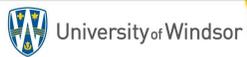


NSERC Doctoral Scholarships Information Session

September 2, 2020
Faculty of Graduate Studies



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Agenda

- **Eligibility**
- **Quotas**
- **Indigenous applicants**
- **Where to submit and deadlines**
- **Selection process**
- **Application components**
- **References**
- **Common errors/mistakes**
- **Checklist**



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NSERC Doctoral Scholarships

Provide financial support to high-calibre scholars engaged in an eligible doctoral program in the natural sciences or engineering

One application form for two levels of award:

- Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS D)
\$35,000/year for 3 years
 - Must be held in Canada
- Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS D)
\$21,000/year for three years
 - May be held abroad



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Eligibility to Apply

- Canadian citizen or PR of Canada, as of the UWindsor application deadline date (Sept. 23)
- **no more than 24 months** of full-time study a doctoral program by December 31 if previously enrolled in a master's program
- **no more than 36 months** of full-time in a doctoral program by December 31 if enrolled directly from a bachelor's to a PhD program (with no time spent in a master's program)



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Application Quotas

- Each university has a quota of applications
- 2020 quotas have not yet been released
- UWindsor's 2019 NSERC doctoral quota was 10

Indigenous applicants

- Applications from self-identified Indigenous applicants may be submitted by an institution beyond its application quota
- Indigenous applicants must agree to their personal information being used for this purpose by making the appropriate selection in the application form

Where to submit your application

- If registered in a degree program (or on a leave of absence) at any Canadian university – through that institution
- If not registered in 2020 – directly to NSERC
- For more information, refer to the flow chart: [“Where should I submit my application?”](#)



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Application form

- Refer to instructions on the: [CGS Doctoral Program website](#)



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Deadlines

- Applicants submitting through UWindsor:
September 23, 2020
- Direct applicants to NSERC:
October 17, 2020

Selection Process

- Student submits application on-line
- FGS sends applications to department for review and ranking
- Departmental ranking submitted to FGS
- Graduate Awards Committee reviews and makes final decision on who is forwarded to NSERC
- NSERC selection committees review applications
- Results announced in April

Selection Criteria

Weighting:

- **Research ability and potential = 50%**
 - Research proposal; research training and experience; contributions (publications, presentations); critical thinking; communication
- **Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia = 50%**
 - Scholarships; academic record; extra-curricular activity



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Eligibility of Proposed Research

- Justification for eligibility of proposed research (optional attachment)
- If research is in a discipline that may fall under mandate of more than agency (e.g., psychology, physical education, biomedical engineering, health sciences, bioinformatics, biostatistics, etc.)
- explain why you have chosen to apply to NSERC as opposed to one of the other federal granting agencies
- Refer to:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Eligibility-Admissibilite/students-etudiants_eng.asp



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Transcripts

Consideration for difficulties obtaining official transcripts because of COVID-19:

- For the Fall 2020 competition, NSERC requires official transcripts but will be flexible when official transcripts cannot be obtained
- Applications that include unofficial transcripts in lieu of official transcripts may be accepted
- Electronic transcripts provided by an institution's registrar's office (not Uwinsite) are considered by NSERC to be official transcripts

Transcripts

- Uploaded by your department – check with graduate secretary to see who that is
- Provide their contact details in your application
- Submit up-to-date transcripts to the department for uploading
- Must include proof of Fall 2020 registration, if applicable
- Once uploaded make sure they are correct and legible

Research Proposal

- Written by you; ideas and/or texts belonging to others must be properly referenced
- Describe in detail research program or project during the period in which you will hold the award
- Provide background information to position your proposed research/project within the context of the current knowledge in the field
- Be specific and state your objectives
- Outline your experimental or theoretical approach to be taken



Research Proposal

- Outline methods and procedures
- Use **plain language** - must be understood by someone with a background in the discipline but with no specific knowledge of your particular field of research
- State the significance of your research or project



Research Proposal/Statement Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

- Describe how EDI will be addressed in your research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings. This element can strengthen your proposal
- Will be taken into consideration by the committee members
- Refer to:
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/doc/EDI/Guide_for_Applicants_EN.pdf



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Publications and Presentations

Group into categories and use format described in NSERC's instructions:

- Published or accepted in peer-reviewed journals
- Submitted to peer-reviewed journals (provide submission #)
- Other peer-reviewed contribution
- Non peer-reviewed contributions
- Technology transfer
- Industrially relevant R&D activities
- Patents and copyrights



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Contributions and Statements

- Research experience
- Relevant professional, academic and extracurricular activities



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Special Circumstances (Optional)

- Describe any special circumstances that may have influenced your performance or productivity
 - Delays in disseminating research results due to health problems, family responsibilities, parental leave, disabilities or other applicable circumstances
 - Explain any gaps in the chronology of your experience (including relevant employment)
 - This section can also be used to describe the impact of COVID-19 on any aspect of the application



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Who will write your references?

Pick someone who knows you

- may have to explain anomalies in your transcript or publication record
- should have time to meet with you and write an assessment of your abilities with examples
- give referees your resume, transcript, proposal, scholarship criteria and proposal *before* meeting

Pick someone who can/will make your case

- reference letter speaks for you at committees
- give them *time* to do a good job



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Common errors/mistakes

- Impact of research not explained
- Repetitive
- Missing citations
- Lack of focus
- Spelling or grammatical mistakes
- Too modest



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Checklist

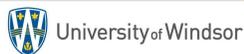
- Refer to instructions on the:
 - [CGS Doctoral Program website](#)
- Order transcripts and submit to dept (may have a deadline)
- Ask referees and make sure you give them a deadline
- Your responsibility to make sure that references are in in time, and that all the documents (including transcripts) are correct before you hit "Submit"



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Checklist for a complete NSERC scholarship application

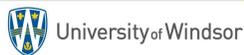
Application profile
Personal profile
Addresses
Academic background
Academic, research and other relevant work experience
Awards
Proposed location(s) of tenure
Scholarship or fellowship information
Theses completed or in progress
Keywords and research subject code
Diversity considerations in research design
Outline of proposed research (attachment; two pages)
Bibliography (attachment; five pages)
Justification for eligibility of proposed research, if applicable (attachment; one page)
Contributions and statements (attachment; two pages)
Transcripts or proof of registration (attachment)
Reports on the applicant (references)



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Additional Resources

- NSERC on-line application tutorials
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/Index_eng.asp



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Good luck!

Any questions?

Contact:

Graduate Studies - gradaward@uwindsor.ca

NSERC – schol@nserc.crsng.gc.ca

NSERC Online services: (613) 995-4273

Or:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/SupportRequest-DemandeDeSoutien_eng.asp



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