Transcript: CGSM, Part 1

[Introduction]

Welcome to the CGSM, Part 1: Learn about the scholarship.

* What is the CGSM?
* Am I eligible?
* How do I apply?
* What can I expect at the fall workshop?
* What are my next steps?

Learn more in this 13-minute recording presented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, please refer to the CGSM program material as your primary source of information.

# Accessibility Statement

For a copy of these slides and a transcript of this recording (including hyperlinks), please visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) [Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships---masters.php) website. Content is available in Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, and other formats upon request.

If you experience accessibility barriers with this presentation, please contact [fgsaward2@uvic.ca](mailto:fgsaward2@uvic.ca).

# What is the CGSM?

The Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s (referred to as the CGSM) is a scholarship provided by Canada’s research councils: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (known as NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (known as SSHRC), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (known as CIHR).

Together, these research councils are often referred to as the Tri-Agencies or the Tri-Councils.

The value of the CGSM is $27,000 for one year.

The purpose of the CGSM is to support highly qualified students to develop research skills. The financial support is intended to allow scholarship recipients to focus on their graduate program. The scholarship is based on indicators of excellence set out in the selection criteria. It is not based on financial need.

In addition to the funding provided, another reason why students may choose to apply for this scholarship is the impact of having a competitive award in your curriculum vitae (or resume).

# Equity Initiatives

[Indigenous student researchers](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/indigenous_scholars_pilot_initiative-initiative_pilote_universitaires_autochtones-eng.aspx#2). The Indigenous Scholars Award and Supplement (ISAS) initiative aims to strengthen Indigenous research capacity by increasing funding opportunities for Indigenous students in post-secondary institutions. This initiative provides funding to support CGSM applications from Indigenous students.

[Black student researchers](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsm-bescm_eng.asp#a5). The Tri-Agencies have dedicated resources to address the disproportionate under-funding of Black scholars at all stages of their careers, and to foster a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive research ecosystem. This initiative provides funding for additional CGSM awards.

# Funding Supplements

The table on this slide provides a list of funding supplements and indicates whether they are open to NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR applicants.

Successful CGSM recipients may be eligible for additional funding (referred to as supplements) associated with equity initiatives and/or in targeted research areas. CGSM funding supplements vary from $5,000 up to $27,000 and include the following:

* NSERC CGSM recipients may be eligible for the Research in the Field of Impact Assessment Supplement or Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Atmospheric and Meteorological Supplement
* SSHRC CGSM recipients may be eligible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation’s Housing Research Supplement or the Department of National Defence (MINDS) program supplement: Mobilizing Insights in Defence & Security.
* Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements are open to both NSERC and SSHRC applicants.
* CIHR offers Strategic Master’s Awards in targeted research areas, and a Heart & Stroke Foundation Personnel Award for Indigenous Scholars.
* The Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement – which supports short-term research activities outside Canada – and the paid parental leave programs are open to all CGSM recipients.

Application procedures vary: for some supplements you will be automatically considered based on the key words you provide in your application, for some you must submit additional material as part of your application, and for others you submit a separate application. Learn more by visiting [CGSM Related Opportunities](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsm-bescm_eng.asp#a15) at the link.

# Am I eligible?

* The CGSM is open to Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents, and Protected Persons (as defined by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act).
* Your master’s program must include a significant research component that leads to the completion of a thesis, dissertation, or major research project.
* You must be enrolled or will apply for admission to your program of study by the institution’s deadline. It’s important to be aware that applying for a CGSM and applying for admission to a master’s program at an institution are two separate processes.
* You must have a first-class GPA in your last two years of study, which is a 7.0 on UVic’s 9.0 scale. Some exemptions may be available. If you intend to hold your CGSM award at UVic and your GPA is below 7.0, you should consult with the Graduate Advisor in your department. If you plan to hold your CGSM at another institution, you should contact that institution for more information.
* You must have completed no more than twelve months of full-time study in your master’s program as of December 31st of the year of application. Most students apply for the CGSM during the last year of their undergraduate degree (in which case they would have zero months of study in their master’s program as of December 31, 2024); or, in the first year of their master’s degree (for example, if you began your master’s in September 2024, you will have 4 months of study as of December 31, 2024).
* The table on this slide lists three other scenarios in which a student may be eligible for a CGSM. You may also be eligible if:
  + You enrolled in a doctoral program directly from a bachelor’s program;
  + You will begin in a master’s program, then transfer to a doctoral program without receiving a master’s degree; or,
  + You will complete your master’s and continue to a doctoral program before the end of your CGSM 1-year award period.

There are other scenarios for eligibility. If you have questions about your eligibility, please consult the CGSM website and contact FGS.

# When is the deadline?

The table on this slide provides a timeline of the CGSM process, beginning with the online portal opening for applications in September 2024, and ending with successful applicants receiving their scholarship payments as early as May 2025.

The CGSM Research Portal opens for applications in September 2024.

FGS holds application workshops in September. We will hold an in-person workshop on September 25th and an online workshop September 26th.

The deadline to submit your application is set by the research councils which means that UVic has no ability to provide an extension. The deadline is December 1st each year, or the next business day if that falls on a weekend. Additionally, you must submit your application before the Research Portal closes at 8:00pm Eastern Time.

This means that this year, the application deadline is Monday, December 2, 2024, before 5:00pm Pacific Time.

During the UVic campus review of applications January to March 2025, each department reviews their applications. Top-ranked applications move forward to review by a campus-wide multi-disciplinary committee. Successful applicants will receive an offer via the Research Portal on April 1, 2025.

If you selected other institutions in your application, each institution will receive and review your application. This means you could receive more than one offer. You may accept only one offer, and you must hold the CGSM at the institution that provided the offer.

Each institution has a maximum number of CGSMs that it may offer: you can find the NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR [allocation for each institution](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CGSAllocations-QuotasBESC_eng.asp) at the link provided.

Successful applicants can choose to begin receiving scholarship payments on either May 1 or September 1, 2025, or January 1, 2026.

# How do I apply?

Follow the CGSM [instructions for completing an application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/CGS_M-BESC_M_eng.asp): log on to the Research Portal, select CGSM from the available options, and begin your application. Save frequently as the system times out at regular intervals.

Select the [appropriate research council](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/selecting-appropriate-federal-granting-agency): NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR.

You may indicate up to three institutions where you plan to apply for admission to a master’s program.

Follow the CGSM [instructions for completing a Canadian Common CV](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CCV_CGSM-CVC_BESCM_eng.asp): this is a standardized format for an academic CV, or resume.

There are some tutorial videos available on YouTube: [How to apply using the Research Portal](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4Ye1ox6KVo&list=PL6ox0GB7vXYlhaAY7mEqwmMqYK9TGCp1E&index=5) and [CGSM program information](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmWF00SP6-w&list=PL6ox0GB7vXYlhaAY7mEqwmMqYK9TGCp1E&index=4).

# What can I expect at the workshop?

At the application workshops hosted by the FGS, we will go over the selection criteria and provide tips for how to highlight your qualifications.

We will provide advice for developing your Outline of Proposed Research and choosing and working with your referees to develop a compelling application. Referees are two people who will provide letters of reference to support your application (the Research Portal refers to these as reference assessments).

We will provide important information about transcript requirements: the most common reason for applications to be disqualified are transcripts that don’t meet the requirements.

And finally, you’ll meet your CGSM Coaches who can provide strategic advice and feedback on your application. The coaches are UVic faculty members who can assist you to develop an application strategy – how you plan to demonstrate your qualifications – and provide feedback on the written portions of your application.

The workshop will not be recorded but presentation slides will be available on the FGS website after the event. These slides will be labelled CGSM, Part 2: Application Advice and Support.

Registration is not required: bring your questions and join us in person from 12:30 to 2:00 on September 25th or online from 11:30 to 1:00 on September 26th. The in-person workshop will be held in the Senate Chambers, located on the main floor of the Jamie Cassels Centre next to the Records and Admission desk. The online workshop will be held via Zoom. The link to join will be posted on the [FGS CGSM](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships---masters.php) website prior to the session.

We strive to host inclusive, accessible workshops that enable all students to participate fully. Please contact FGS with any accessibility needs prior to the workshop.

# What are my next steps?

1. Visit the [CGSM](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp) website to find complete program information and confirm your eligibility.
2. Review the [application](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/CGS_M-BESC_M_eng.asp) and [Canadian Common CV](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CCV_CGSM-CVC_BESCM_eng.asp) instructions, and plan ahead (for example, order your official transcripts).
3. Review instructions for CGSM applicants to UVic at our [FGS – CGSM](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships---masters.php) website. Each institution will have their own transcript requirements and other guidelines. It is important that if you will be indicating more than one institution in your application, you should consult the CGSM instructions at each institution. You can also find contact information at the link: FGS scholarship officers to answer questions and support you during the application process, and our NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR coaches to provide feedback and advice on your application.
4. It’s a good idea to consult with your academic supervisor. If you have already applied to a master’s program you may already have an academic supervisor: a faculty member who will guide you through your master’s program. If you don’t have an academic supervisor, consult the Graduate Advisor in your department.
5. Attend one of the fall workshops.

This concludes the presentation.

Thank you.