

Ask the Experts: Tri-Agency and OGS/QEII-GSST graduate scholarships Q&A Session

NSERC Doctoral Questions:

Can NSERC doctoral awards be held at universities outside of Canada? Also, do you have to have a firm commitment to holding the award at the school listed on your application, or can the school be changed?

- Yes, the NSERC PGS can be held outside of Canada. Students apply for the NSERC CGS and NSERC PGS with the same application. If you are offered the CGS - you must hold it in Canada. If you wish to take your award outside of Canada - you can decline the CGS and take up the PGS instead, provided you have received a previous degree within Canada. You are not required to hold your award at the institution you listed at the time of application.

Is it still possible to receive funding from NSERC if you are applying at the start of your second year?

- You need to meet the eligibility criteria on [NSERC's website](#):
 1. Have completed no more than 24 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by December 31 of the calendar year of application if previously enrolled in a master's program.
 2. Have completed no more than 36 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by December 31 of the calendar year of application. if enrolled directly from a bachelor's to a PhD program (with no time spent in a master's program)

If I apply next year I will be over the 24th month deadline in December. Which scholarships would you suggest I apply to?

- If you wish to apply to NSERC, you need to meet the eligibility criteria on [NSERC's website](#):
 1. Have completed no more than 24 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by December 31 of the calendar year of application if previously enrolled in a master's program.
 2. Have completed no more than 36 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by December 31 of the calendar year of application if enrolled directly from a bachelor's to a PhD program (with no time spent in a master's program).
- If you do not meet this criteria at the time you wish to apply - you could consider applying for an [OGS/QEII-GSST](#).

For NSERC PGS-D, are we required to create a special circumstances document even if there doesn't seem to be a period of difficulty noticeable in the form?

- It is completely up to you if you wish to complete this section or not. It is not mandatory. If you feel it will help explain any impact on your performance/productivity or any gaps in your academic record - you may choose to complete this section. Otherwise, you may skip it. For further information - this section is addressed in the [form 201 instructions](#) under "special circumstances (optional)".

The deadline to submit an NSERC DOCTORAL application is October 17 according to the UW website. Is there a separate internal deadline at UW for NSERC PGS-D?

- The University of Waterloo NSERC doctoral deadline is also Oct 17th.

For NSERC, is it advisable to talk about your thesis in progress under the "Theses completed or in progress" section or does the selection committee prefer we talk about a completed thesis. "As per the form 201 instructions:"?

- If you are applying for a PGS D, describe your master's thesis in this section as per the [form 201 instructions](#). If you did not complete a master's thesis, describe your honours thesis in this section. If you completed neither a master's nor an honours thesis, you may describe one of your major research projects or papers in this section, or you may describe the work done to date on your doctoral degree. Do not repeat the information provided in the outline of proposed research section.

Important question! please reply! Applicants for PhD at UWaterloo can apply for NSERC? in this case we need to have admission for Fall or spring to be awarded? or decision is independent and as long as I submitted that should be enough?

- For the NSERC Doctoral program - you apply where you are currently registered at - not where you will be holding the award. Please review the [flow chart](#) advising where you should be submitting your NSERC doctoral application. If successful - you can take up your award either May 1, 2021 - Sept 1, 2021 or Jan 1, 2022. You would just need to be enrolled in your program at this time.

If I have used NSERC for one year as PhD in another university, I can apply again here in Waterloo?

- If you are currently holding an NSERC at another institution and wish to transfer your NSERC to Waterloo - please visit the [award holders guide](#) under "Change to institution or place of tenure" for further information. If you are no longer holding your NSERC - you would not be able to apply for one again. As per the tri-agency website: Applicants cannot have already received a doctoral-level scholarship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC.

NSERC question. I am currently 24 months into my graduate program but I didn't switch from my masters into a PhD until January 2020, so I think I'm technically only 9 months into my PhD. So, I'm a little confused about the time frames that NSERC lists on their website am eligible to apply for NSERC this year as well as next year?

- If you transferred from a master's to a PhD - You would begin counting the number of months in a PhD from the moment PhD appears on your transcript. Please email mbilotta@uwaterloo.ca with your student ID if you require assistance with determining the number of months in a PhD concerning eligibility.

I applied to NSERC last year and received a PGS-D, can I apply again this year to get an upgrade to CGS-D?

- Unfortunately, no. Those who are already holding a tri-agency doctoral award - are ineligible to apply again. This is an agency regulation.

Applicants for UW can also apply for NSERC phd right? If so, as an applicant for PhD, I should have an offer when it's being make a decision for me?

- For the NSERC Doctoral program - you apply where you are currently registered at - not where you will be holding the award. Please review the [flow chart](#) advising where you should be submitting your NSERC doctoral application. If successful - you can take up your award either May 1, 2021 - Sept 1, 2021 or Jan 1, 2022. You would just need to be enrolled in your program at this time.