The School of Graduate Studies is pleased to provide you with information for the upcoming Fall 2019 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral competition. These prestigious scholarships awarded by CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC help McMaster attract highly qualified doctoral students.

Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada or foreign citizens are eligible to be nominated.

**Award Value**

$50,000.00/year for three (3) years

**Important Deadlines**

A two-stage internal review process is in place at McMaster to help identify the strongest applications and to select the most competitive candidates in each research mandate of CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC.

- **Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 10:00 am.** Stage 1 Letter of Intent (LOI) package is due to SGS.
- **Thursday, October 10, 2019, 10:00 am.** Stage 2 endorsed candidate applications are due to SGS.
- **Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 11:59 pm** McMaster Internal ResearchNet deadline (for students): Stage 2 endorsed candidates will submit a complete application on ResearchNet.
- **Wednesday, November 6, 2019 (8:00 pm Eastern Time)** Vanier Deadline McMaster must forward their selected nominations to the Vanier CGS program.

You will find complete application instructions in the Fall 2019 Vanier Application Process document.

**McMaster Quotas**

Universities have been assigned quotas for the number of applications that can be submitted to each agency.

- CIHR - 10 applications
- NSERC - 7 applications
- SSHRC - 4 applications

**IMPORTANT: Before beginning your application, please read ALL instructions as there are many updates and new procedures.**

**Selection Criteria**

Candidates are evaluated and selected on the basis of the following three criteria, which are weighted equally: Academic Excellence, Research Potential and Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability).

**Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships Website**

For complete instructions on how to apply to the 2019 Vanier competition, please refer to the Vanier website.
Application Documents

Included with this Vanier announcement, you will find these 4 additional documents:

#1 – Fall 2019 Vanier Application Process
#2 – 2019 Graduate Studies Approval Form – Vanier
#3 – 2019 Vanier Stage 1 Checklist
#4 – 2019 Vanier Referee Reference Document NEW

NEW: Vanier Referee Reference Document

This document is for the candidates to send to their referees. It contains pertinent information that will assist the referees in preparing effective assessments.

NEW: Research respectfully involving Indigenous communities

1. The Application/Nomination guide (see Task 10 > Overview) and Selection committee guide (see 3.1 Selection Criteria and 3.2.4 Review and pre-scoring of nominations as reviewers) now provide a more detailed explanation of what constitutes research respectfully involving Indigenous communities.

2. For applications in which the proposed research respectfully involves Indigenous communities, the nominating institution is now asked to elaborate on the institution’s resources regarding any established research-related policies and protocols (e.g., protocols for conducting research involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada; approvals for research involving the use of humans, animals or biohazards) - (see Information for nominating Institutions > Nomination letters).

Eligibility (Complete Vanier eligibility information can be found on their website)

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, you must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or a foreign citizen;
- be nominated by only one Canadian institution, which must have received a Vanier CGS quota;
- be pursuing your first doctoral degree (including joint undergraduate/graduate research program such as: MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD - if it has a demonstrated and significant research component). Note that only the PhD portion of a combined degree is eligible for funding;
- intend to pursue, in the summer semester or the academic year following the announcement of results, full-time doctoral (or a joint graduate program such as: MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD) studies and research at the nominating institution; Note that only the PhD portion of a combined degree is eligible for funding;
- not have completed more than 20 months of doctoral studies as of May 1, 2020 (see calculating months of doctoral studies below):*
- Have achieved a first-class average which is an A (11.0/12.0 or above) at McMaster, in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent; and
- Must not hold, or have a held a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC to undertake or complete a doctoral degree.
REMINDER – Eligibility: Calculating months of doctoral studies
All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, are considered in the evaluation of eligibility, and are considered to be continuous, full-time, and uninterrupted unless otherwise confirmed by the institution (including the summer months, unless on official leave). Students who studied on a part-time basis, or who interrupted their studies with their university's official approval, must outline the dates of interruption or part-time study in the Special Circumstances document.
The Vanier-Banting Secretariat (VBS) will start all calculation of the number of months completed at the beginning of the first term of PhD with the following exception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the Candidate</th>
<th>...then the secretariat will:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is registered in a combined Master’s/PhD program</td>
<td>Remove 12 months from the original PhD enrolment date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is registered in a direct-entry doctoral program (i.e. has not ever enrolled in, or earned, an Master’s degree)</td>
<td>Remove 12 months from the original PhD enrolment date</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Has been accelerated from a Master’s degree into a Doctoral program without obtaining the Master’s degree</strong></td>
<td><strong>Remove 12 months from the original Master’s enrolment date</strong> (include remaining Master’s months and any doctoral months in your calculation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is enrolled in a joint undergraduate/graduate research degree program</td>
<td><strong>Only</strong> count time spent undertaking PhD work (see notes).</td>
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Notes:

1. The VBS will count two months of part-time study as one month of full-time study.
2. Each of these programs are considered to be mutually exclusive. No more than one of the above exceptions can be applied to each nomination.
3. All interruptions, delays, part-time studies and undergraduate studies undertaken **as part of a joint undergraduate/graduate degree program** must be outlined in the **special circumstances** attachment.
   a. Note: No other information included in this document will be forwarded to the committee. All information about interruptions to your academic career, choice of nominating institution, and mobility should be included either in the Personal Leadership Statement or the Research Proposal.
Reminder: Diversity, equity and inclusion

The Vanier CGS program encourages equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), as part of the Tri-Agency's broader commitment to excellence in research and research training in Canada. EDI considerations must be taken into account throughout the Vanier CGS competition, including during the selection committee member recruitment process and during the selection, endorsement and review processes of an application.

The EDI page of the Vanier CGS website provides guidelines and resources geared towards applicants, host institutions, referees, and reviewers and readers, and addressing the following topics: research respectfully involving Indigenous communities; reducing unconscious bias; and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion more generally. Of note, institutions must comment in their letter on their commitment to fostering equity, diversity and inclusion as part of the recruitment and nomination processes. Proposals from all research areas and in both official languages are encouraged.

With the competitive nature of the program in mind, we would like to remind you to continue to be highly selective in your endorsement of nominations. In this way we can work together to control the quality of candidates to help ensure that the program is indeed supporting world-class doctoral scholars who will become the research leaders of tomorrow and without adding undue strain on the review system.

Instructions/Information for Department Administrators

- Department Graduate Administrators (or equivalent) must create an account in ResearchNet to receive access as a “Secondary User”
- Upon account confirmation from ResearchNet, please notify The School of Graduate Studies at graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca and include the name and email address that was used to create the ResearchNet account;
- Graduate Administrators (or equivalent) who already have an existing account with ResearchNet for Vanier are not required to create a new account for this year’s Vanier Competition.
- The Secondary User access will allow the administrators to review/monitor the candidates’ applications, return the candidate’s application for revisions and to upload all transcripts for their departments’ candidates.

Contact Information

For ResearchNet technical support email support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

For program related help, please contact vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

For Vanier Competition information and application process, please refer to the Vanier website.
School of Graduate Studies email address is: graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca