Transcript: NSERC CGSD, Part 1

[Introduction]

Welcome to the NSERC CGSD, Part 1: Learn about the scholarship.

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

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

While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, please refer to the NSERC 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 – Doctoral](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships-doctoral.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.

# What is the CGSD?

The Canada Graduate Scholarship – Doctoral (referred to as the CGSD) 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 CGSD is $40,000 per year for up to three years.

The purpose of the CGSD is to support research excellence so that scholarship recipients may focus on their doctoral studies. 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. As part of the Tri-Agencies commitment to supporting research by and with Indigenous peoples, institutions may recommend an unlimited number of applications from Indigenous students to the national competition.

Black student researchers. The Tri-Agencies have dedicated resources to address the disproportionate underfunding of Black scholars. This support will help strengthen efforts to address inequities, making Canada’s research culture more equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

# Funding Supplements

NSERC CGSD recipients may be eligible for additional funding (referred to as supplements) in targeted research areas. $5,000 to $10,000 [postgraduate supplements](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/index_eng.asp) include the Department of National Defence (DND)/NSERC supplemental funding award, the Environment and Climate Change Canada Atmospheric and Meteorological graduate supplement, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Aquatic Science supplement, and the Supplement for Research in the Field of Impact Assessment.

The [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSForeignStudy-BESCEtudeEtranger_eng.asp) provides up to $6,000 for two to six month research activities outside Canada.

CGSD recipients may be eligible for up to twelve months of [paid parental leave](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Guides-Guides/TriRTA-TriBFR_eng.asp#paid).

# Am I eligible?

The CGSD is open to Canadian citizens, Permanent Residents, and Protected Persons (as defined by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act).

Your doctoral program must include a significant research component that leads to the completion of a thesis, dissertation, or major research project.

You must have completed no more than twenty-four months of full-time study in your doctoral program as of December 31st of the year of application.

There are some exceptions. The table on this slide summarizes two exceptions to this requirement in which students may be eligible with up to thirty-six months of study. If you enrolled directly from a bachelor’s to a PhD program, or if you are enrolled in a joint professional program in which you will receive both a master’s and a doctoral degree, you must have completed no more than thirty-six months of full time study in your program.

# When is the deadline?

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

The NSERC online portal opens for applications in summer 2024.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies holds application workshops on campus in early September.

The deadline to submit your application is in early October. This is a UVic internal deadline that will be announced in summer 2024.

Applications are reviewed and scored by a committee of natural sciences and engineering researchers on campus, with top-scoring applications forwarded to the national competition in late November. UVic is an institution with an NSERC quota, meaning that NSERC sets a maximum number of applications that we may forward to the national competition.

NSERC will announce results of the competition in April 2025.

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

On average, about 80% of UVic NSERC CGSD applications are selected to move forward to the national competition each year. About 50% of UVic NSERC CGSD applications in the national competition are successful.

# How do I apply?

You may submit one application per year to one research council. Begin by [selecting the appropriate research council](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/selecting-appropriate-federal-granting-agency?OpenDocument) – NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR – according to the guidelines provided in the link. If your area of research overlaps with two or more research councils it is important to seek advice, as applications submitted to the incorrect research council may be rejected as ineligible, and you will not be permitted to re-submit your application to another research council in that competition. Consult with your academic supervisor, and contact FGS to learn how you may request advice from NSERC.

When you initiate your application in the NSERC Online System you will check one of four boxes to indicate how you are applying. If you are currently registered at UVic, or if you were registered at UVic during the 2024 calendar year, ensure that information is reflected in the box you select. Review the [Where should I submit my application?](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/_doc/Students-Etudiants/CGSDFlowchart_e.PDF) flowchart for more information.

The CGSD application is a web-based form in the [NSERC On-line System](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp). Register, then initiate your application, following the [NSERC Form 201 instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp). NSERC resources include a [helpdesk for accessibility](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp) (email and telephone contact information is posted on the On-line System website), [frequently asked questions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf-faq_eng.asp), and [tutorial videos](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6ox0GB7vXYlhaAY7mEqwmMqYK9TGCp1E) on YouTube.

# What can I expect at the workshop?

At the fall application workshop hosted by the Faculty of Graduate studies we will go over the selection criteria and provide tips for each section of the application. We will provide advice for developing your application strategy: how to prepare your outline of proposed research, your research contributions and statements, and work with your referees to create a compelling application. Referees are two people who will provide letters of reference to support your application. NSERC refers to these letters of reference as reports on the applicant.

You’ll hear from students who have been awarded the CGSD and meet your NSERC CGSD Coach, Dr. George Tzanetakis from UVic’s Department of Computer Science. Dr. Tzanetakis is available to provide strategic advice and 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 NSERC CGSD, Part 2: Application Advice and Support. Registration is not required: bring your questions and join us on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 1:00pm to 2:20pm in Cornett A225. 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 Tri-Agencies [Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSD-BESCD_eng.asp) website to find complete program information and confirm your eligibility.
2. Review the [NSERC Form 201 instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp) and plan ahead. For example, order your official transcripts.
3. with your academic supervisor or the Graduate Advisor in your department.
4. Attend the fall workshop.

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Pender, Scholarship Officer, by email at fgsaward2@uvic.ca, by telephone at (250) 721-6167, or visit the Jamie Cassels Centre, room A207.

Thank you.