NSERC Information Sessions
Scholarships and Fellowships
2019-2020

University of Guelph

Amy Reckling and Kari Saumur, Program Officers
September 9, 2019
• EDI initiatives at NSERC
• New this year
• Postgraduate programs
• Postdoctoral programs
• How to apply
• Tips and advice
• Contact information
Equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives at NSERC

- NSERC’s focus on EDI
- Why is EDI important?
- EDI data collection
NSERC is committed to implementing policies and processes which identify and mitigate barriers and biases within our programs.
Why is EDI important?

- Access the largest pool of qualified applicants
- Expand collective intelligence, discovery, and innovation

Research team

Research design

- Enhance the scientific quality and usefulness of NSE research
- Increase the overall excellence of the research
Considerations

- Who are the research subjects and end-users?
- What are the consequences of not including diversity?

Additional resources

- NSERC’s Framework on EDI
- Guide for Applicants: Considering EDI in your application
- *Gendered Innovations* employs methods of diversity analysis to create new knowledge

- Examples and case studies at: [http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/](http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/)
EDI data collection

Collection of self-identification data

Monitor equity performance of programs

Inform future measures to increase EDI in research enterprise
Visible Minorities

Do you identify as a member of a visible minority in Canada?

Yes

Note: Visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour."

If "Yes", select the options that you identify with.

I prefer not to answer

To select or deselect one or more options, hold down the "Control" key while clicking on all the relevant options.

| Arab | Black | Chinese | Filipino | Japanese | Korean | Latin-American | South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.) | Southeast Asian (including Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai; etc.) | West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.) | Another visible minority group - specify |

Self-identification questions
New this year

- Paid parental leave extension
- Increased number of CGS awards
- CGS D harmonization
Extended to 12 months of funding

For agency-funded research trainees

Form available online

Paid parental leave
Annual increase in CGS awards

$114\text{M} \text{ over five years}$
CGS D harmonization
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using Research Portal
### Objectives and overview

#### Value and duration
- $17,500 for one year

#### Important dates
- Application deadline: December 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)
- Announcement of awards: April 1

#### Where to apply
- Up to three Canadian institutions where you would like to hold the award (institution must have an award allocation)

#### Research Portal
- Application and award announcement platform
Eligibility to apply

- First-class average in each of the past 2 years
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Not have already held a CGS M award
- Plan to hold the award in a master’s or doctoral program with a significant research component
- By December 31 have completed no more than 12 months of studies towards degree award will support
January 1:
Earliest allowed start date of degree to be funded

September:
Research Portal opens for new applications

December 1:
Deadline for applications

2019

April 1:
Competition results released

May 1:
First allowed award start date

September 1:
Second allowed award start date

2020

January 1:
Last allowed award start date

2021

CGS M timeline
Selection criteria

- **50%** Academic excellence
- **30%** Research potential
- **20%** Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills
CGS M –
How to apply using Research Portal

What you need:

• Research Portal account
• Canadian Common CV (CCV) account
• Instructions for completing application
• Instructions for completing CCV
Create an account

Create an application
Access an application
Complete the modules
Module: identification
**Module: proposed organizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Host Organization</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Department/Division</th>
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<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td></td>
<td>Select</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Field of Research: Natural Sciences and/or Engineering

Start date or proposed start date of program of study: 2019-05-01

Proposed end date of program of study: 2021-04-30

Number of months of graduate studies completed as of December 31 of year of application:

- Months of full-time study: 4
- Months of part-time study: 0

If you are successful in obtaining a Canada Graduate Scholarship will you consider applying for a Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement? [Yes] [No]

[Save and validate] [Save and next]
Outline of proposed research

Page 1:
Outline of proposed research

- Upload 2-page PDF file to Research Portal
- Detail objectives, hypothesis, method
- Position proposed research within context of current knowledge in the field
- Describe significance of proposed project to field of research
- Use clear, plain language, and avoid jargon: write for researchers outside your field

Page 2:
Bibliography/citations
This is my summary of proposal. As I type, the characters remaining count down, letting me know how much space I have left to talk about how amazing my proposal is.

I can even **bold** or *underline*, if I feel like being very dramatic.
Upload attachments
### Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Funding Opportunity</th>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Groundbreaking Chemistry Research</td>
<td>Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Program</td>
<td>Application</td>
<td>2018-04-27</td>
<td>Edit, Preview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Module Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Module Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Summary of Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Activity Details</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Attachments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Document Type</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>My Transcripts</td>
<td>Transcripts</td>
<td>2018-04-27</td>
<td>Edit, View</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Canadian Common CVs Attached

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🚨</td>
<td></td>
<td>Applicant</td>
<td>2018-04-27</td>
<td>Attach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Invitations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Family Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Invitation Status</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Link CCV**
Enter CCV confirmation number
Invite references
Important reminders!

Application deadline: December 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

PLAN AHEAD

Allow enough time for your references to complete their assessments

Read the program documentation
First point of contact should be the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the institution

**CIHR**
CGSMA-BESCBM@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

**NSERC**
schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

**SSHRC**
fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

**CGS M contact information**
Postgraduate scholarships

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using NSERC’s online system
### Value
- PGS D: $21,000 and CGS D: $35,000

### Important dates
- *Verify internal application deadline with institution*
- Application deadline: October 17 (direct applicants)
- Announcement of awards: April

### Location of tenure
- PGS D: Canadian institution or abroad (if previous degree completed in Canada)
- CGS D: must be at a Canadian institution

### How to apply
- NSERC Online System

**NEW THIS YEAR**
All awards are three years
Eligibility to apply

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Not have already held a doctoral award
- Intend to pursue full-time graduate studies and research at the doctoral level in an eligible program
- By December 31 have completed no more than 24 months of doctoral studies (36 months if direct-entry students and must currently be registered in doctoral program)
Selection criteria

- **50%** Research ability and potential
- **50%** Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia
How to apply

Through a Canadian institution *(quota system in place)*

- Currently registered (including if on leave)
- Have been registered anytime in 2019

Directly to NSERC

- Currently registered at a foreign institution
- Not registered at a Canadian institution at any time in 2019

Verify the internal deadline!
What happens at your institution?

Submit application electronically by institution deadline

Internal selection committees review and select applications

Institution forwards quota of applications electronically to NSERC

Institution informs students of results for the internal selection process
NSERC staff verify eligibility

Members review and score applications

Final ranked list produced

Top-ranked applicants offered CGS D, next tier offered PGS D

Results announced in April
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cellular and molecular biology</th>
<th>Evolution and ecology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical, biomedical, and materials science engineering</td>
<td>Mathematical sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mechanical engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil and industrial engineering</td>
<td>Physics and astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing sciences</td>
<td>Plant and animal biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth sciences</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT:** The research subject code you select in your application determines the selection committee.
### Application statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th># of Applications/Awards</th>
<th>Applications submitted through a Canadian institution</th>
<th>Direct Applications*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional funding opportunities at the postgraduate level

- Vanier CGS
- CGS-MSFSS
- Student Ambassadors
- NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Award details
• $50,000 per year for three years
• Open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and foreign citizens

Application details
• Institutional nomination to NSERC by November 6 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) using ResearchNet*
• Announcement of awards: April 2020

Selection criteria (weighted equally)
• Academic excellence
• Research potential
• Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability)

* Contact your faculty of graduate studies for the institution-specific deadline
Do you hold a CGS M, CGS D, or Vanier CGS?

- Up to $6,000
- 2 to 6 months
- Foreign university or research lab

Deadlines: June 10* and October 10*

*Apply through your institution

Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements
Share NSE experience with youth (K-12)

STEM promotion to Canadian youth by Canadian youth

Organize an independent outreach activity

NSERC pays $1,000 in support of event costs

Contact: ambassadors@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
NSERC Indigenous Student
Ambassadors

Overview
- Support Indigenous students or PDFs visiting Indigenous communities/schools
- Covers travel costs up to $5,000

Purpose
- Participate in science promotion events
- Sharing NSE research & education experience

Eligibility
- Full-time student or PDF in NSE
- B or B- average
- No deadlines: apply 2 months before visit

Contact: ambassadors@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using NSERC’s online system
### Value and duration

- $45,000 per year for 2 years

### Important dates

- Application deadline: October 17 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)
- Announcement of awards: end of January

### Location of tenure

- Canadian universities
- Provincial research institutions in Canada
- Other appropriate research laboratory in Canada
- Universities and research centres abroad *(PhD must be from Canadian institution)*

### How to apply

- NSERC Online System
Eligibility to apply

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Can only apply once to the PDF program
- Hold or expect to hold a doctorate in one of the fields of research that NSERC supports
- Have completed all requirements for PhD within two years of the deadline date*
Selection criteria

- **Research ability and potential**: 70%
- **Communication, interpersonal, and leadership abilities**: 30%
What happens at NSERC?

NSERC staff verify eligibility

Members review and score applications

Top-ranked applications discussed at meeting

Final ranked list produced

Results announced end of January

53
Application statistics

- 2015: Received 585, Offered 180
- 2016: Received 579, Offered 180
- 2017: Received 594, Offered 199
- 2018: Received 528, Offered 168
- 2019: Received 490, Offered 180

Competition Year
When should I apply?

$\chi^2 = 0.041, p = .84$
Additional funding opportunities at the postdoctoral level

- Banting PDF
- JSPS PDF
- NSERC-CMHC PDF
- Student Ambassadors
- NISA
Program details

• $70,000 per year for two years
• Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and foreign citizens
• Deadline: September 18, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) on ResearchNet

Location of tenure

• Canadian and foreign universities
• Affiliated hospitals, colleges, and not-for-profit organizations with a strong research mandate and capacity

Selection criteria (weighted equally)

• Applicant’s research excellence and leadership
• Quality of proposed research program
• Synergy of applicant and institutional strategic priorities
Deadline: February 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

- JSPS provides funding for airfare, monthly maintenance allowance, settling-in allowance, and travel insurance

Eligibility criteria

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- First doctoral degree completed no more than six years before the application deadline

How to apply

- Contact schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca for application form and instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Value</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• $45,000 per year for two years</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objectives</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Build Canadian expertise in housing research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Address research and knowledge translation gaps in housing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Application requirements</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Apply to the NSERC PDF program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Include additional justification attachment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CMHC-NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship**
PGS/CGS D and PDF – How to apply using the NSERC Online System (Form 201)

What you need:
• NSERC Online system account
• Application instructions
• Selection committee guide
NSERC Online system (form 201)
Choose carefully!
Form 201 - Academic Background

Include only current and past degree programs. Please use the section 'Other' for any additional degree.

Type of degree **Bachelor's**
- **Institution**: Use the 'List...' button
- **Name if not available**: (100 chars)
- **Department**: Use the 'List...' button
- **Name if not available**: (100 chars)
- **Country**: 
- **Period of study**
  - Started: yyyy mm
  - Awarded/Expected: yyyy mm
- **Name of discipline**: (50 chars)

Type of degree **Master's**
- **Institution**: Use the 'List...' button
- **Name if not available**: (100 chars)
- **Department**: Use the 'List...' button
- **Name if not available**: (100 chars)
- **Country**: 
- **Period of study**
  - Started: yyyy mm
  - Awarded/Expected: yyyy mm
- **Transferred to Ph.D. without completing master's**: 
- **Name of discipline**: (50 chars)
Form 201 - Work Experience

Beginning with the most recent, list your academic, research and other relevant work experience. In the Nature of work field, indicate if you gained the experience during a program of study.

Current occupation 1 of 6

Period of employment from yyyy mm to yyyy mm

Type of appointment

Position held
Organization
Department
Supervisor
Nature of work

Previous occupation 2 of 6

Period of employment from yyyy mm to yyyy mm

Type of appointment

Position held
Organization
Department
Supervisor

Work experience
Form 201 - Scholarships and Other Awards Offered

List only competitive awards based on academic or research excellence and/or leadership or communication abilities. Include NSERC awards and declined awards. You may list up to ten awards starting with your most recent awards.

**Note:** "declined awards" refers to awards that were offered to you but which you declined.

### New Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of award</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of tenure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Per Year</td>
<td>$CAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period held from</td>
<td>YYYY mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YYYY mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### New Entry

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>Name of award</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Per Year</td>
<td>$CAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period held from</td>
<td>YYYY mm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YYYY mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Form 201 - Location of Tenure

Indicate where you would like to hold this award, in order of preference.

**Note:** The 'List...' button contains a list of postsecondary institutions.

**Proposed location of tenure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution / organization</th>
<th>List...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed supervisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program of study</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second location (if appropriate)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution / organization</th>
<th>List...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Name if not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed supervisor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program of study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location of tenure**
Form 201 - Justification for location of tenure

Provide a rationale for your choice(s) for location of tenure. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.

See instructions for further details.

Only applicable to PDF applicants
### Form 201 - Scholarship/Fellowship Information

**At the time of application, are you attending university?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

**Proposed degree program**

- [ ] Master's
- [ ] Doctoral

If you are offered an award, do you plan to take it up at a foreign university?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If you answered yes to the previous question, do you still want to be considered for an Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship which is tenable only in Canada?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Number of months of graduate studies (master’s and doctoral) you have completed as of December 31 of the year of application in the natural sciences and engineering (if none, enter "0"):

- [ ] Months of full-time studies
- [ ] Months of part-time studies

Number of months of studies you have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, in the program for which you are requesting funding (if none, enter "0"):

- [ ] Months of full-time studies
- [ ] Months of part-time studies

---

**Scholarship/fellowship information**
Bibliography

Upload a PDF containing your bibliography.

Select "Instructions" from the common menu bar for details concerning this electronic attachment. For detailed instructions on the attachment process and attachment presentation, consult the Electronic Attachment Instructions.

Your electronic file attachment must meet the following specifications:
- PDF format
- Maximum file size is 3 Mb
- 8 1/2" x 11" (216mm x 279mm)
- Maximum pages: 5

Bibliography

Not applicable to PDF applicants
Thesis information
Form 201 - Key Words / Research Subject Code

The Research Subject Code entered on the application will determine the selection committee in which the application will be evaluated. Consult the List of Research Subject Codes for Scholarships and Fellowships before making your selection.

Research subject code
Primary Use the 'List...' button

Key words
List up to ten (10) key words that describe your proposed research (for example, nuclear physics, geochemistry, etc.)

(List of spaces for key words)
Special circumstances

Explain & provide context

- Delays:
  - Productivity
  - Performance
- Family responsibilities
- Parental leave
- Health problems
- Disabilities
- Any other applicable circumstances

½ page attachment
Advice and tips
Make your application stand out!

Selection committee member resource video
Important tips

- Read the program description
- Read the application instructions
- Read the selection committee guide
- Watch the resource videos
Two page attachment

"It's a foolproof formula for writing grant applications."
What makes a good research proposal?

- Write the proposal yourself
- Explain significance of your project
- Make your proposal clear for reviewers
- Convey your passion
- Be clear and specific

Describe EDI considerations in your research plan, if applicable.
• Applications containing research proposals that are not eligible under these guidelines may be rejected
• You can only apply to one agency per academic year

Justification of research (optional one page attachment)
• Complete if any overlap with social sciences or health
• Used only by NSERC staff to determine eligibility
• Short explanation why your research fits within NSERC’s mandate
Contributions and applicant’s statement

Part 1: Articles published
- Articles published, accepted, and submitted only

Part 2: Most significant contributions
- Describe your role in three contributions from Part 1

Part 3: Applicant’s statement
- Skills, experiences, and qualities demonstrating your excellence

*PGS/CGS D – 2 pages
PDF – 4 pages*
Follow instructions carefully

Provide official, up-to-date versions

Review before submitting application

Transcripts
Reports on the applicant

- Choose references carefully
- Invite references early
- Provide background information
- Send reminders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error/Mistake</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact not explained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repetitiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing citations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of focus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling or grammatical mistakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too modest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Common errors/mistakes**
Contact information

NSERC program staff
- schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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