

### Program Overview

The Ontario Trillium Scholarships (OTS) program is an initiative to attract more of the best qualified international students to Ontario for PhD studies. The OTS program also increases the profile and prestige of Ontario universities internationally, and allows institutions to develop additional capacity in their areas of expertise and excellence. Raising the profile of international education in Ontario and increasing the number of international students, especially at the doctoral level, contributes directly to Ontario's economic performance by bringing highly educated individuals to the province.

The program is cost-shared between the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) and eligible Ontario universities using a 2/3:1/3 government to institution ratio.

Each OTS is worth \$40,000 annually, and is awarded to international PhD candidates for a maximum of four years. Awards will be automatically awarded to the student for each of the three years following the first year provided the student maintains good academic standing and continues to meet recipient eligibility requirements. Students need not reapply each year for the OTS scholarship.

The program was phased in over four years (2011-2015), during which time the University of Windsor received three (3) awards per year, resulting in a total of twelve (12) scholarships as a steady state at our institution.

Recipients selected by the institution must meet, and continue to meet, the recipient eligibility requirements set out below.

### Eligibility Criteria

Academic merit is the defining criterion for the selection of OTS recipients by institutions. OTS recipients must have achieved a first-class average, as determined by each university, in each of the two years of full-time study prior to awarding of the OTS. At the University of Windsor a first class-average is defined as 80% (or equivalent).

Although international students are not eligible for Tri-Council scholarships, it is expected that candidates nominated for the OTS will be of at least the same calibre.

Students holding external funding (e.g., scholarships, third party tuition payments) are not eligible to be considered.

### General Eligibility

In order to be eligible for an OTS, a candidate must meet all of the criteria below:

- Be an international student:
  - International students are students who have received a temporary resident visa as a member of the student class under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* on the first day of class;
  - Domestic and refugee students who are eligible for government financial assistance (e.g., under the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), or whose enrolment is counted for the purpose of calculating the institution's Operating Grants, etc) are ineligible to receive an OTS;
- Be intending to pursue full-time graduate studies at an eligible Ontario university at the doctoral level.
  - A full-time doctoral student is a student who must:
    - Be studying to earn a doctoral degree at an eligible institution;
    - Be pursuing her/his studies on a full-time basis;
    - Be identified by the institution as a full-time student;
    - Be geographically available and visit her/his campus regularly;
    - Not be employed outside the university except by permission of her/his academic supervisor.
- Not be intending to enrol in a qualifying or make-up year;
- Not currently be studying at an Ontario postsecondary institution at the undergraduate or graduate level, and;
- Not have concurrently accepted a scholarship or fellowship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), or the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), or be in receipt of an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) or Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (OGSST) award.
- Not have failed to repay all or any part of an unearned Ontario Trillium Scholarship.