

Graduate Scholarship and Bursary Opportunities

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Introductions

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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
- Major External Awards:
 1. Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
 2. Canada Graduate Research Scholarship Programs (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
 - Master's program
 - Doctoral program

Internal Awards

Donor Funded Scholarships:

- 1. Competitive Donor Funded Awards**
- 2. Department Specific Donor Funded Awards**

Criteria:

- Academic merit
- Financial need
- Specific research areas
- Other criteria set by award terms

- 3. Graduate Research Travel Bursary**

Internal Awards

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

Eligibility: Registered full-time in the award term, not eligible if on program extension.

How to Apply to Competitive Donor Funded Awards & Graduate Research Travel Bursary:

Carleton Central >> Student Services tab >> Awards and Financial Assistance >> Graduate Online Application Forms

****Competitive donor funded award applications are now available online.**

Deadline to apply: October 7, 2026**

How to Apply to Department Specific Awards: Departments will advise, as applicable.

Major 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 (GPA) 50%	Research potential 50%
Academic Excellence (other criteria) 20%	Research potential 30%	Relevant experience and achievements obtained Within and beyond academia 50%
Referee report 10%	Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills 20%	
Research proposal and potential 30%		

Major 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 committee members complete EDI training and are advised to consider special circumstances and apply EDI principles throughout the evaluation process.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

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

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

- **Availability:** Quotas set by Ministry (domestic & international)
- **Applications:** Submitted separately to each institution.
- **Note:** Master's students can hold an OGS twice, PhD students 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 (2027–28)
- **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 via [Carleton Central](#)

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

Deadlines

- Student Application: November 16, 2026 by 11:59 PM
- Reference: December 2, 2026

Applicants Notified: April 2027

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, 2026, 8:00 PM EST
- **How to Apply:** Via the Research Portal used for all three granting agencies
- **Results:** By April 30, 2027
- **Other:** Up-to-date official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies required; two reference assessments are required.

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
 - Program must be primarily research-based and require the completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, scholarly publication, performance, recital, and/or exhibit that is evaluated through a merit review process; if admission to the research stream occurs after entry to the program, acceptance into that stream must be confirmed before the award can be held.
- 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, 2026 (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)
 - Master's program transitioning to an eligible doctoral program before the award ends

OR

- 4 -12 months of full-time study in an eligible master's program where degree requirements will be completed before award activation, allowing the award to be held during the first 12 months of the subsequent doctoral program.

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 5, 2026 by 11:59 PM EST

NSERC: Sept. 28, 2026 by 11:59 EST

- **How to Apply:** Via each agencies' application system

- **Results:** By April 30, 2027

- **Other:** Up-to-date official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies required; two reference assessments are required.

CGRS-D Scholarship Eligibility

Eligibility overview:

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, Protected Persons under subsection 95(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada), and international students
 - International students must be registered in their doctoral program of study at the time of the institutional deadline
- All applicants must have completed no more than 36 months of full-time equivalent study in the doctoral program in which funding is being requested
- Applicants cannot have previously held a CGRS-D scholarship from any of the granting agencies
- Applicants may apply a maximum of three times

CGRS-D Eligibility: Months of Study

To be eligible to apply to the CGRS-D program, you must have completed **no more than 36 months of full-time equivalent study** in the program you are requesting funding as of December 31, 2026.

- Doctoral program
- PhD portion of the joint professional undergraduate/PhD program
- Joint program

If you are registered this term, it counts towards the 36-month calculation.

Application Tips: References

- **Contact referees early** - share timelines and consider setting an earlier personal deadline
 - **Important** – for both CGRS programs reference assessment forms must be received before you can submit your application
- **Help your referees** - provide your CV, research statement, and selection criteria
- **Your responsibility** - ensure references are submitted before the application deadline

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

Questions?

Name	Resource Link
Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)	https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/ogs/
Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Masters Program (CGRS-M) Literature	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/funding-opportunity/canada-graduate-research-scholarship-masters-program
CGRS-M Application Instructions	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/canada-graduate-research-scholarship-masters-program-instructions-completing-application
Graduate Awards and Funding	https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/awards-and-funding/
Foxit PDF Editor (for CU students)	https://carleton.ca/its/all-services/computers/site-licensed-software/
How to request an official transcript from Carleton U.	https://carleton.ca/registrar/student-documents/transcripts/
Carleton Central	https://central.carleton.ca/
Graduate Research Travel Bursary	https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/awards-and-funding/internal-awards/#graduate-research-travel-bursary
Contact for Graduate Award Questions	Graduate.Awards@Carleton.ca

Name	CGRS-Doctoral Resource Links
CGRS-D Program Literature	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/funding-opportunity/canada-graduate-research-scholarship-doctoral-program
CIHR CGRS-D Application Portal	https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprtntyDtIs.do?progCd=11429&language=E&org=CIHR
CIHR CGRS-D Instructions	https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/54347.html
NSERC CGRS-D Application Portal	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/funding/online-application-systems-and-tools/online-services
NSERC CGRS-D Instructions	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/canada-graduate-research-scholarship-doctoral-or-canada-postdoctoral-research-award-programs
SSHRC CGRS-D Application Portal	https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en_CA
SSHRC CGRS-D Instructions	https://sshrc-crsh.canada.ca/en/funding/opportunities/canada-graduate-research-scholarships/doctoral-program/2026/competition/instructions/applicant.aspx
CGRS-D Assessment Criteria	https://nserc-crsng.canada.ca/en/funding-opportunity/canada-graduate-research-scholarship-doctoral-program#review