

# **2025-2026 NSERC DOCTORAL COMPETITION**

## **DEADLINES**

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

*NSERC CGS & PGS*: Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **WEBSITES**

General NSERC website:

[http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/index\\_eng.asp](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](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](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](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](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PD-NP/PDF-BP_eng.asp)

## **AWARD VALUES**

*NSERC Doctoral*: \$40,000 per year for up to 3 years

**Note:** You can receive a maximum of 4 years of federal scholarship funding at the graduate level.

## **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 2025 or September 2025.

If you have not yet begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may take up the award on May 2025, September 2025, or January 2026.

## **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 5<sup>th</sup> year for direct entry or PhD transfer students).

You must have completed, as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 up-to-date transcripts.**

## **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](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp)

Applicants who are not currently registered, but were attending a Canadian university between January and December 2024 should apply through their former home department and university (or current department, if completing a M.Sc. in the Fall 2024 session).

Applicants who attended and graduated from a Canadian university prior to January 2024, or those who are attending or who attended a foreign university must submit their application directly to NSERC by October 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> deadline.
- 2) NSERC applicants will scan & upload all transcripts required for their applications to the application system. See notes on the SGS instructions about the importance of current, **official** transcripts including a UoT transcript, even for students just starting their program in September 2024 (even though the graduate record will not have any grades).
- 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. **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 has an online tutorial for applicants 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](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. Ordering on ACORN ([www.acorn.utoronto.ca](http://www.acorn.utoronto.ca)) or in person at the Transcript Centre (172 St. George Street - <https://www.cirhr.utoronto.ca/discover-more/transcript-centre>). Transcripts must be up-to-date as of August 31st, 2024.

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, 2024. If you require a copy of an official transcript from another university, please request an electronic copy from the CSB Graduate Office.

**\*\*To repeat, even if you begin your PhD in CSB in September 2024, 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](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](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](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](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 sent by the CSB Graduate Office.**