

2021-2022 NSERC P/CGSD COMPETITION

DEADLINES

Applications, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted online by:

NSERC CGS & PGS: Tuesday September 22nd, 2020.

Note: there is a single application and selection process for the PGSD & CGSD awards.

WEBSITES

General NSERC website:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index_eng.asp

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships – Information, and how to apply:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures_eng.asp

Form 201 instructions:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp

Award Holder's Guide:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Guides-Guides/TriRTA-TriBFR_eng.asp

Postdoctoral Awards: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PD-NP/PDF-BP_eng.asp

AWARD VALUES

PGS Doctoral: \$21, 000 per year for up to 3 years

CGS Doctoral: \$35,000 per year for up to 3 years

Note: You can receive a maximum of 4 years of NSERC funding at the graduate level; therefore, if you previously held a 2 year Master's award (which is no longer possible for recent recipients), you are only eligible for 2 years of the PGS and CGS doctoral awards.

START DATE

PGSD & CGSD:

If you have already begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may begin your award in May 2021 or September 2021.

If you have not yet begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may take up the award on May 2021, September 2021, or January 2022.

ELIGIBILITY

NSERC Doctoral Awards

Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.

For a minimum duration of 24 months and a maximum duration of 36 months, the award may be held in either the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th years of graduate study in a doctoral program (plus a 5th year for direct

entry or PhD transfer students).

You must have completed, as of December 31st of the year of application, no more than the full-time equivalent of 24 months of studies in the doctoral program for which you are requesting funding.

If you were admitted directly from your bachelor's program, you must have completed, as of December 31st of the year of application, the full-time equivalent of between 4 and 36 months of studies in the doctoral program.

If you are registered in a Master's degree and subsequently transferred to a doctoral degree, the months in the doctoral degree will be calculated starting from the first academic session in which you were officially registered in your Ph.D. program.

You must not have previously taken up an NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC to undertake or complete a doctoral program.

NEW: Applicants are no longer required to have at least an A- (3.7/4.0 or 80.0%) average in each of their last two years of full time study. Note that all programs of study listed in the application, even if not completed, must be accompanied by an up-to-date transcript.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

NSERC PGSD & CGSD

Currently registered graduate students at a Canadian university must apply through their home department and university. **To apply for these scholarships, you must create an online account on the NSERC website and complete and submit an Application for Postgraduate Scholarship or Postdoctoral Fellowship on-line (Form 201).** Read the instructions on how to complete Form 201 at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp

Applicants not currently registered, but were attending a Canadian university between January and December 2020 should apply through their former home department and university.

Applicants who attended and graduated from a Canadian university prior to January 2020, or those who are attending or who attended a foreign university must submit their application directly to NSERC by October 17th.

RECENT CHANGES

There have been some major changes over the past few years to the application, such as:

- 1) Students submit a Form 201 online, and no longer need to sign and submit a paper copy. Students do need to submit updated transcripts by the September 22nd deadline.
- 2) The application asks for a "University Designate" for the applicant to enter on their application. The University Designate will be able to upload the applicants' transcript. In the Department of Cell and Systems Biology, the designate is Ian Buglass, and the email address is ian.buglass@utoronto.ca. An email request will automatically be sent to the University Designate.
- 3) Students will not have access to view the Reports that their references complete. They will see however, if the report has been completed or not.

4) **Students will be able to click “Submit” after they have completed and verified their application, and the CSB Graduate Office has uploaded their transcripts.** Only applicants that will have their applications forwarded to SGS will have to formally “submit” their application online. The CSB Graduate Office will notify all applicants if their applications need to be submitted, and once submitted, SGS will then have access to the student’s application. The application will not be submitted to NSERC at that point. **Once a student has clicked “Submit”, they will no longer be able to amend their application online.** If a student needs to change their application after it has been submitted, they should provide their graduate unit with a separate attachment reflecting the changes.

5) PGSD applicants do not complete the “Justification for Location of Tenure” section, but you DO complete the “Proposed Location(s) of Tenure” section.

6) If you list other universities/departments in the “Location of Tenure” section, the proposed supervisor may not be one of the respondents filling out a Report on the Applicant, **unless** he/she is a current/former thesis supervisor.

7) Online Tutorial for Students: NSERC is pleased to announce that an online tutorial for applicants is once again available on their website. The tutorial can be found on NSERC’s website at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/Index_eng.asp

TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts can take up to 10 business days to process. You can have your transcript sent directly to the CSB Graduate Office or if you were a UofT student, pick them up at the UofT Transcript Centre in a signed and sealed envelope. Order using ACORN (www.acorn.utoronto.ca) or in person at the Transcript Centre (Room 1006, Sidney Smith Hall). Transcripts must be up-to-date as of August 31st, 2020.

You do not need to order transcripts from other universities attended if the CSB Graduate Office has a copy of the transcript(s) in your student file, provided that the transcript(s) covers all coursework taken through August 31, 2020.

****Even if you began your PhD in CSB in September 2020, NSERC does require a UofT transcript as proof of registration in the program.**

From the NSERC website: A complete application includes a copy of all up-to-date official transcripts (or other proof of registration in certain circumstances), as described below. The inclusion and completeness of these documents are essential for NSERC staff to determine your eligibility and are an integral part of the evaluation material reviewed by Scholarship and Fellowship selection committees. NSERC will not accept transcripts submitted under separate cover. Transcripts must be scanned (black and white recommended) and saved as a single PDF file. Transcript text orientation should be upright (if possible) and must be readable on a computer monitor without any adjustment by the viewer. Opening the transcript envelope and scanning the transcript will not render the transcript unofficial.

REPORTS ON THE APPLICANT (i.e. reference letters)

The NSERC website provides the following guidelines, when choosing referees:

The two ‘Reports on the Applicant’ must be completed by persons capable of making an informed assessment.

- One report should be from a person very familiar with your research and other abilities, e.g. current academic research supervisor or industrial supervisor (in the case of co-op students); previous academic research, industrial or USRA supervisor.

- The second report should be from a person sufficiently familiar with your research and other abilities to provide a meaningful commentary.

And as noted above, the **proposed** supervisor may not be one of the respondents filling out a Report on the Applicant, **unless** he/she is a current/former thesis supervisor

- Contact your proposed reviewers to ensure they are willing to complete a report for you. In the Reference Letters page of your application, **enter the names and e-mail addresses of each of the reviewers who will be completing a report, as well as the deadline on which you would like the report to be completed (should be slightly before the application deadline). Once the information is saved, an e-mail containing the appropriate links will be forwarded to the reviewer so that he or she may view your completed application and complete the form.** The status of the request can be verified on this page.

TIPS

*Make sure that you are applying to the correct Federal Granting Agency. See the webpage listed below, to ensure that your application is suitable for NSERC. Any health-related applications/research proposals belong in the CIHR competition.

http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html?OpenDocument

Applicants with questions on subject matter eligibility or those whose subject matter touches upon health in **any** capacity, should **contact NSERC**

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ContactUs-ContactezNous/ContactDirectory-RepertoiredeContact_eng.asp#Eligibility-Admissibilite with a one page summary of their research proposal in advance of submitting an application to seek clarification or a ruling.

Also see the **Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health:**

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/Addendum-Addenda_eng.asp

This link has additional information and specific examples relating to subject matter eligibility.

*READ ALL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, SELECTION CRITERIA AND CHECKLISTS ON THE WEBSITES CAREFULLY. There are all kinds of helpful tips and information there for you if you take the time to look for them. Read the instructions for **“How to Complete Form 201”** at:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp

*The NSERC website has a series of tutorial videos, which can be a useful tool to view prior to starting your application. These can be found under ‘Students and Fellows’ and then ‘Resource Videos’. One of the videos is the NSERC PGS/CGS application tutorial, and there is another (Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship). These videos are each 3-5 minutes in length.

***Read through the PowerPoint slides for NSERC doctoral applicants, available through the CSB Graduate Office.**