



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral

NSERC APPLICATION WORKSHOP
FALL 2023



TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Workshop slides and an audio recording are available on the Faculty of Graduate Studies CGSD webpage. Content is available in Microsoft PowerPoint, Portable Document Format (PDF) and other formats upon request.

If you experience accessibility barriers with this presentation – or if you have suggestions about how we can become a more inclusive space – please contact Lisa Pender fgsaward2@uvic.ca

WORKSHOP AGENDA

Part 1 (30 minutes)

ABOUT THE AWARD

- funding
- eligibility
- review process

YOUR APPLICATION

- selection criteria
- tips for each section

RESOURCES

- info & contacts

Part 2 (30-45 minutes)

ADVICE | DISCUSSION | QUESTIONS

Dr. George Tzanetakis, NSERC Coach

Lisa Pender, FGS Scholarship Officer

Ian Chagunda (Chemistry), CGSD 2023

Neha Acharya-Patel (Biochemistry), CGSD 2023

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



RESEARCH COUNCILS | THE “TRI-AGENCIES”

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

- ✓ One scholarship application per year to either NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR
- ✓ Review the subject matter guidelines for [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#)
- ✓ Consult your academic supervisor and/or the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) Scholarship Officers (we can ask NSERC for advice if you provide a 1-page summary early in the process)
- ✓ UVic’s NSERC quota is 50 for fall 2023 competition

FUNDING | SCHOLARSHIPS

Complete the NSERC PGSD application to be considered for both awards:

Canada Graduate Scholarship-Doctoral (CGSD)

- ✓ \$35,000/year for up to 3 years
- ✓ Canadian university
- ✓ Offered to top-ranked applications

NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship-Doctoral (PGSD)

- ✓ \$21,000/year for up to 3 years
- ✓ Canadian university
- ✓ international university (if have previous degree from a Canadian university)
- ✓ NSERC may convert to a CGSD

FUNDING | SPECIAL INITIATIVES

Indigenous Scholars Initiative

As part of the tri-agency commitment to strengthening Indigenous research capacity, there is no limit on the number of applications from Indigenous students that may be recommended for the NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR national competitions. In order to be included in this process, Indigenous students are invited to self-identify in their application.

Black Scholars Initiative

The tri-agency Black Scholars initiative aims to strengthen equity, diversity, and inclusion in Canada's research culture by increasing support for Black Scholars. Applicants who would like to be considered for funding under this initiative are invited to self-identify in their application.

FUNDING | SUPPLEMENTS

Supplements are listed under [NSERC Postgraduate programs](#).

No Application Required

Some supplements are awarded based on key words and/or title of proposal
e.g., Fisheries and Oceans Canada Aquatic Science Supplement \$10,000

Application Required

Some supplements have a separate application process open only to successful CGSD/PGSD recipients:

e.g., Environment and Climate Change Canada Atmospheric and Meteorological Graduate Supplement \$5,000

ELIGIBILITY | APPLICANTS

- ✓ Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada or Protected Person as of the application deadline
- ✓ not have previously held a doctoral scholarship from NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR
- ✓ doctoral program must include a significant research component that leads to the completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, or scholarly publication

Grades are considered in the evaluation of applications but are not an eligibility requirement.

ELIGIBILITY | MONTHS OF STUDY

Eligibility is based on the number of months of full-time study completed toward the degree for which you are requesting funding by December 31 of the calendar year of application. You must have completed no more than:

- ✓ 24 months if previously enrolled in a graduate program
- ✓ 36 months if enrolled directly from a bachelor's to a PhD program (known as a **fast track** program).
Months of study calculated starting from date of transfer into doctoral program
- ✓ 36 months if enrolled in a **joint program** in which a master's degree is obtained as part of the program (e.g., MD/PhD)
Months of study calculated starting from date officially registered in joint program, including the master's portion

REVIEW PROCESS | APPLICATION

1. Complete and submit your application in the [NSERC On-line System](#) by UVic's internal deadline: **noon on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.**
2. During the period October 4-12, FGS will review your application for completeness and eligibility. We will conduct a technical review, provide feedback, then re-open your application in the On-line System.
3. Make your edits and re-submit your application in the On-line System by **noon on Monday, October 16, 2023.**

REVIEW PROCESS | NOMINATION

- ✓ UVic can nominate up to 50 students (our quota) for the NSERC national competition
- ✓ UVic can nominate additional applications submitted by Indigenous students

UVic nominees are chosen through a two-part process:

- **Departmental review:** academic departments may withdraw applications they do not consider to be competitive
- **Campus review:** applications are reviewed by UVic faculty members who are NSERC researchers

Applicants will be notified of their nomination status in late **November**. NSERC will announce national competition results beginning in **April**.

APPLICATION | GETTING STARTED

Apply using **Form 201 (PGS D & PDF)** in the [NSERC On-line System](#)

- ✓ Follow the [Form 201 instructions](#)
- ✓ Save frequently as the application may time out
- ✓ Portals can get busy (and slow) near application deadlines
- ✓ Password re-sets are possible but can take time
- ✓ Technical support will be through NSERC, not UVic
- ✓ Don't wait until a few days before the deadline to begin the online application: initiate your application in the portal then email fgsaward2@uvic.ca to confirm we can access it
- ✓ Adhere to the [NSERC Online presentation and attachment standards](#)
e.g., all text must be in 12 pt Times New Roman font

APPLICATION | SELECTION CRITERIA

Available on the [NSERC CGSD webpage](#) and in the Form 201 instructions

RESEARCH ABILITY AND POTENTIAL 50%

Includes quality of proposal, relevant training (such as academic training, lived experience and traditional teachings), and research contributions.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE & ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN & BEYOND ACADEMIA 50%

Includes scholarships, academic record, professional/academic/extracurricular activities, and collaborations with supervisors, peers, and community.

- ✓ Develop a strategy and consult with your academic supervisor and referees to ensure that all of your qualifications are reflected in the most appropriate section of the application.

AWARDS
THESES

EDI CONSIDERATIONS
OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH
CONTRIBUTIONS & STATEMENTS
REPORTS ON THE APPLICANT

- ✓ Form fields and text boxes are also part of your narrative: ensure your application is cohesive.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (1)

USER PROFILE

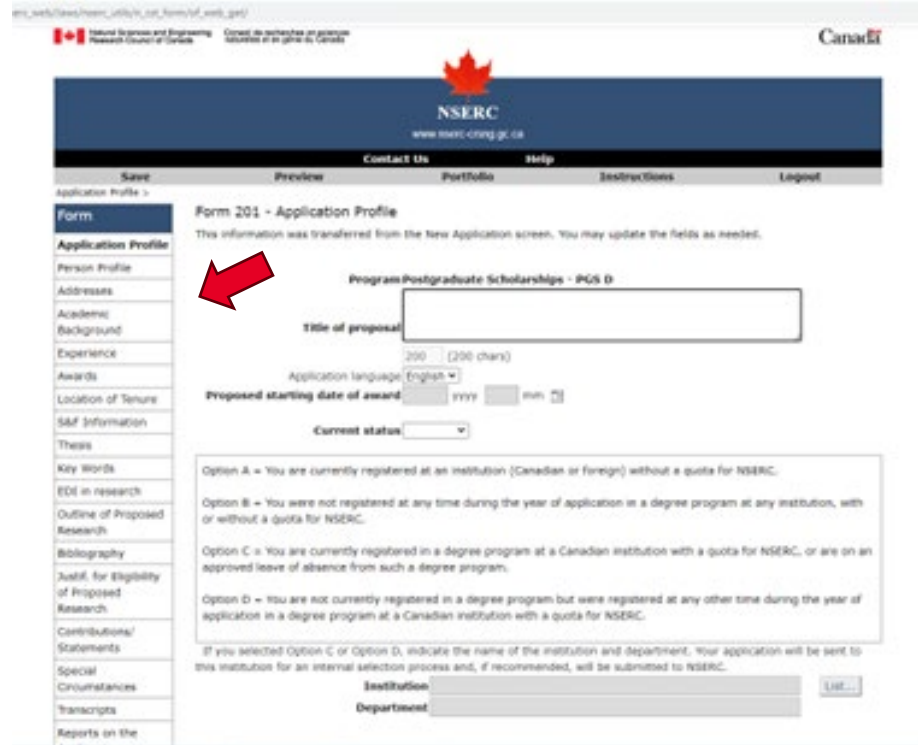
- ✓ Located in the eConsole section. NSERC uses this data to inform equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives. Refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.
- ✓ Information in this section is not available to UVic, your referees, or reviewers with one exception: applications from Indigenous students are identified for the purpose of inclusion in the national competition
- ✓ You must complete this section (but “I prefer not to answer” is an option for each question).

Applicants who would like to be considered for the Indigenous Scholars Initiative or the Black Scholars Initiative are invited to self-identify in this section.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (2)

APPLICATION PROFILE

- ✓ Start date options are **MAY 1/24**, **SEPT 1/24**, or **JAN 1/25** for programs at Canadian institutions. Consult with your department if you have other funding that can't be held concurrently with a CGSD.
- ✓ If you have been registered or on leave from UVic in 2023 you must select **OPTION C** or **D** to be included in the UVic competition. For **INSTITUTION** select UVic even if you plan to do your program elsewhere.



The screenshot shows the NSERC application profile form. The header includes the NSERC logo and the text "www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca". The navigation bar contains "Save", "Preview", "Portfolio", "Help", "Instructions", and "Logout". The left sidebar lists various sections: "Form", "Application Profile", "Person Profile", "Addresses", "Academic Background", "Experience", "Awards", "Location of Tenure", "Self Information", "Thesis", "Key Words", "EDI in research", "Outline of Proposed Research", "Bibliography", "Justif. for Eligibility of Proposed Research", "Contributions/ Statements", "Special Circumstances", "Transcripts", and "Reports on the". The main content area is titled "Form 201 - Application Profile" and contains the following fields and options:

- Program Postgraduate Scholarships - PGS D
- Title of proposal:
- Application language: English
- Proposed starting date of award: yyyy mm
- Current status:

Below the form, there are four options (A, B, C, D) for the applicant's status. Option C and D are highlighted in a box. Below the options, there are fields for "Institution" and "Department" with a "List..." button.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (3)

PERSON PROFILE

- ✓ Self-identification statements and consent related to the **USER PROFILE**

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- ✓ If you are registered in a program in fall 2023 it must be included here.
- ✓ For completed programs, provide the date the degree requirements were met.
- ✓ If you began a master's and transferred to a doctoral program, enter your master's and select "transferred to PhD" from the drop down box. Provide a separate entry for your PhD.

EXPERIENCE

- ✓ Include both paid and unpaid experience.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (4)

AWARDS

- ✓ List only competitive awards (do not include bursaries or non-competitive travel grants).

S&F INFORMATION (scholarship/fellowship information)

- ✓ Second section: months of study in the program for which you are requesting funding. This is important to determine eligibility and must match your transcripts.

THESES COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS

- ✓ If you don't have a master's thesis, use an honours thesis. If you have neither then describe another major research project or work done to date on your doctoral program.
- ✓ Don't copy and paste your abstract. Maintain a consistent writing style with your **OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH** section.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (5)

KEY WORDS

- ✓ Your **RESEARCH SUBJECT CODE** determines which NSERC selection committee will review your proposal. Consult NSERC's [List of research subject codes for scholarships and fellowships](#) and your academic supervisor.
- ✓ If you want to be considered for a **SUPPLEMENT**, consult the relevant webpage for a list of key words.

EDI in RESEARCH

- ✓ Review [Equity, diversity and inclusion considerations at each stage of the research process](#)
- ✓ This is an opportunity to highlight EDI in your research questions, study design, methodology, data collection, analysis, or dissemination of results.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (6)

OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

- ✓ Write for your audiences: your department, UVic's campus reviewers from multiple NSERC disciplines, national reviewers associated with your research subject code.
- ✓ Make your proposal more readable with way-finding headings (as space allows).
- ✓ Use a citation style that saves space (e.g., "Recent studies [3], [4], [7] have suggested...")

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ✓ Follow the citation conventions appropriate to your discipline.

JUSTIFICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY OF PROPOSED RESEARCH

- ✓ Complete this section if your research falls under the mandate of more than one research council. This will be used only to confirm eligibility.
- ✓ If you provide a one-page summary well in advance of the deadline we can ask NSERC for advice (research council and research subject code).

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (7)

CONTRIBUTIONS AND STATEMENTS

- ✓ Follow the format instructions (e.g. use the sub-headings provided)
- ✓ 3-part section: allocate the most space to the section with the most relevance to your qualifications
- ✓ Read about NSERC's [Guidelines on the Assessment of Contributions to Research, Training and Mentoring](#) that reflect the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) (e.g., communication of results to non-specialist audiences, appropriate data stewardship, contributions to policy and practice)

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- ✓ Optional section to describe any circumstances that have affected your performance or productivity (e.g. project delays due to COVID-19 or interruption of program for parental leave)
- ✓ Be clear, brief, provide a timeframe, and avoid identifying others. Note that referees and reviewers will have access to this information.

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (8)

TRANSCRIPTS

- ✓ Must be **complete** (all post-secondary studies including transfer courses, study abroad, and programs not completed)
- ✓ Must be **up-to-date** including fall 2023 registration (this is important for proof of registration and months of study eligibility requirement)
- ✓ Transcripts from other institutions: must be **official**.
- ✓ Transcripts from UVic: **official preferred but unofficial accepted** (access through your Online Tools).
- ✓ Include one copy of the legend for each transcript.
- ✓ Must be in English, French, or accompanied by a certified translation.
- ✓ Order transcripts to be sent to you, not FGS.

Learn more about transcript requirements on the [FGS CGSD webpage](#).

APPLICATION | TIPS FOR EACH SECTION (9)

REPORTS ON THE APPLICANT (letters of reference)

- ✓ Usually one report is from your current academic supervisor, even if you have just begun your program. If your current or past supervisor is unavailable, provide an explanation in the **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES** section.
- ✓ Contact referees early and provide them with [NSERC CGSD selection criteria](#), [Instructions for completing a report on the applicant](#), and a copy of your draft proposal or the content you plan to include (e.g. CV)
- ✓ Involve referees in your application strategy: reference letters are a good place to add or emphasize qualifications that may not fit in other sections of the application
- ✓ Provide a referee deadline that is **earlier** than the UVic internal deadline

UNIVERSITY COMMENTS

- ✓ We don't use this section. We will send comments to your UVic preferred email.

RESOURCES | INFO & CONTACTS

Visit the [FGS CGSD webpage](#) for a comprehensive list of program resources.

Lisa Pender, FGS Scholarship Officer for NSERC CGSD fgsaward2@uvic.ca

Dr. George Tzanetakis, NSERC Coach for fall 2023 gtzan@cs.uvic.ca

UVic Centre for Academic Communication (CAC)

- Individual support for students writing grant proposals (your **OUTLINE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH** section).
- Visit the [online booking platform](#) to register for an account. If this is your first time visiting the CAC refer to these [helpful instructions](#).
- Book an online or in-person appointment or choose same-day written feedback (no appointment necessary).

ADVICE | DISCUSSION | QUESTIONS

FACILITATED BY

Dr. George Tzanetakis, Computer Science
NSERC Coach, fall 2023

SPECIAL GUESTS

Ian Chagunda (Chemistry), CGSD 2023
Neha Acharya-Patel (Biochemistry), CGSD 2023

