
  - Master's program
  - Direct-admit doctoral program (never registered in a Master's)
  - A master’s program that was or will be fast-tracked to a doctoral program, and you are requesting funding for the first 12 months of this doctoral program
- Not previously held a CGS-M
- A first-class average, as determined by the university, in each of the last two years of study (full-time equivalent)
- Submit a maximum of one application a year

Subject Matter

- Applicants must categorize proposed field of research:
  - Health (CIHR)
  - Natural Sciences and Engineering (NSERC)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities (SSHRC)
- Ensure submission to the correct agency
  - Google “selecting federal granting agency”
- Allocation:
  CIHR = 3 | NSERC = 22 | SSHRC = 20
How Do I Apply?

• On-line using the Research Portal
  – read the instructions!
• Select up to three universities
  – where you are currently registered
  – where you intend to register
• Selection process & post-award administration carried out by universities

Selection Criteria

• Academic Excellence 50%
• Research Potential 30%
• Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills 20%
Warning: Challenges Ahead

• Order all transcripts now
  – By November 22 for free Guelph transcripts
• Start your CGS-M Canadian Common CV (CCV) early
• Ask 2 professors to complete Letters of Appraisal
• Research proposal
• Submit your entire application package before the due date!

Michael Smith Foreign Studies Supplements (MSFSS)

• Available to CGS award holders
• Fosters research abroad
• Up to $6,000 to offset the cost of travel abroad for 2-6 months
Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS)
Master’s and Doctoral 2020-2021 Competition

What is OGS?

• Funded by Ontario and U of Guelph
• Encourage excellence in Master’s and Doctoral studies
• $5,000/semester for 3 semesters
• Max. 2 years for Master’s, 4 years for Doctoral
• How many OGS at U of G in 2020-21?
  – Domestic = TBD (was 135)
  – International = TBD (was 4)
Where Do I Apply?

- Current U of G students
  - Continuing elsewhere: apply there
  - Continuing here: apply here

- Future U of G students
  - Apply here

Where & How Do I Apply?

- Google “Guelph OGS”
  - eligibility, due dates, application available as of November 1

- **Guelph Due Date:** January 31, 2020
  - complete application package due to your Department

- If applying for OGS at other universities, visit their websites
  - due dates and processes vary, so check now!
Eligibility Criteria

• Full-time in an eligible graduate program
• Master’s – by December 31, 0-12 months of full-time study
• Doctoral – by December 31, 0-36 months of full-time study (transfers counted from start of doctoral program)
• Minimum first class average (A-) in each of your last 2 years (full time equivalent)
• Cannot hold concurrently with:
  – CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, QEII-GSST

Selection Criteria

• Academic Excellence 40%
• Research Proposal 30%
• Letters of Reference 30%
What Will the Application Entail?

– Research Proposal
– List of scholarships/awards
– List of publications/presentations
– Other academic achievements
– 2 Academic Assessment Forms
– A complete application for admission to a graduate program at Guelph

SSHRC Doctoral Scholarships
2020-2021 Competition
The Lingo

- SSHRC = Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council
- Doctoral Fellowship
  - $20,000/year for 1, 2, 3 or 4 years
- CGS D = Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral
  - $35,000/year for 3 years

Fact Finding

- Google “Guelph SSHRC Doctoral”
  - for Guelph’s internal process
  - link to SSHRC website for eligibility, application, instructions, subject matter eligibility
- Due date: September 30, 2019
Eligibility Criteria

• < 48 months of doctoral studies as of Dec 31, 2019
• Citizen/permanent resident of Canada;
• First PhD (or equivalent);
• Doctoral studies in the social sciences or humanities;
• Have not already received a doctoral tri-council scholarship or fellowship
• Not applying to NSERC or CIHR in the same year

Subject Matter Eligibility

• Google:
  – “subject matter eligibility SSHRC”
  – “selecting appropriate federal agency”

• Justify submission to SSHRC if in Psychology or health-related field
Evaluation Criteria

50% Research Ability & Potential:
– research proposal
– training, experience, contributions
– judgment & critical thinking, responsible & ethical conduct
– enthusiasm & originality, clear communication

50% Relevant Experience/Achievements (academia +):
– scholarships & awards
– academic record
– professional/academic/extracurricular activities & collaborations

Warning: Challenges Ahead

• Order all transcripts
  – By September 20 for free Guelph transcripts
• Ask 2 professors to complete Letters of Appraisal (online)
• Put together your research proposal
• Submit your entire application package before the due date of Sept 30!
What’s Next?

• Department reviews and ranks your application
• University-wide awards committee selects 34 applications to forward to national competition
• Results announced in April 2020

Scholarship Application Tips
Start early!

Read the instructions!

The Message

• Exude enthusiasm and excitement
• Demonstrate thorough knowledge and deep understanding of your field
  – Provide context for your research
  – Highlight main research question(s)
  – Describe significance/impact
• Write for lay audience
The Details

• Highlight and elaborate your significant contributions
  – Awards
  – Publications/presentations
• Showcase your personal strengths and commitments
  – Volunteer, service, extracurricular

The Shout Out!

• Don’t underestimate the importance of picking solid referees
  – Adam Chapnick, *How to ask for a reference letter*, University Affairs
• You have an A…what else?
• Leaving an escape route…
The Nitty Gritty

• Did you spel things rong?
• Is your application organized?
• Have you left any gaps?

Staying Positive

• “Keep on keepin’ on”. Bob Dylan
Questions?

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