NSERC Information Sessions
Scholarships and Fellowships
2019-2020

University of Waterloo

Amy Reckling and Kari Saumur, Program Officers
September 10, 2019
Agenda

• EDI initiatives at NSERC
• New this year
• Postgraduate programs
• Postdoctoral programs
• How to apply
• Tips and advice
• Contact information
Equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives at NSERC

- NSERC’s focus on EDI
- Why is EDI important?
- EDI data collection
NSERC is committed to implementing policies and processes which identify and mitigate barriers and biases within our programs.

NSERC’s focus on EDI
Why is EDI important?

- Access the largest pool of qualified applicants
- Expand collective intelligence, discovery, and innovation

Research team

- Enhance the scientific quality and usefulness of NSE research
- Increase the overall excellence of the research

Research design
Considerations

- Who are the research subjects and end-users?
- What are the consequences of not including diversity?

Additional resources

- [NSERC’s Framework on EDI](http://www.nserc-crsng.ca/)
- [Guide for Applicants: Considering EDI in your application](http://www.nserc-crsng.ca/)
- *Gendered Innovations* employs methods of diversity analysis to create new knowledge
  - Examples and case studies at: [http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/](http://genderedinnovations.stanford.edu/)
EDI data collection

Collection of self-identification data

Monitor equity performance of programs

Inform future measures to increase EDI in research enterprise
Visible Minorities

Do you identify as a member of a visible minority in Canada?

Yes

Note: Visible minority refers to whether a person belongs to a visible minority group as defined by the Employment Equity Act and, if so, the visible minority group to which the person belongs. The Employment Equity Act defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

If "Yes", select the options that you identify with.

I prefer not to answer

To select or deselect one or more options, hold down the "Control" key while clicking on all the relevant options.

| Arab     |
| Black    |
| Chinese  |
| Filipino |
| Japanese |
| Korean   |
| Latin-American |
| South Asian (e.g., East Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, etc.) |
| Southeast Asian (including Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Thai; etc.) |
| West Asian (e.g., Iranian, Afghan, etc.) |
| Another visible minority group - specify |
New this year

- Paid parental leave extension
- Increased number of CGS awards
- CGS D harmonization
Extended to 12 months of funding

For agency-funded research trainees

Form available online

Paid parental leave
Annual increase in CGS awards

+500 CGS M + 167 CGS D = $114M over five years
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using Research Portal
Objectives and overview

Value and duration
- $17,500 for one year

Important dates
- Application deadline: December 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)
- Announcement of awards: April 1

Where to apply
- Up to three Canadian institutions where you would like to hold the award (institution must have an award allocation)

Research Portal
- Application and award announcement platform

14
Eligibility to apply

- First-class average in each of the past 2 years
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Not have already held a CGS M award
- Plan to hold the award in a master’s or doctoral program with a significant research component
- By December 31 have completed no more than 12 months of studies towards degree award will support
January 1: Earliest allowed start date of degree to be funded

September: Research Portal opens for new applications

December 1: Deadline for applications

2019

April 1: Competition results released

May 1: First allowed award start date

September 1: Second allowed award start date

2020

January 1: Last allowed award start date

2021

CGS M timeline
Selection criteria

- Academic excellence: 50%
- Research potential: 30%
- Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills: 20%
CGS M – How to apply using Research Portal

What you need:

• Research Portal account
• Canadian Common CV (CCV) account
• Instructions for completing application
• Instructions for completing CCV
Create an account

Create an application
Access an application
Complete the modules
### Activity Details

#### Certification Requirements

- Does the proposed research involve humans as research participants? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]
- Does the proposed research involve animals? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]
- Does the proposed research involve human pluripotent stem cells? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]
- Does the proposed research involve controlled drugs and/or substances? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]

#### For statistical purposes only

- Does this application propose research involving aboriginal people? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]

#### Sex- and Gender-Based Analysis

- Are sex (biological) considerations taken into account in this proposal? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]
- Are gender (socio-cultural) considerations taken into account in this proposal? (required)  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [ ]

#### Keywords

List up to 10 keywords that best describe the proposal. (required)

1. 
2. 

#### Field of Study

Indicate and rank up to three primary fields of study relevant to your proposal, with #1 the most relevant and #3 the least relevant. (required)

1. Select
2. Select
3. Select
### Module: proposed organizations

#### Proposed Host Organization

**Proposed Host Organization #1**

<table>
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**Proposed Host Organization #2**

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**Proposed Host Organization #3**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Select</td>
<td>Select</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Start date or proposed start date of program of study: 2019-05-01
- Proposed end date of program of study: 2021-04-30
- Number of months of graduate studies completed as of December 31 of year of application: 4
- Months of full-time study: 4
- Months of part-time study: 0
- If you are successful in obtaining a Canada Graduate Scholarship will you consider applying for a Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement? □ Yes □ No

[Save and validate or Save and next]
Outline of proposed research

Upload 2-page PDF file to Research Portal

Detail objectives, hypothesis, method

Position proposed research within context of current knowledge in the field

Describe significance of proposed project to field of research

Use clear, plain language, and avoid jargon: write for researchers outside your field

Outline of proposed research
This is my summary of proposal. As I type, the characters remaining count down, letting me know how much space I have left to talk about how amazing my proposal is.

I can even bold or underline, if I feel like being very dramatic.
Upload attachments
## Application

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<td>Canada Graduate Scholarships-</td>
<td>Application</td>
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<tr>
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### Module Status

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<td>✔</td>
<td>Summary of Proposal</td>
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<td>Activity Details</td>
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## Attachments

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<tr>
<td>✔</td>
<td>My Transcripts</td>
<td>Transcripts</td>
<td>2018-04-27</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>12:06:52</td>
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## Canadian Common CVs Attached

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<th>Action</th>
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<td></td>
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## Invitations

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<th>Family Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Invitation Status</th>
<th>Updated</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Link CCV**
Enter CCV confirmation number
Invite references
Important reminders!

Application deadline: December 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

PLAN AHEAD

Allow enough time for your references to complete their assessments

Read the program documentation
First point of contact should be the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the institution

**CIHR**
CGSMA-BESCBM@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

**NSERC**
schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

**SSHRC**
fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

**CGS M contact information**
Postgraduate scholarships

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using NSERC’s online system
Value

- PGS D: $21,000 and CGS D: $35,000

Important dates

- Verify internal application deadline with institution
- Application deadline: October 17 (direct applicants)
- Announcement of awards: April

Location of tenure

- PGS D: Canadian institution or abroad (if previous degree completed in Canada)
- CGS D: must be at a Canadian institution

How to apply

- NSERC Online System

Objectives and overview

NEW THIS YEAR
All awards are three years
Eligibility to apply

Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada

Not have already held a doctoral award

Intend to pursue full-time graduate studies and research at the doctoral level in an eligible program

By December 31 have completed no more than 24 months of doctoral studies (36 months if direct-entry students and must currently be registered in doctoral program)
Selection criteria

50% Research ability and potential

50% Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia
How to apply

Through a Canadian institution (quota system in place)

- Currently registered (including if on leave)
- Have been registered anytime in 2019

- MOST CASES

Directly to NSERC

- Currently registered at a foreign institution
- Not registered at a Canadian institution at any time in 2019

Verify the internal deadline!
What happens at your institution?

1. Submit application electronically by institution deadline
2. Internal selection committees review and select applications
3. Institution forwards quota of applications electronically to NSERC
4. Institution informs students of results for the internal selection process
What happens at NSERC?

NSERC staff verify eligibility

Members review and score applications

Final ranked list produced

Top-ranked applicants offered CGS D, next tier offered PGS D

Results announced in April
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cellular and molecular biology</th>
<th>Evolution and ecology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical, biomedical, and materials science engineering</td>
<td>Mathematical sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mechanical engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil and industrial engineering</td>
<td>Physics and astronomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computing sciences</td>
<td>Plant and animal biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth sciences</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT:** The research subject code you select in your application determines the selection committee.
Application statistics

Competition Year

- Applications submitted through a Canadian institution
- Direct Applications*

2015
- Received: 15%
- Offered: 85%

2016
- Received: 14%
- Offered: 86%

2017
- Received: 14%
- Offered: 87%

2018
- Received: 12%
- Offered: 87%

2019
- Received: 14%
- Offered: 90%
Additional funding opportunities at the postgraduate level

- Vanier CGS
- CGS-MSFSS
- Student Ambassadors
- NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

Award details
• $50,000 per year for three years
• Open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and foreign citizens

Application details
• Institutional nomination to NSERC by November 6 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) using ResearchNet*
• Announcement of awards: April 2020

Selection criteria (weighted equally)
• Academic excellence
• Research potential
• Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability)

* Contact your faculty of graduate studies for the institution-specific deadline
Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements

Do you hold a CGS M, CGS D, or Vanier CGS?

Research study period abroad
• Up to $6,000
• 2 to 6 months
• Foreign university or research lab

Deadlines: June 10* and October 10*

*Apply through your institution
Share NSE experience with youth (K-12)

STEM promotion to Canadian youth by Canadian youth

Organize an independent outreach activity

NSERC pays $1,000 in support of event costs

Contact: ambassadors@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

NSERC Student Ambassadors
NSERC Indigenous Student
Ambassadors

Overview
- Support Indigenous students or PDFs visiting Indigenous communities/schools
- Covers travel costs up to $5,000

Purpose
- Participate in science promotion events
- Sharing NSE research & education experience

Eligibility
- Full-time student or PDF in NSE
- B or B- average
- No deadlines: apply 2 months before visit

Contact: ambassadors@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Postdoctoral Fellowships

- Objectives and overview
- Eligibility criteria
- Selection criteria
- How to apply using NSERC’s online system
Value and duration

• $45,000 per year for 2 years

Important dates

• Application deadline: October 17 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)
• Announcement of awards: end of January

Location of tenure

• Canadian universities
• Provincial research institutions in Canada
• Other appropriate research laboratory in Canada
• Universities and research centres abroad
  *(PhD must be from Canadian institution)*

How to apply

• NSERC Online System
Eligibility to apply

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- Can only apply once to the PDF program
- Hold or expect to hold a doctorate in one of the fields of research that NSERC supports
- Have completed all requirements for PhD within two years of the deadline date*
Selection criteria

70% Research ability and potential

30% Communication, interpersonal, and leadership abilities
What happens at NSERC?

NSERC staff verify eligibility → Members review and score applications → Top-ranked applications discussed at meeting → Final ranked list produced → Results announced end of January
### Application statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Received</th>
<th>Offered</th>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>579</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>594</td>
<td>199</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>168</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When should I apply?

\[ \chi^2 = 0.041, p = .84 \]
Additional funding opportunities at the postdoctoral level

- Banting PDF
- JSPS PDF
- NSERC-CMHC PDF
- Student Ambassadors
- NISA
### Program details
- $70,000 per year for two years
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and foreign citizens
- Deadline: September 18, 2019 at 8:00 p.m. (ET) on ResearchNet

### Location of tenure
- Canadian and foreign universities
- Affiliated hospitals, colleges, and not-for-profit organizations with a strong research mandate and capacity

### Selection criteria (weighted equally)
- Applicant’s research excellence and leadership
- Quality of proposed research program
- Synergy of applicant and institutional strategic priorities
Deadline: February 1 at 8:00 p.m. (ET)

- JSPS provides funding for airfare, monthly maintenance allowance, settling-in allowance, and travel insurance

Eligibility criteria

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
- First doctoral degree completed no more than six years before the application deadline

How to apply

- Contact schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca for application form and instructions


Japan Society for the Promotion of Science PDF
CMHC-NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship

Value

• $45,000 per year for two years

Objectives

• Build Canadian expertise in housing research
• Address research and knowledge translation gaps in housing

Application requirements

• Apply to the NSERC PDF program
• Include additional justification attachment
PGS/CGS D and PDF – How to apply using the NSERC Online System (Form 201)

What you need:

• NSERC Online system account
• Application instructions
• Selection committee guide
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Choose carefully!

Option A = You are currently registered at an institution (Canadian or foreign) without a quota for NSERC.

Option B = You were not registered at any time during the year of application in a degree program at any institution, with or without a quota for NSERC.

Option C = You are currently registered in a degree program at a Canadian institution with a quota for NSERC, or are on an approved leave of absence from such a degree program.

Option D = You are not currently registered in a degree program but were registered at any other time during the year of application in a degree program at a Canadian institution with a quota for NSERC.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Profile</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Addresses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Background</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience</td>
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<td>Awards</td>
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<td>Location of Tenure</td>
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<td>Key Words</td>
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<td>Outline of Proposed</td>
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<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justif. for Eligibility of Proposed Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions/Statements</td>
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<td>Special Circumstances</td>
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**Form 201 - Academic Background**

Include only current and past degree programs. Please use the section 'Other' for any additional degree.

**Type of degree Bachelor's**

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<table>
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<thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>mm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Awarded/Expected</td>
<td>yyy</td>
<td>mm</td>
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</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of discipline</th>
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**Type of degree Master's**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Started</th>
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# Form 201 - Work Experience

Beginning with the most recent, list your academic, research and other relevant work experience. In the Nature of work field, indicate if you gained the experience during a program of study.

## Current occupation 1 of 6

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<th>mm</th>
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<td>Nature of work</td>
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## Previous occupation 2 of 6

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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Form 201 - Scholarships and Other Awards Offered

List only competitive awards based on academic or research excellence and/or leadership or communication abilities. Include NSERC awards and declined awards. You may list up to ten awards starting with your most recent awards.

Note: "declined awards" refers to awards that were offered to you but which you declined.

New Entry

Name of award
Location of tenure
Value Per Year $CAD
Period held from YYY YYY mm
Level
Type

New Entry

Name of award
Location of tenure
Value Per Year $CAD
Period held from YYY YYY mm
Level
Type

Scholarships & other awards
**Form 201 - Location of Tenure**

Indicate where you would like to hold this award, in order of preference.

**Note:** The 'List...' button contains a list of postsecondary institutions.

### Proposed location of tenure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution / organization</th>
<th>List...</th>
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</table>

Name if not available

Department

Name if not available

Proposed supervisor

Program of study

### Second location (if appropriate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution / organization</th>
<th>List...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name if not available

Department

Name if not available

Proposed supervisor

Program of study
Form 201 - Justification for location of tenure

Provide a rationale for your choice(s) for location of tenure. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.

See instructions for further details.

Only applicable to PDF applicants
**Form 201 - Scholarship/Fellowship Information**

**At the time of application, are you attending university?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed degree program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**If you are offered an award, do you plan to take it up at a foreign university?**

**If you answered yes to the previous question, do you still want to be considered for an Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship which is tenable only in Canada?**

**Number of months of graduate studies (master's and doctoral) you have completed as of December 31 of the year of application in the natural sciences and engineering (if none, enter "0"):**

- Months of full-time studies
- Months of part-time studies

**Number of months of studies you have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, in the program for which you are requesting funding (if none, enter « 0 »):**

- Months of full-time studies
- Months of part-time studies

---

**Scholarship/fellowship information**
Form 201 - Bibliography

Upload a PDF containing your bibliography.

Select "Instructions" from the common menu bar for details concerning this electronic attachment. For detailed instructions on the attachment process and attachment presentation, consult the Electronic Attachment Instructions.

Your electronic file attachment must meet the following specifications:
- PDF format
- Maximum file size is 3 Mb
- 8 ½" x 11" (216mm x 279mm)
- Maximum pages: 5

Not applicable to PDF applicants
Thesis information

Form 201 - Thesis Information

Information on theses completed or in progress. For completed degrees, indicate the date by which you completed all degree requirements (not the convocation date). This includes your thesis defence, corrections, and deposition of thesis.

Degree

Supervisor

Date degree requirements completed

Title of the thesis

Summary of thesis most recently completed or in progress. Use plain language. Do not reproduce the thesis abstract. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.

Proactive Disclosure

Proactive Disclosure
Form 201 - Key Words / Research Subject Code

The Research Subject Code entered on the application will determine the selection committee in which the application will be evaluated. Consult the List of Research Subject Codes for Scholarships and Fellowships before making your selection.

**Research subject code**

*Primary* Use the 'List...' button

**Key words**

List up to ten (10) key words that describe your proposed research (for example, nuclear physics, geochemistry, etc.)

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Special circumstances

½ page attachment

• Delays:
  • Productivity
  • Performance
• Family responsibilities
• Parental leave
• Health problems
• Disabilities
• Any other applicable circumstances

Explain & provide context
Advice and tips
Make your application stand out!

Selection committee member resource video
Important tips

- Read the program description
- Read the application instructions
- Read the selection committee guide
- Watch the resource videos
Two page attachment

Research proposal

“It’s a foolproof formula for writing grant applications.”
What makes a good research proposal?

- Write the proposal yourself
- Explain significance of your project
- Make your proposal clear for reviewers
- Convey your passion
- Be clear and specific

Describe EDI considerations in your research plan, if applicable
• Applications containing research proposals that are not eligible under these guidelines may be rejected
• You can only apply to one agency per academic year

Justification of research (optional one page attachment)
• Complete if any overlap with social sciences or health
• Used only by NSERC staff to determine eligibility
• Short explanation why your research fits within NSERC’s mandate
Contributions and applicant’s statement

Part 1: Articles published
- Articles published, accepted, and submitted only

Part 2: Most significant contributions
- Describe your role in three contributions from Part 1

Part 3: Applicant’s statement
- Skills, experiences, and qualities demonstrating your excellence

PGS/CGS D – 2 pages
PDF – 4 pages
Transcripts

Follow instructions carefully

Provide official, up-to-date versions

Review before submitting application
Reports on the applicant

Choose references carefully

Invite references early

Provide background information

Send reminders
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common errors/mistakes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Impact not explained</td>
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<td>Repetitiveness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missing citations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lack of focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling or grammatical mistakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Too modest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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• (613) 995-4273