MEMORANDUM

August 24, 2018

To: Department Graduate Scholarship Coordinators
   Graduate Officers/Associate Chairs

Cc: Faculty Associate Deans
    Faculty Administrative Assistants
    GSPA Awards Staff

From: Miranda Bilotta, Manager, Graduate Financial Aid and Awards

Re: 2018-2019 Tri-Agency Canada Graduate Scholarship –
    Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Competition (CGS MSFSS)

GSPA Deadlines: May 22, 2018 and September 19, 2018

Students submit directly to the Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (GSPA)
- no need for departmental/Faculty ranking

Recent Changes
Please review document “2018-2019 CGS-MFSS – Recent Changes” for updates to this year’s competitions.

Context
The CGS-MSFSS Program is administered by Canada’s federal granting agencies—the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Objectives of the Program
The CGS-MSFSS Program supports high-calibre Canadian graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions abroad. By accessing international scientific research and training, CGS-MSFSS recipients contribute to strengthening the potential for collaboration between Canadian and foreign institutions.
Value and Duration of Awards
The value of the CGS-MSFSS award is up to $6,000, based on the information and budget justification provided in the application. Supplements are non-renewable. The related research study period abroad normally lasts between two to six months, but must be for a minimum of two months.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for this program, applicants must:
• be citizens or permanent residents of Canada by the application deadline; be registered at an eligible Canadian institution at the time of application;
• have accepted or currently hold a CGS Master’s or Doctoral award, or an eligible Vanier award and ensure that their scholarship will still be active at the time the research study period abroad begins;
• undertake the proposed trip abroad no earlier than the relevant application deadline; and
• not currently hold, or have held, a CGS-MSFSS from any of the tri-agencies during the course of their graduate studies.

To remain eligible, a successful applicant must:
• hold an active CGS at the time your research study period abroad starts;
• be registered full-time in a graduate degree program at a Canadian institution for the duration of your research study period abroad;
• take up the award within one year of receiving the notice/offer of award for the CGS-MSFSS;
• return to complete your degree at your Canadian institution; and
• ensure that their research remains eligible at the agency that granted the CGS award.

University of Waterloo’s Quota
Specific allocations are no longer provided to institutions. Institutions are still required to rank applications and forward all eligible applications to each agency.

Application Process
Qualified applicants must complete the necessary documentation and submit it to the GSPA by May 22, 2018 or September 19, 2018.

Applicants must use the agency-specific application forms and submission methods as outlined in the table below:
Evaluation Criteria:

The selection process and review procedures adopted by the institution must maintain a focus on excellence. Applications must be evaluated using the criteria listed below:

- Linkage between the current program of research goals (supported by the CGS), the proposed research/study activities at the host institution and the future research/career goals, including consideration of:
  - significance, feasibility and merit of proposed research study activities at the foreign institution;
  - justification for the choice of host institution and/or host supervisor (Note: eligibility guidelines require non-academic host supervisors to demonstrate that they have supervised graduate student research); and
  - relevance and anticipated benefits of the proposed research study period abroad to the applicant’s current graduate-degree training.

There are no particular weights given to the above criteria, however they will all be considered when evaluating the applications, in addition to the applicant’s stage in their academic program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at ext. 40152 or by email at mbilotta@uwaterloo.ca