



MEMORANDUM

August 23, 2016

TO: Associate Deans, Graduate Studies
Faculty Administrative Assistants
Department Graduate Scholarship Coordinators

CC: Jeff Casello, Associate Provost, Graduate Studies
Ray Legge, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
GSO Awards Staff

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

RE: **2016-2017 Tri-Agency Canada Graduate Scholarship –
Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Competition (CGS-MSFSS)**

GSO Deadline: September 26th, 2016 –

Students submit directly to the GSO, no need for departmental ranking.

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 three to six months.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for this program, applicants must:

- be Canadian 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, or an eligible Vanier CGS award administered by one of the granting agencies
- 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 competition deadline date; and
- not currently hold, or have not held, any other CGS-MSFSS during the course of their graduate studies.

To remain eligible, a successful applicant must:

- be registered full-time in a graduate degree program at a Canadian institution for the duration of time abroad;
- take up the award within one year of receiving the notice/offer of award for the CGS - MSFSS;
- return to graduate studies at the Canadian institution after the research study period abroad; and
- ensure that subject matter remains eligible at the agency that granted the CGS award.

The University of Waterloo's Quota Remaining after the June Competition

SSHRC – 1 remaining

NSERC – 4 remaining

CIHR – no quota – will forward all eligible applications for consideration

The University of Waterloo's GSO deadline: **September 26th**

The agency deadline: **October 10th**

The University of Waterloo's Graduate Studies Office will provide a list of nominees equal to the remaining allocation granted for NSERC and SSHRC. This is equivalent to the allocation less the number of awarded candidates from the June 10 competition.

For the October 10 deadline only: The University of Waterloo's Graduate Studies Office may send a list of alternate candidates for NSERC and SSHRC, up to three times the allocation. A CGS-MSFSS may be awarded to students on the alternate list for the following reasons:

- To redistribute supplements not taken up;
- To allocate uncommitted/remaining CGS-MSFSS funds; or
- A student who was to be originally awarded a CGS-MSFSS is unable to initiate or complete their research study period abroad. In this case, the university must inform the appropriate agency that they wish to offer the award to another student.

Application Process

Qualified applicants must complete the necessary documentation and submit it to the University of Waterloo's Graduate Studies Office by **September 26th, 2016**.

CGS-MSFSS program description, application form and instructions are available on the following pages of each granting agency web site:

CIHR: <https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/viewOpportunityDetails.do?progCd=10589&language=E&fodAgency=CIHR&view=browseArchive&browseArc=true&org=CIHR>

NSERC: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSForeignStudy-BESCEtudeEtranger_eng.asp

SSHRC: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/fellowships/cgs_foreign_study-besc_etudes_etranger-eng.aspx

In addition, both the applicant's current research supervisor and the potential host supervisor are required to submit letters detailing their support of the proposed foreign research study period abroad. The host supervisor also needs to indicate that they have the resources available (financial [if any], supervision time, equipment, etc.) to support the applicant's planned research activities. If the host supervisor's primary place of employment is outside academia, he or she must demonstrate that they have supervised graduate student researchers.

The tri-agencies require all applicants consent to have some of their personal information disclosed in cases of serious breach of agency policy. For more information and the form, please consult the program literature and instructions on the agency web sites.

Applications will be evaluated using the criteria listed below:

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. 37081 or by email at mbilotta@uwaterloo.ca.

Sincerely,

Miranda Bilotta