

Funding Your Graduate Journey: Awards You Should Know About

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Introductions

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Welcome Tri-Council Representatives (NSERC)!

This presentation is meant as a general overview.

Applicants should always refer to the criteria and instructions on the specific award websites. Material on these websites takes precedence over any details discussed in these slides as information can change year-to-year.

A list of resources will be available at the end of the presentation.

Presentation Overview

- Internal Awards
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
- Canada Graduate Research Scholarship Programs (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
 1. Master's program
 2. Doctoral program
- Application Tips
- Question Period

Internal Awards – Donor Funded Scholarships

Value: Ranges from a few hundred dollars up to \$20,000

Funded by: Individuals or organizations, administered by Carleton

Criteria:

1. Academic merit
2. Financial need
3. Specific research areas
4. Other criteria set by award terms

How to Apply: Carleton Central >> Student Services tab >> Awards and Financial Assistance >> Graduate Online Application Forms

Must be registered full-time in the award term, not eligible if on program extension

External Awards

- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
- Tri-Council Funding: Canada Graduate Research Scholarship (CGRS), Master's and Doctoral Programs
 1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
 2. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
 3. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

→ Please read each agencies' mandate very carefully to determine which agency you should be applying to. If you are unsure, ask your research supervisor or email Graduate.Awards@carleton.ca

External Awards: General Application Assessment Categories

OGS	CGRS-Master's	CGRS-Doctoral
Academic excellence (GPA) 40%	Academic excellence 50%	Research potential 50%
Academic Excellence (other criteria) 20%	Research potential 30%	Relevant experience and achievements obtained Within and beyond academia 50%
Referee's reports 10%	Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills 20%	
Research proposal and potential 30%		

External Awards: Application Adjudication Process

Departments: Applications are first reviewed and ranked by departmental committees before moving forward to the University level committees.

>> **University Level:** University committees review departmental rankings and prepare both the recommended and alternate (reversion) lists to forward to Graduate Studies.

>> **Graduate Studies:** Graduate Studies conducts the final review and communicates the results to the funding agency.

All adjudication committees must complete EDI training, and members are informed of special circumstances to apply EDI principles in their decisions.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

- **Funding:** Province ($\frac{2}{3}$) + Carleton ($\frac{1}{3}$)
- **Value:** Up to **\$15,000/year**
→ \$5,000 per term

Duration: Minimum **2** consecutive terms, (maximum **3** terms)

- **Availability:** Quotas set by Ministry (domestic & international)
- **Applications:** Submit separately to each institution
- **Note:** Master's students can hold an OGS twice, PhD can hold an OGS four times; All students cannot exceed a lifetime maximum of six years of government funded awards*

Ontario Graduate Scholarship: Eligibility

- **Who can apply:**
 - Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons
 - International students with a valid Ontario study permit (limited awards)
- **Academic:** Minimum 10.0 GPA (A-) in each of the last 2 years (full-time equivalent)
- **Enrolment:** Must be full-time in a graduate program (2026–27)
- **Other:**
 - Cannot be in default on Canadian government-sponsored loans
 - Cannot be in or going into an extension term
 - Cannot hold another external award in the same term as an OGS scholarship

Ontario Graduate Scholarship: How to Apply

Apply Online

- Carleton Central >> Student Services>>Awards & Financial Assistance >> Graduate Application Forms (only use “Term” filter)
- Undergraduate students can also access

Deadlines

- Student Application: November 19, 2025 by 11:59 PM
- Referee: December 1, 2025

Applicants Notified: April 2026

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master's Program (CGRS-M)

- Offered through all three federal granting agencies:
 1. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
 2. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
 3. Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- **Value:** \$27,000
- **Duration:** 12 months
- **Application Deadline:** December 1, 2025, 8:00 PM EST
- **How to Apply:** Via the Research Portal for all three granting agencies
- **Results:** April 2026

CGRS – Master's Program

Eligibility overview:

- Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, or Protected person.
- Must be enrolled in, have applied for or will apply for full-time admission to a graduate program at a Canadian institution with a CGRS-M allocation
- At Carleton, must have achieved a first class average, (10.0 GPA (A-)), in each of the last two years of study (full-time equivalent).
- Cannot have previously held a CGRS-M scholarship from any of the granting agencies

CGRS-M Eligibility: Months of Study

By December 31, 2025 (year of application):

- **0–12 months full-time study** in:
 - Master's
 - Direct-entry PhD (from Bachelor's)
 - Combined Master's–PhD
 - Fast-track Master's → PhD (no master's degree conferred)

OR

- 4–12 months full-time study in a Master's finishing before award, continuing into first 12 months of PhD

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral Program (CGRS-D)

Offered through all three federal granting agencies:

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

- **Value:** \$40,000 per year, up to 36 months
- **Application Deadline:**

SSHRC and CIHR: October 6, 2025 by 11:59 PM EST

NSERC: Sept. 29, 2025 by 11:59 EST

- **How to Apply:** Via each agencies' application system
- **Results:** April 30, 2026

CGRS - Doctoral Program: Eligibility

- **Who can apply:**
 - Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or protected persons
 - **New:** International students who are enrolled by the application deadline
- **Months of study:**
 - Completed **no more than 36 months of full-time equivalent study** by December 31, 2025, in:
 1. Doctoral program
 2. PhD portion of a joint professional/PhD program (e.g., MD/PhD, JD/PhD, DVM/PhD)
 3. Joint master's–PhD program (e.g., MA/PhD, MSc/PhD, MBA/PhD).

Application Tips

- **Start early** — requirements, processes, and deadlines vary
- **Follow instructions carefully** — formatting, transcripts, page limits, etc.
- **Check file sizes** — contact us if upload issues arise (don't wait until the deadline!)
- **Select the correct Faculty & Department** — must match your program at the time of the award
- **Review carefully** — incomplete applications will be deemed ineligible
- **Verify submission** — check your status in Carleton Central (OGS) or the agency portal (Tri-Council)
- **Need help? Ask!** Connect with your department, supervisor/advisor, or email: Graduate.Awards@carleton.ca

Application Tips – Writing Your Statement

- **Showcase potential** — highlight achievements, write clearly, and demonstrate knowledge of your field
- **Be thorough** — check spelling/grammar, provide background, outline methods, and explain significance
- **Make it personal** — connect your experience to the research and why you're a strong candidate
- **Engage & refine** — write for your audience and seek feedback from peers, supervisors, or referees

Application Tips: Transcripts

What You Need:

- **Submit official, up-to-date transcripts** for all undergraduate and graduate studies
 - Up-to-date = issued in the fall of the application year (if registered) or after your last completed term (if not registered)
- **You may use official transcripts from other institutions, from previous years**
- **If you are registered this fall**, transcripts must show proof of registration (even in first term)
- **Include originals for transfer credits** — transcripts must show grades from the original institution
- **Ensure documents match** what you listed in your academic background

Application Tips: Transcripts

What You Need:

- **Include transcript legends** (often on the back); contact the institution if missing
- **Opening a transcript to scan is allowed** — combine all transcripts into one clear, legible PDF
- **Electronic transcripts with watermarks are fine**, but keep the official hard copy in case it is requested at a later time
- **Check agency websites** for full transcript requirements (links at the end)
- **Tip:** to request an official transcript from Carleton University, you can do so via Carleton Central

Application Tips: References

- **Contact referees early** — share timelines and consider setting an earlier personal deadline
- **Tri-Agency** — reference letters/reports must be received before you can submit your application
- **OGS** — referees receive a system email once you submit your application; they have until the referee deadline to upload
- **Help your referees** — provide your CV, research statement, and selection criteria
- **Your responsibility** — ensure all references are submitted by the required deadlines

Questions?

Resources

Name	Link
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)	https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/ogs/
Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Masters Program (CGRS-M)	https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsm-besrm_eng.asp
Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral Program (CGRS-D)	https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_eng.asp
Awards and Funding	https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/awards-and-funding/
Carleton Central	https://central.carleton.ca/
Contact for Award Questions	Graduate.Awards@Carleton.ca

NSERC CGRS-D and CPRA Presentations

Friday, September 5, 2025 (in English)

10 am to noon (ET)

Link: [Click here to join the session](#)

Monday, September 8, 2025 (in English)

10 am to noon (ET)

Link: [Click here to join the session](#)

Wednesday, September 10, 2025 (in English)

1 pm to 3 pm (ET)

Link: [Click here to join the session](#)