Audio Transcript: SSHRC CGSD, Part 1

[Introduction]

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

* What is the SSHRC 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 ten-minute recording presented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, please refer to the SSHRC 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 [fgsaward@uvic.ca](mailto:fgsaward@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 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (known as SSHRC), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (known as NSERC), 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

If you wish to be considered for a supplemental award, joint or special initiative and meet the eligibility criteria, you will need to make your selection from the drop down menu in your application.

You’ll find details and a description of the [additional opportunities](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx#supplement) in the SSHRC instructions. You must provide a one page justification per selection indicating how your research aligns with the supplement or initiative.

# 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.

# Agency-specific doctoral awards

# In addition to the CGS D, each agency has its own doctoral award. Only one application must be completed and submitted to be considered for both a CGS D and an agency-specific doctoral award. If, at the time of application, you have already completed more than 24 months of study in your doctoral program, you can still be considered for a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship – provided you have not exceeded more than 48 months of full-time study in your doctoral program as of December 31st, 2024. The value of the CGSD and Doctoral Fellowship are the same ($40,000 per year). SSHRC will determine which category of funding an applicant will receive based on merit and months of study already completed in the degree 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 SSHRC online system opens for applications in August 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 a SSHRC quota, meaning that SSHRC sets a maximum number of applications that we may forward to the national competition. You can inquire about our SSHRC quota at the end of August. Our quota last year was 43 and is likely to remain the same.

SSHRC 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 SSHRC CGSD applications are selected to move forward to the national competition each year. Anywhere from 40 – 50% of UVic SSHRC 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) – SSHRC, NSERC 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 SSHRC.

When you initiate your application in the SSHRC 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 [SSHRC Online System](https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en_CA). Register, then initiate your application, following the [SSHRC Applicant instructions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx). Save your information often as your proceed through the application. SSHRC resources include [accessibility services](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/accessibility-accessibilite/programs_services-programmes_services-eng.aspx) (email and telephone contact information is posted on the Online System website), and [frequently asked questions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/forms-formulaires/help_forms-aide_formulaires-eng.aspx).

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](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx#referees-repondants) are two people who will each complete a designated, specific form to support your application. SSHRC refers to these forms as the Letter of Appraisal.

A student guest-speaker will share her experience applying for the CGS D funding. She was unsuccessful in her first attempt then successful the next year she applied.

Attending the workshop also gives you the opportunity to meet and hear from our SSHRC Doctoral funding coaches, Dr. James Rowe from UVic’s department of Environmental Studies and Dr. Mary Elizabeth Leighton from UVic’s department of English.

They will be your resource for strategic advice and feedback on the written portions of your application leading-up to the early-October application submission deadline.

The workshop will not be recorded but presentation slides will be available on the FGS website after the event. These slides will be labelled SSHRC CGSD, Part 2: Application Advice and Support. Registration is not required. Bring your questions and join us on Friday, September 6th, 2024, from1:30pm to 3:30pm in David Strong C118. 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 [SSHRC Applicant instructions](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/doctoral/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx) and plan ahead... for example, order your official up-to-date transcripts as soon as possible.
3. Consult with your academic supervisor or the Graduate Advisor in your department.
4. Attend the fall workshop.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy McCarthy, Scholarship Officer, by email at [fgsaward@uvic.ca](mailto:fgsaward@uvic.ca), by telephone at (250) 472-5402, or visit the Jamie Cassels Centre, room A207.

Thank you and good luck.