Tri-Agency & OGS/QEII-GSST Scholarship Information Session

September 12th & 15th, 2016
Humanities Theatre
CONTENTS

1. List of Graduate Studies Office (GSO) contacts – slide 3
2. Department graduate coordinator contacts – slide 4
3. Transcripts, research proposals, reference letters, key steps – slides 5-19
4. Ontario Graduate Scholarship/Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science & Technology (OGS/QEII-GSST) – slides 20-28
5. Tri-Agency Master’s – slides 29-35
6. Vanier Doctoral – slides 36-42
7. NSERC Doctoral - slides 43-48
8. SSHRC Doctoral – slides 49-54
9. CIHR Doctoral – slides 55-60
Heidi Mussar - Assistant Director, Graduate Financial Aid & Awards
- CIHR Doctoral, SSHRC CGS-M, SSHRC Doctoral, Vanier

Miranda Bilotta – Manager, Graduate Financial Aid & Awards
- NSERC CGS-M, NSERC Doctoral

Elena Machado - Coordinator, Graduate Financial Aid & Awards
- CIHR CGS-M, OGS/QEII-GSST

Ray Legge – Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
Department Graduate Coordinators – list can be found on GSO website under “About Graduate Studies” – they should be your first point of contact - uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/about/people/departmentprogram-graduate-co-ordinators

- See the coordinator of the graduate department through which you are planning to apply for the scholarship for deadlines (i.e. SSHRC Doctoral), and questions about eligibility
TRANSCRIPTS, RESEARCH PROPOSALS, REFERENCE LETTERS, KEY STEPS
Official transcripts are required for your current or previously attended postsecondary institution(s) that are listed on your tri-agency or OGS/QEII-GSST application (Best practice: if you list the institution, you need the transcript).

UW transcripts will be provided without charge if you are a current Waterloo undergraduate or graduate student.

Refer to the “Transcript for Scholarship Competitions” web page for details on how to order and obtain your transcripts.
Information regarding transcripts for scholarship competitions can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/transcripts-scholarship-competitions
Minimum Averages Required: min. average of 80% (first-class average) in EACH of the last two full-time years or equivalent

Averaging grades from multiple institutions: the GSO has conversion guides available and refers to them to calculate single overall averages
A research proposal or program statement is required for your tri-agency or OGS/QEII-GSST application.

For the tri-agency applications, your research proposal MUST fall under the mandate of the agency to which you are submitting your application (refer to Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency) – speak to a faculty member for assistance if required.

Master’s students in course-based programs may apply for OGS and CGS-M. However, for the CGS-M, students must be conducting a significant research component as part of their program (i.e.; thesis, major research project, scholarly publication, performance, recital, exhibit).
Be as specific as possible

- Even if you are unsure what you want to research, pick a topic and write about it; if you are successful in receiving a scholarship you are not bound to that area of research, but MUST stay under the mandate of the agency that awarded the scholarship.

Write your proposal in lay language

- The committees reviewing the applications are interdisciplinary but members may not necessarily specialize in your area of research.
State your hypothesis and the methodology in which you will conduct your research

Emphasize the importance of your research on society

Ensure you follow the presentation and attachment standards that are outlined in the application instructions for all free form pages

Proofread and have colleagues review your proposal
Writing Centre is hosting workshops on how to plan and write Research Proposals for scholarships:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Agency research proposals</td>
<td>Fri, Sept 16</td>
<td>STC 0050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 – 12:00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri-Agency research proposals</td>
<td>Thurs, Sept 22</td>
<td>DC Library 1568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30 – 11:30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Writing Centre staff, who are also previous award recipients, will discuss key components of a research proposal and how to communicate it with confidence and clarity.
REFERENCE LETTERS/LETTERS OF ASSESSMENT

Strong reference letters are one of the key components to a strong application package

- Ask someone who can speak with some experience about your abilities, attributes and potential; someone who has recent knowledge of both where you have been and where you want to go (each competition will suggest examples of allowable referees)

- In order for your referees to highlight your attributes, provide them with a package containing an up-to-date CV, transcripts, a list of contributions (research and leadership), your research proposal, etc.

- To further assist your referees, provide them with the eligibility and selection criteria of the scholarship, as well as the instructions for completing the assessment
REFERENCE LETTERS/LETTERS OF ASSESSMENT (cont’d)

Be prepared

• Know the deadline by which you need it
• Know to whom the letter needs to be addressed (if applicable) and to whom it should go
• Provide them with enough time to write an appraisal for you

THE FACE OF REFEREES

WHEN ASKED AT THE LAST MINUTE FOR A REFERENCE
KEY STEPS:

1. Confirm your eligibility

I DON'T ALWAYS APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

BUT WHEN I DO, I MAKE SURE I'M ELIGIBLE
KEY STEPS:

2. Request your transcripts – refer to UW transcript website for instructions pertaining to your competition

3. Contact potential referees now - 2 or 3 referees required, depending on competition
KEY STEPS:

4. Read the website & application instructions

COME ON

THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE RIGHT THERE
KEY STEPS:

5. Apply for admission to a graduate program at UW by Feb 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2017 if applicable.

6. Start your award application and submit as instructed by the firm deadline - make sure you are applying to the correct agency (if applicable).
Tri-Agency and OGS/QEII-GSST competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards
ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OGS) &

QUEEN ELIZABETH II - GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (QEII-GSST)
OGS AND QEII-GSST

Background:
Provincial master’s and doctoral level awards; selection made by institutions

UW OGS Quota: coming soon
- Last year: 170 (163 domestic, 5 international, 2 Aboriginal ex. Metis, Inuit)

UW QEII-GSST Quota: coming soon
- Last year: 36 (for domestic students in research program, STEM disciplines only)

OGS vs QEII-GSST:
- OGS is open to international students, QEII-GSST is not
- OGS is open to students in any program, QEII-GSST will only be awarded to students registered in a research graduate program in one of the STEM disciplines
OGS AND QEII-GSST (cont’d)

Value:
$15,000 per year ($5,000 per term) plus President’s Graduate Scholarship (PGS) if held at Waterloo!

Duration:
- 2-3 terms (cannot be accepted for only 1 term)
- Non-renewable – must apply each year
- Choose start date of May 2017, September 2017 or January 2018

*REMINDE**RS*
- OGS and QEII-GSST have been amalgamated
- All students who want to be considered for OGS/QEII-GSST at Waterloo must complete an OGS/QEII-GSST application
- QEII-GSST recipients are eligible for the President’s Graduate Scholarship
- OGS/QEII-GSST is not portable – must apply for it at the institution where you want to hold it
Key Eligibility Criteria:

- **OGS** - Canadian citizens/PR and international students in all graduate programs

- **QEII-GSST** - Canadian citizens/PR in research programs, STEM disciplines

- First class average (80% min) in EACH of the last two years of full-time studies completed or equivalent

- Master’s students cannot exceed 2 years of OGS/QEII-GSST funding; Doctoral students cannot exceed 4 years of OGS/QEII-GSST funding

- Normally only students within their program time limits are selected
Key Eligibility Criteria cont’d:

- There is a 6 year lifetime maximum for any combination of tri-agency and MTCU (OGS/QEII-GSST/OTS) funding
- Cannot concurrently hold awards funded through provincial or federal government sources
- OSAP restrictions must be cleared prior to OGS/QEII-GSST funds being released
- Refer to Waterloo’s OGS/QEII-GSST website for complete eligibility requirements
Evaluation Criteria (equal weighting for each category)

**Academic Excellence:**
- Academic average (80% minimum)
- Scholarships & awards previously held

**Research Ability/Potential and/or Achievements:**
- Publications, conferences, presentations, patents, etc.

**Communication and Leadership Abilities:**
- Relevant volunteer, leadership and academic work experience

*Ensure your application package addresses these criteria*
### OGS – INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

#### Important Dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 6th, 2016</td>
<td>OGS application available on GSO website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11th, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline to request transcripts for OGS international applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14th, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- To submit your OGS international application to your proposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- For referees to submit reference letters to your proposed department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct - Nov, 2016</td>
<td>Departmental and Faculty adjudication of OGS international applications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 13th, 2016</td>
<td>Offers are made for OGS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11th, 2017</td>
<td>Deadline for initial OGS international offers to be accepted. New OGS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>offers will be made (if necessary) until all awards have been</td>
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<td></td>
<td>accepted.</td>
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## Important Dates:

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<tr>
<td>Sept 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 2016</td>
<td>OGS/QEII-GSST application available on GSO website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;, 2017 (4:00 pm)</td>
<td>Deadline to request transcripts for OGS/QEII-GSST applications <em>(for those not applying for a tri-agency award through Waterloo)</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 | Deadlines:  
  ➢ To apply for admission to a graduate program *(if applicable)*.  
  ➢ To submit your OGS/QEII-GSST application to your proposed department.  
  ➢ For referees to submit reference letters to your proposed department. |
| Feb – Apr, 2017 | Departmental and Faculty adjudication of OGS/QEII-GSST applications.                                                                     |
| Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | Offers are made for OGS and QEII-GSST *(Faculties of Engineering and Science will make remaining offers within 6 weeks' time)*.       |
| May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 | Deadline for initial OGS and QEII-GSST offers to be accepted. New OGS and QEII-GSST offers will be made until all awards have been accepted. |
OGS/QEII-GSST competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards/ontario-graduate-scholarship-ogs
TRI-AGENCY CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP – MASTER’S (CGS-M)
Background: federal master’s level award; selection made by institutions; applicants identify a maximum of 5 institutions where they want their application considered

UW Quotas:
- CIHR CGS-M = 4
- NSERC CGS-M = 45
- SSHRC CGS-M = 30

# of Applications Received for Fall 2015 competition:
- CIHR CGS-M = 47 (quota was 6)
- NSERC CGS-M = 348 (quota was 53)
- SSHRC CGS-M = 127 (quota was 20)

Value: $17,500
(plus President’s Graduate Scholarship if held at UW!)

Duration: 12 months (with start date of May 2017, Sept 2017 or Jan 2018)
Key Eligibility Criteria:

- Canadian Citizen or permanent resident of Canada

- First class average (80% min) in EACH of the last two years of full-time studies completed or equivalent

- Must have completed as of Dec 31, 2016 between 0 and 12 months of full-time studies in:
  - The master’s program for which you are requesting funding; OR
  - The doctoral program for which you are requesting funding IF you were admitted directly from a Bachelor’s degree; OR
  - A master’s program but are requesting funding for a PhD (i.e. students who fast-track from a Master’s into a PhD)
Key Eligibility Criteria cont’d:

- Cannot have previously held a CGS-M (i.e. for prior Master’s degree)

- Must be in a graduate program with a significant research component (course-work programs typically not eligible)

- Refer to tri-agency official website for complete eligibility requirements
Evaluation Criteria:

- **Academic Excellence (50%)**:
  - First-class average
  - Duration of previous studies
  - Scholarships & awards held

- **Research Potential (30%)**:  
  - Quality and originality of contributions to research
  - Significance of proposed research
  - Initiative, independence

- **Personal Characteristics & Interpersonal Skills (20%)**:  
  - Work experience
  - Leadership experience
  - Project management
  - Volunteerism, committees, etc.

*Ensure your application package addresses these criteria*
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<tr>
<td>Sept 2016</td>
<td>CGS-M application available on tri-agency portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 24, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for students to order UW transcripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1, 2016</td>
<td>Agency-set deadline for students to submit their application – do not wait until the last minute to submit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 1, 2017</td>
<td>Deadline to apply for admission into a graduate program at Waterloo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beg. March 2017</td>
<td>University-wide adjudication of CGS-M applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2017</td>
<td>CGS-M results released by institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 2017</td>
<td>Deadline for students to accept or decline CGS-M offers – scholarship is not portable (must be held at institution where you accept it)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22, 2017 -</td>
<td>Offers made to students on reversion list until quota is satisfied</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tri-agency CGS-M competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards/tri-agency-cihr-nserc-sshrc-canada-graduate-scholarships
VANIER CGS-D
Background: federal doctoral level award; selection made by agency

UW Quota for Fall 2016 competition:
CIHR = 1 (+1)*; NSERC = 11 (+2)*; SSHRC = 4 (+1)*
*additional floating quotas

# of Apps Received for Fall 2015 competition: 29 (14/29 were sent forward; 3/14 were successful – 21% success rate)

Value: $50,000 per year for up to 3 years
(plus President’s Graduate Scholarship if held at UW!)

Duration: up to 3 years depending on how many months already completed in your doctoral program (with start date of May 2017, Sept 2017 or Jan 2018)
Spirit of Vanier: to recruit high-caliber students to pursue Doctoral studies – students apply through the institution where they want to hold it (not portable)

*NEW THIS YEAR*

Students must have received departmental endorsement in order to submit their application through UW (deadline to notify the department of their interest was August 5th)
Key Eligibility Criteria:

- Canadian Citizen or permanent residents of Canada and international students
- First class average (80% min) in EACH of the last two years of full-time studies completed or equivalent
- Be pursuing your first doctoral degree
- Cannot have previously held a tri-agency doctoral award
- Refer to Vanier’s official website for complete eligibility requirements
Evaluation Criteria (equal weightings):

- **Academic Excellence:**
  - First-class average (transcripts)
  - Awards & distinctions (CCV)
  - Academic background (duration of previous studies)

- **Research Potential:**
  - Candidate’s contributions to research and interest in discovery
  - Research proposal and its contribution and benefit to society
  - Critical thinking, application of knowledge

- **Leadership:**
  - Personal achievement
  - Volunteerism
  - Involvement in academic life
  - Civic engagement

*Ensure your application package addresses these criteria*
### Important Dates:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 30th, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline to request UW transcript through GSO website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 30th, 2016 @ 9:00 a.m. EST</td>
<td>GSO deadline for applicants to submit their Vanier application to Waterloo via ResearchNet – do not wait until the last minute to submit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5th – 12th, 2016</td>
<td>Depts review applications and identify a max. of 3 highly competitive nominees per agency for consideration at university-level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 20th, 2016</td>
<td>University-wide adjudication of applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2nd, 2016</td>
<td>GSO electronically submits Vanier nominations for national competition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Competition results released by agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vanier CGS-D competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards/vanier-cgs
NSERC DOCTORAL AWARDS
NSERC DOCTORAL

**Background:** federal doctoral level award; applications submitted through an online portal; selection made by agency; STEM disciplines

**UW Quota:** 113 (Fall 2015 quota was 107)

**# of Apps Received for Fall 2015:** 164 (53/107 + 1 aboriginal were successful; 49% success rate)

**Two Types of Awards:** CGS D and PGS D (same application for both)

**Value:** $35,000 (CGS-D) and $21,000 (PGS-D)
(plus President’s Graduate Scholarship if held at UW!)

**Duration:** 2 or 3 years depending on how many months already completed in grad program (with start date of May 2017, Sept 2017 or Jan 2018)
Key Eligibility Criteria:

- Canadian Citizen or permanent residents of Canada
- First class average (80% min) in EACH of the last two years of full-time studies completed or equivalent
- Hold or expect to hold a degree in natural sciences or engineering
- Be conducting research under NSERC’s mandate - refer to official site for Subject Matter Eligibility - speak to a faculty member for assistance if required
- Cannot have previously held a tri-agency doctoral award
- Must have completed, as of December 31, 2016, between zero and 24 months of studies in the doctoral program for which you are requesting funding (between four and 36 months if admitted to the doctoral program directly for a bachelor’s program)
- Ensure you apply the appropriate way - either through a Canadian institution or NSERC directly
- Refer to NSERC’s official website for complete eligibility requirements
Evaluation Criteria:

- **Research Ability or Potential (50%)**:
  - Quality and originality of contributions to research
  - Significance of proposed research
  - Initiative, independence

- **Academic Excellence (30%)**:
  - First-class average
  - Scholarships & awards held

- **Communication, Interpersonal & Leadership Skills (20%)**:
  - Work experience
  - Leadership experience
  - Project management
  - Volunteerism, committees, etc.

*Ensure your application package addresses these criteria*
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 30(^{th}), 2016 @ 3:00 p.m. EST</td>
<td>Deadline to assign transcript designate in application portal – designate name is “Bilotta” and “Miranda”; designate email is <a href="mailto:gsoaward@uwaterloo.ca">gsoaward@uwaterloo.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 11(^{th}), 2016</td>
<td>Referees must complete their online assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14(^{th}), 2016 @ 8:00 p.m. EST</td>
<td>Deadline to submit complete NSERC application in online portal - do not wait until the last minute to submit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 15(^{th}), 2016</td>
<td>University-wide adjudication of applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 25(^{th}), 2016</td>
<td>Official NSERC agency deadline; institutions complete e-submission in portal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March/April 2017</td>
<td>Competition results released by agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSERC Doctoral competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards/natural-sciences-engineering-research-council-nserc-doctoral
SSHRC DOCTORAL AWARDS
Background: federal doctoral level award; selection made by agency; social sciences & humanities disciplines; application is submitted as a hardcopy

UW Quota: 38 (up from 36 in Fall 2015 competition)

# of Apps Received for Fall 2015: 108 (22/36 were successful; 61% success rate)

Two Types of Awards: CGS D and Doctoral Fellowship (same application for both), Nelson Mandela honour

Value: $35,000 (CGS-D) and $20,000 (Doctoral Fellowship) (plus President’s Graduate Scholarship if held at UW!)

Duration: 1 - 4 years depending on how many months already completed in your grad program (with start date of May 2017, Sept 2017 or Jan 2018) *refer to official website for value and duration details
Key Eligibility Criteria:

- Canadian Citizen or permanent residents of Canada
- First class average (80% min) in EACH of the last two years of full-time studies completed or equivalent (UW requirement)
- Be conducting research under SSHRC’s mandate – refer to official SSHRC site for Subject Matter Eligibility - speak to a faculty member for assistance if required
- Cannot have previously held a tri-agency doctoral award
- Refer to SSHRC’s official website for complete eligibility requirements
SSHRC DOCTORAL (cont’d)

Evaluation Criteria:

- Past academic results as demonstrated by transcripts, awards, distinctions
- The program of study and research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge
- Conference presentations, scholarly publications
- 2 reference letters
- Departmental appraisal

*Ensure your application package addresses these criteria*
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14th, 2016 @ 3:00 p.m. EST</td>
<td>Deadline for students to request UW transcripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept deadlines</td>
<td>Check with your graduate department coordinator – must be registered in Fall 2016 in order to apply through Waterloo, otherwise must apply direct by November 4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 18th, 2016</td>
<td>Deadline for departments to submit ranked applications to GSO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9th, 2016</td>
<td>University-wide adjudication of applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 9th, 2017</td>
<td>Official SSHRC agency deadline to receive endorsed applications from institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Competition results released by agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SSHRC Doctoral competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards/social-sciences-and-humanities-research-council-sshrc
CIHR DOCTORAL AWARDS
Background: federal doctoral level award; selection made by agency; medical/health disciplines; application submitted through ResearchNet

UW Quota: no university quotas

Types of Awards: CGS D and DFSA (same application for both), Nelson Mandela honour

Value: $35,000 CGS D and DFSA (plus President’s Graduate Scholarship if held at UW!)

Duration: up to 3 years *refer to official website for value and duration details
Key Eligibility Criteria:

- Canadian Citizen or permanent residents of Canada
- Students must be engaged in full-time doctoral research training
- As of October 4\textsuperscript{th}, 2016, applicants must have completed a minimum of 12 months of graduate study at the Master’s or Doctoral level
- Cannot have previously held a tri-agency doctoral award
- Be conducting research under CIHR’s mandate – refer to official site for Subject Matter Eligibility - speak to a faculty member for assistance if required
- Refer to CIHR’s official website for complete eligibility requirements
CIHR DOCTORAL (cont’d)

Evaluation Criteria:

- Achievements and activities of the candidate – 35%
  - Academic performance, awards, publication activity, research activity (i.e. field work)

- Characteristics and abilities of the candidate – 40%
  - Critical thinking, independence, originality, interest in discovery, research ability, leadership, perseverance

- Research training environment – 25%
  - Scientific activity of the supervisor, research resources, training record of supervisor, training for the applicant

*Ensure your application package addresses these criteria*
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<td>Sept 23(^{rd}), 2016 @ 3:00 P.M. EST</td>
<td>Deadline to request UW transcripts through GSO web form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 27(^{th}), 2016</td>
<td>UW deadline for students to submit application in ResearchNet <em>if you are applying elsewhere, you must check what that institution’s deadline is</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 4(^{th}), 2016</td>
<td>Official CIHR agency deadline to receive e-submission of applications from institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-April 2017</td>
<td>CIHR Doctoral results released by agency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CIHR Doctoral competition information can be found on the Graduate Studies Office website at: uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies/awards-funding/external-awards/canadian-institutes-health-research-cihr-doctoral-research
CONGRATULATIONS ON SURVIVING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION SEASON!
Thank you and Good Luck!