

2026-2027 NSERC/CGRS DOCTORAL COMPETITION

DEADLINES

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

NSERC CGRS (Doctoral): by 4 pm on Monday, September 8th, 2025

WEBSITES

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships – Information, and how to apply:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_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

General NSERC website:

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

AWARD VALUES

CGRS D: \$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

CGRS D:

If you have already begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may begin your award in May 2026, September 2026, or January 2027.

If you have not yet begun the program of studies for which funding was awarded, you may take up the award in September 2026 or January 2027.

ELIGIBILITY

CGRS D (NSERC and CIHR)

Applicants must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, a Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) as of the application deadline, or **(new for 2026)** an international student currently enrolled in a doctoral program of study at an eligible Canadian institution at the time of application. Up to 15% of awards will be available to international applicants.
- **(new for 2026)** have completed **no more than 36 months** of full-time equivalent study in the doctoral program (including direct entry) for which they are requesting funding by December 31 of the calendar year of the application;

- Submit a maximum of one scholarship (master's or doctoral) or fellowship application per academic year to either CIHR or NSERC;
- Have not already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC (does not apply to CIHR Fellowships);
- Not hold a tenure or tenure-track (faculty) appointment or be on leave from such an appointment concurrently with a CGRS D award; and
- **(new for 2026)** have not exceeded the maximum of three (3) applications submitted to the CGRS D national competition. Beginning with the fall 2025 competition, applicants will be limited to three CGRS D applications in total; only those received at the national level will count towards the maximum.

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 (e.g. Winter 2024, **as indicated on the transcript**).

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

CGRS D

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 who are not currently registered, but were attending a Canadian university between January and December 2025 should apply through their former home department and university (or current department, if completing a M.Sc. in the Fall 2025 session).

Applicants who attended and graduated from a Canadian university prior to January 2025, 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 significant changes to the application, such as:

- 1) Students submit a Form 201 online by the September 8th 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 UofT transcript, even for students just starting their program in September 2025 (even though the graduate record will not have any grades). ***While official transcripts are no longer mandatory (web-based versions can potentially be used), presentation matters. It is worth the investment to order official transcripts.**
- 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) CGRS applicants do not complete the “Justification for Location of Tenure” section, but you DO complete the “Proposed Location(s) of Tenure” section. For almost everyone, this will be CSB at UofT.

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

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) 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, 2025.

You do not need to order transcripts from other universities attended if the CSB Graduate Office has a copy of the final transcript(s) in your student file, provided that the transcript(s) covers all coursework taken through August 31, 2025. 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 2025, 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). 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 human health-related applications/research proposals belong in the CIHR competition.

<https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/selecting-appropriate-federal-granting-agency?OpenDocument>

From the CGRS D website:

CIHR considers applications across the full spectrum of health research. CIHR categorizes health research in four broad themes: bio-medical research; clinical research; research respecting health systems and services; and research into the health of populations, societal and cultural dimensions of health, and environmental influences on health. These areas of research are not mutually exclusive.

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. Link to the YouTube videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6ox0GB7vXYIhaAY7mEqwmMqYK9TGCp1E>

These videos are anywhere from 7 to 27 minutes in length.

***Read through the PowerPoint slides for NSERC doctoral applicants sent by the CSB Graduate Office in mid-August.**