Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s (CGS-M)

October 18, 2022
McMaster University recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the “Dish with One Spoon” wampum agreement.
The CGS-M application is harmonized for all the three agencies.

The three agencies are:

- Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
Value and Duration

- Value: $17,500
- Duration: 12 months
- This award is non-renewable
Important Dates

- Eligible students must complete and submit their application in the tri-agency portal by 8:00 p.m. EST on December 1, 2022.
- Results will be available in the Research Portal on April 1, 2023.
- Students have 21 days from the date of offer to accept the award.
  - If students don’t accept the CGS-M within 21 days, the status of the award will automatically change to decline, and this cannot be reversed.
Eligibility

- Must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada
- Must have completed, as of December 31, 2022, between zero and 12 months of full-time graduate studies
- Must have achieved a first-class average, in each of the last two completed years of full-time study; (2020-21 and 2021-22)
- At McMaster, a first-class average for this competition is an A- (10/12, 80%)
- Must not have previously held a CGS-M;
- Submit a maximum of one scholarship application per academic year to either CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC.
NEW - Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative-NSERC and SSHRC only

This Pilot Initiative provides financial support to Indigenous scholars who are meritorious in the CGS M program.

Consists of a one-year, non-renewable supplement valued at $5,000 for all meritorious Indigenous CGS M recipients.

Subject to the limit of available funding.

If you self-identify as Indigenous you are eligible to apply for this initiative.
To be considered for this funding opportunity, you must

- select the Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative option from the drop-down menu
- indicate your agreement with the self-identification and consent statement by selecting the appropriate checkbox
- complete the Personal Statement (3,000 characters max)
• The Tri-Agencies are committed to excellence in research and research training. Achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding, and to respond to local, national and global challenges. With these goals in mind:
  o Supporting equitable access to funding opportunities for all members of the research community
  o Promoting the integration of equity, diversity and inclusion-related considerations in research design and practices
Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- Increasing equitable and inclusive participation in the research system, including on research teams
- Collecting the data and conducting the analyses needed to include equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in decision-making

• Through these means the agencies will work with those involved in the research system to develop the inclusive culture needed for research excellence and to achieve outcomes that are rigorous, relevant and accessible to diverse populations.
• Self-Identification data collection in support of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)
• You must complete the self-identification form found in the person profile of the Research Portal
• This data provides information on the diversity of the population applying for and receiving agency funds.
• This information increases the agencies’ capacity to monitor their progress on increasing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in their programs, to recognize and remove barriers, and to design new measures to achieve greater EDI in the research enterprise.
• If you do not want to self-identify, you have the option to choose "I prefer not to answer" for each question
• Self-identification information is not part of your application and will be not accessible to the reviewers.
We will take into consideration special circumstances that may have affected your research, professional career, record of academic or research achievement or completion of degrees.

Relevant circumstances might include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, child-rearing, illness, disability, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma and loss, family responsibilities or a pandemic.

Specify the dates for any delays or interruptions in the Leaves of absence and impact on research section of the CCV if appropriate. Approximate dates may be used if providing a timeline of a significant life event.
Program of Study Eligibility

- An eligible graduate program must have a significant research component.
- A significant research component is considered to be original, autonomous research that leads to the completion of a thesis, major research project, dissertation, scholarly publication, performance, recital and/or exhibit that is merit/expert-reviewed at the institutional level as a requirement for completion of the program.
Program of Study Eligibility (cont’d)

- Joint programs with a professional degree (for example, MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/MA, JD/PhD, MBA/PhD, MA/MBA) are eligible if they have a significant autonomous research component, as described in the last slide.

- Clinically-oriented programs of study, including clinical psychology, are also eligible programs if they have a significant research component, as described in the last slide.

- Master’s programs that are based only on course work are typically not eligible since they do not include a significant autonomous research component. If you are still unclear about this, we recommend that you contact your department for guidance.
Selection Criteria

- Academic Excellence – 50%
- Research Potential – 30%
- Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills – 20%
Application Overview

- Online application form
- The outline of the proposed research and the bibliography and citations;
- Outline of proposed research (maximum of one page);
- Bibliography/citations (maximum of one page).
  - If your outline of proposed research is longer than 1 page, we will remove the additional copy.
Application Overview (cont’d)

- Official Transcripts
  - Students are required to include all Official Transcripts (undergraduate and graduate). McMaster transcripts from the current Fall 2022 session are required for every applicant even if there are no grades. This is to confirm your full-time enrollment.
  - Include one transcript legend from each institution
- The CGS-M Canadian Common CV (CCV);
- Two reference assessments
  - You will not be able to submit your application if your reference assessments have not been submitted
How do you apply?

• On-line using the Research Portal which is hosted by NSERC
  o Read all instructions prior to beginning your application

• Select up to three universities
  o Applicants can’t select the same university twice with different departments
  o Your award is not tied to the department you indicated in your application
How do you apply? (cont’d)

• Selection process and post award administration is carried out at the university who offered you the award
  o Award is not transferable to another institution
Next Steps

- Order current official Fall 2022 transcripts from McMaster.
- Order official transcripts from any other university you have attended if you do not already have them.
- Start your CGS-M Canadian Common CV(CCV)
- Ask two referees to complete Letters of Appraisal
- Make sure to submit your entire application before the deadline
  - There are absolutely no extensions given by the Tri-Agencies
Transcripts

• Up-to-date Official transcripts are normally required for the CGS- Master’s competitions
• Up-to-date transcripts are defined as transcripts dated or issued in the fall 2022 session (if currently registered) or after the last term completed (if not currently registered)
• The widespread disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may hinder the ability of some applicants to access official and up-to-date versions of their transcripts.
• For the fall 2022 scholarship competitions, the tri-agencies will accept unofficial transcripts only if official transcripts cannot be obtained from any institution.
2022-23 Central Master’s Competition

- Awards that are part of the Master’s central competition
  - CGS-M: Canada Graduate Scholarships – Masters
    - $17,500 for 12 months
  - OGS: Ontario Graduate Scholarship or QEII-GSST: Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology
    - $15,000 for 12 months ($5,000 per term)
  - OGF: Ontario Graduate Fellowship
    - $12,000 for 12 months ($4,000 per term)
If students apply for a CGS-M at McMaster they will automatically be considered for an OGS/QEII-GSST or OGF at McMaster.

A student can only hold 1 of the above mentioned awards during the 2022-23 academic year.

Results are announced April 1st. There is lots of movement on this list, so awards are usually given out until mid-May.
Tips for writing a successful scholarship application

• Give yourself time – start preparing your application early.
• Review the 3 selection criteria so you understand what the review committee will be looking for.
• Make sure the application is complete.
• Provide only what is asked for.
• Pages must be 8 ½" x 11" (216mm x 279mm) and the font size must be 12 point Times New Roman for all attached documents.
Tips for writing a successful scholarship application

- Documents must be single spaced
- Respect page limits to avoid disqualification.
- Pay close attention to grammar and spelling.
- Have someone who knows you well from your program review/proofread your application.
- Have a friend or a relative who knows you, but not necessarily your research, review/proofread your application.
Tips for getting a great reference letter

• Choose your referees carefully.
• Assessments should be completed by individuals who are familiar enough with your research and/or other abilities that they can provide a meaningful commentary (for example, current or previous academic research supervisor, industrial supervisor, employment/volunteer supervisor, teacher or thesis advisor).
• Choose referees who have strong communication skills.
• Provide the referees with all required information including a list of your research contributions, a copy of your program of study and the deadline to submit the letter.
Tips for getting a great reference letter (cont’d)

- Give them an earlier deadline than the application due date
  - We suggest November 25th
- Send them a reminder to complete the reference letters by your suggested deadline
- Most importantly, give them time!
- It is your responsibility to ensure your references are complete and submitted early enough to allow you to submit your complete application in the Research Portal before the December 1 deadline.
Tips for writing a strong research proposal/ summary

- Carefully read the application instructions regarding the research proposal.
- Provide the adjudicators with the information they are looking for; no more, no less.
- Write in a clear, concise way, avoiding use of technical jargon so that anyone reading it will be engaged and understand your proposal.
Tips for writing a strong research proposal/summary

• Organize your ideas logically. Use titles if appropriate for your proposal.

• Make sure you are relating your research to the mandate of the specific award.

• Emphasize what makes your proposal special/original, and how it will contribute to your specific field of study.

• Take the time to write and re-write.
Thank you!

For more information, contact the School of Graduate Studies Scholarships Team at graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca