



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
Ms. Marcia Labiuk
Awards Officer

500 University Ctr.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3T 2N2

Tel: (204) 474-9836
Fax: (204) 474-7553
E-mail: marcia_labiuk@umanitoba.ca

September 4, 2009

To: All NSERC Eligible Departments
From: Marcia Labiuk, Awards Officer
Re: NSERC PGS competition 2010/2011

Please be advised that application forms are now available on the web at <http://nserc.ca> in a pdf format and an on-line version. Students are encouraged to use the on-line version where they must register as a user. The on-line version will enable students to save and preview their application prior to printing the final copy for submission.

For your convenience, I am including the following NSERC information to be disbursed as widely as possible:

- Highlights of the changes to the 2010/2011 competition
- Information on criteria and weightings
- Departmental ranking sheets

NSERC's deadline for receipt of applications from all universities is November 25, 2009. Departments are responsible for collecting, assessing and ranking completed applications by their own deadline and forwarding them to the **Faculty of Graduate Studies by Thursday, October 8, 2009.**

Please ensure that all applications submitted are complete and that the applicant is eligible to apply for the award. **Note that incomplete applications will be considered ineligible and returned to the Department.** If you have any questions, please contact me.

Encl.



FROM: Pamela Moss, Director, Scholarships and Fellowships Programs
Mario Lamarca, Director, Life Sciences and Special Research Opportunities
Division

TO: NSERC Scholarship Liaison Officers

C.C.: Deans of Graduate Studies

DATE: September 4, 2009

SUBJECT: **2010 NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships Competition**

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS DIVISION

Vanier CGS: Harmonized Tri-Agency Process

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have harmonized the program literature, the application and the review processes for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS) to create seamless program delivery across the three agencies. The program and application information were posted on the Vanier CGS Web site (www.vanier.gc.ca) at the end of August.

CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS)

A reminder that the second deadline for submitting CGS-MSFSS applications to the granting agencies this year is October 10, 2009.

Form 200 – Appendix 1

In accordance with the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* (ATIP), reference letters presented on letterhead paper must be accompanied by a blank copy of Appendix 1, with the referee's original signature.

Form 200 – Elimination of Appendix 2

Effective for the 2010 Competition, Appendix 2 is no longer required. The elimination of Appendix 2 will facilitate the transition toward eventual online submission, and is not expected to change the selection process within universities. Departments will still be able to include additional comments to the process (e.g. justification for submission of any application from applicants not having achieved an overall first-class average in each of the last two completed years of study, or supporting statement in the case of applicants who have completed all previous studies outside of Canada or the United States). Additional comments should be written on separate sheets and attached to the appropriate green sheet. In addition, scholarship liaison officers (SLOs) will be required to indicate the academic averages (grade point, percentage) for the second last period and the last period directly on the applicant's transcripts. For further clarification, please refer to NSERC's secure site for the document *Scholarship Liaison Officer Responsibilities in the Administration of the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships 2010 Competition*.

Eligibility Criteria

Changes brought to the research and program eligibility criteria for Scholarships and Fellowships will enable NSERC to better serve its community; they will ensure that NSERC funding is awarded to students who, through their choices of research and program of study, will form an integral part of the natural sciences and engineering community.

It is important to note that to be eligible for support from NSERC, students must be undertaking both a **program of study and research** in one of the fields that NSERC supports. The *Eligibility Criteria for*

Students and Fellows (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Eligibility-Admissibilite/students-etudiants_eng.asp) have been updated to help students identify more easily which funding agency is most appropriate for the evaluation of their application.

NSERC does not support clinically-oriented research or programs of study (e.g., clinical psychology or clinical neuropsychology). NSERC has discontinued support for joint programs with an MD component (e.g., MD/PhD). We encourage students to consult with CIHR for funding opportunities offered for these programs. Students who intend on pursuing a joint graduate program which includes a professional degree will not be eligible for support from NSERC.

The proposed research must clearly be intended to advance knowledge in the natural sciences or in engineering, and must be part of an overall research program which lies in a field that NSERC supports. The research eligibility criteria for Scholarships and Fellowships have been updated to closely reflect those presently used for the Research Grants Programs. Students are encouraged to consult with the School of Graduate Studies at their university for guidance. In the case of disciplines that fall under the mandate of more than one federal granting agency, the university is required to consult the relevant agency for a ruling.

Increased Number of PGS/CGS/PDF Committees

Due to the wide range of research disciplines covered and the significant number of applications reviewed, the Scholarships and Fellowships Selection Committee for Life Sciences and Psychology (188) has been split in two. Each new committee will be responsible for a sub-set of the Research Subject Codes formerly covered by committee 188. Committee Life Sciences A (195) will focus on Life Sciences related areas of research, and Committee Life Sciences B (196) will focus on Psychology related areas of research. The List of Research Subject Codes for Scholarships and Fellowships (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Help-Aide/ScholarshipCodes-CodesPourBourses_Eng.asp) has been updated accordingly.

CGS M and PGS M awards for 2010

In *Budget 2009*, the Government of Canada invested an additional \$35 million in NSERC, over three years, to further develop a highly skilled workforce. This additional funding allows NSERC to temporarily expand the Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program, which supports Canada's top graduate students in natural sciences and engineering. The 200 additional CGS at the doctoral level were all awarded in the 2009 competition. However, as was the case for the 2009 competition, NSERC will again be offering, in the 2010 competition, an additional 400 CGS at the master's level.

A reminder that following *Budget 2009*, NSERC's PGS program has restricted awards at the master's level to one year, which aligns our program with that of the CGS program. As of the 2009 competition, winners of master's level scholarships receive one-year awards and are not eligible for PGS M extensions.

Closure of NSERC/MITACS Scholarship program on March 31, 2009

Commitments to existing awards will be fulfilled until their end dates provided the program requirements continue to be met. Please note that this does not affect the MITACS ACCELERATE Internship Program run by MITACS.

PROGRAM REMINDERS

1. PGS Deadline Reminder:

- The deadline for receipt of PGS M and PGS D applications at NSERC is **Wednesday, November 25, 2009**.
- For PGS applicants submitting directly to NSERC, the deadline is **Thursday, October 15, 2009**.

Note: The university is responsible for notifying applicants if their application is not forwarded to NSERC.

2. **Updated Literature Posted on the NSERC Web Site:** The 2009 *Program Guide for Students and Fellows* is now available on the NSERC Web site at http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/ProgramGuide-GuideDesProgrammes_eng.asp.
3. **Updated On-line System and Form 200:** *The Application for an NSERC Scholarship or Fellowship, Form 200*, has been updated and is available on the NSERC Web Site at http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp. Please ensure that all applicants use the up-to-date version of Form 200.
4. **Global Payments Guide for Universities:** An updated version of the Canadian Universities Global Payments Guide for students holding an NSERC PGS/CGS or a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship or CGS was posted on the NSERC secure site in March 2009.
5. **Aboriginal Applicants:** NSERC is continuing to encourage Aboriginal students to pursue university studies in the natural sciences and engineering. Any Aboriginal student recommended by a Canadian university for a USRA or a PGS **will not be counted in that university's application quota**. All submitted applications from Aboriginal candidates must be listed on the *Aboriginal Applicants* form.
6. **Doctoral Prize Nominations:** The deadline for 2010 Doctoral Prize nominations is **Thursday, October 1, 2009**. The *Call for Nominations* was sent to universities in June 2009. The documents are available on the NSERC Web site at http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Prizes-Prix/Doctoral-Doctorat/Nomination-Nomination_eng.asp.
7. **Summer Program in Japan or Taiwan:** NSERC will be accepting nominations for these programs sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the National Science Council of Taiwan. They provide the opportunity for graduate students to spend an eight-week period developing collaborative research links with Japanese or Taiwanese researchers. The application deadline is November 1, 2009. Successful students nominated this year will begin in the summer of 2010. For more information, contact NSERC at schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.
8. **JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships:** NSERC will be accepting nominations for the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships Program. This program provides opportunities in universities or other research institutions in Japan for postdoctoral researchers to conduct, under the guidance of their hosts, cooperative research with leading research groups. The application deadline is January 25, 2010. For more information, contact NSERC at schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca.
9. **Northern Research Internship Eligibility Window:** Northern Research Internships are open to senior undergraduates (i.e., those in the final two years of the undergraduate degree), graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

CGS/PGS/PDF INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR Scholarship Liaison Officers (SLOs)

The information package for university scholarship liaison officers for the 2010 CGS/PGS/PDF competition has been posted on NSERC's secure Web site at <https://secure.nserc.ca/index.htm>. On this site you will find documents pertaining to the receipt, processing and review of NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship applications from your university. Please follow the guidelines carefully and provide the information needed in the format requested. The quotas will soon be posted on your individual university's site. All other documents are posted under **Documents common to all institutions – NSERC Scholarships**.

The documents you should access are:

1. **Quota:** Indicates the application quota for your university. This is a global quota and may be divided at your university between the PGS M and PGS D categories and the discipline groupings, as deemed appropriate.
2. **Table I:** Lists the selection criteria and where their indicators are found in the application form.
3. **Table II:** Lists the selection criteria and their relative weightings by program.

4. **SLO Responsibilities:** Summarizes the responsibilities of the SLOs in the administration of the PGS competition.
5. **Verification Guidelines:** Provides detailed information for verifying PGS applications.
6. **University Selection Committee Guidelines:** Provides detailed information and regulations for use by the university scholarships selection committee(s).
7. **Recommended Applicants Form:** A template to be completed by the university listing your recommended PGS applicants. The completed template is to be sent to NSERC with the application forms.
8. **Statistical Table:** A template to be completed by the university listing the number of recommended and non-recommended applicants from your university according to their status; to be submitted by February 1, 2010.
9. **Aboriginal Applicants Form:** A template to be completed by the university listing all recommended applications from Aboriginal students.
10. **Poster:** PGS Competition posters were mailed to the universities the week of August 24, 2009.

MEMO DISTRIBUTION AND THANKS

Please distribute this memo along with the **Verification Guidelines**, as widely as possible within the university – to Department Chairs, faculty members and administrative staff responsible for processing NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship applications.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office at schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca. A staff list can be found at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ContactUs-ContactezNous/Directory-Repertoire/Index_eng.asp.

On behalf of NSERC, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for your collaboration in promoting our programs and your work in relation to the annual competition.

Table I: Selection Criteria And Indicators For PGS And PDF (FORM 200)

CRITERION	INDICATORS	EVIDENCE
Academic Excellence (PGS M 50%) (PGS D 30%) (PDF – N.A.)	Academic record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Transcripts
	Departmental/university comments (e.g. for justification of exceptions or to explain international degrees)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free-form document (maximum one page)
	Scholarships/awards (competitiveness, amount, duration and prestige)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4 - Scholarships and Other Awards Offered
	Duration of previous studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1 - Academic Background • Page 5 - Thesis Completed or in Progress
Research Ability or Potential (PGS M 30%) (PGS D 50%) (PDF 70%)	Scholarships/awards (competitiveness, amount, duration and prestige)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4 - Scholarships and Other Awards Offered
	Duration of previous studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1 - Academic Background • Page 5 - Thesis Completed or in Progress
	Academic training and relevant work experience (co-op included)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 2 - Academic, Research and Other Relevant Work Experience • Contributions and Statements – Part III, Applicant's Statement • Appendix 1
	Justification for location of tenure (PDF Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 6 - Justification for Location of Tenure (PDF Only)
	Contribution to research and development (publications, patents, reports, posters)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 5 – Summary of Thesis Most Recently Completed or in Progress • Contributions and Statements – Part I, II, and III • Appendix 1
	Research proposal (feasibility, merit and significance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of Proposed Research
	Critical thinking, application of knowledge, judgment, originality, initiative, autonomy, enthusiasm for research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions and Statements – Part III, Applicant's Statement • Appendix 1

CRITERION	INDICATORS	EVIDENCE
	Ability to complete projects within an appropriate time period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 1 – Academic Background • Page 5 – Summary of Thesis Most Recently Completed or in Progress • Appendix 1
<p>Communication , Interpersonal and Leadership Abilities (PGS 20%) (PDF 30%)</p> <p><i>Note: Consider length of time in Canada for applicants whose mother tongue is neither English nor French.</i></p>	Awards for papers, reports, posters or oral presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 4- Scholarships and Other Awards Offered (e.g., best paper award at a conference)
	Quality of presentation of application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of Proposed Research • Page 6 - Justification for Location of Tenure (PDF only) • Contributions and Statements – Part III, Applicant’s Statement
	Participation in publication writing (e.g., Contributions and Statements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions and Statements – Part II, Most Significant Contributions to R&D • Appendix 1
	Rating and detailed evaluation of applicant	Appendix 1
	Professional and extra curricular interactions and collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, and peers (e.g. teaching, mentoring, supervising, project managing, chairing committees, organising conferences/meetings, elected positions and industrial work experience)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 2 – Academic, Research and Other Relevant Work Experience • Contributions and Statements – Part III, Applicant’s Statement • Appendix 1



NSERC
Postgraduate Scholarships and Postdoctoral Fellowships
Criteria and Relative Weightings
Competition 2010

Table II: Relative Weightings 2010			
Criterion	PGS M	PGS D	PDF
Academic Excellence	50	30	N.A.
Research Ability/ Potential	30	50	70
Communication, Interpersonal & Leadership Abilities	20	20	30
Total	100	100	100



Guidelines for the University Scholarships Selection Committee(s)

Check the 2009 *Program Guide for Students and Fellows* for further information on the PGS program (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/ProgramGuide-GuideDesProgrammes_eng.asp).

Background:

Each university is given an overall quota of applications that it may submit to NSERC. The University Scholarship Liaison Officer (SLO) will advise you of your university's quota. The university is free to determine how it will divide the quota between the PGS M & PGS D applications, and among the ten NSERC committees. Please note that any self identified Aboriginal student recommended by your university for a PGS will not be counted in your university's application quota.

How to Rank the Applicants:

- Rank together all currently registered students (full and part-time) and all non-registered applicants who will have completed their degree requirements in 2009. This should also include any self identified Aboriginal students even though they are not part of the quota.
- Rank all PGS M applicants together, regardless of whether they are undergraduate or graduate students.

Which Applicants to Recommend:

- Recommend the best applicants, regardless of their current status or proposed location of tenure.
- Recommend only applicants who have obtained an overall **first-class average** in each of the last two completed years (24 months) of study. For exceptions, a written justification must be provided, specifying the reasons that could offset a marginal academic record. This justification may be included as a statement from the Committee appended to the appropriate green sheet (ie Recommended Applicants sheet). **Use a separate sheet for each applicant.** Do not use this justification letter to indicate that the student is a self identified aboriginal student and will not be included as part of the university quota. The university must indicate such on the *Aboriginal Applicants* form.
- A Committee statement may be appended if necessary, to address any unusual situation that you wish to communicate to NSERC. The statement will be appended to the appropriate green sheet.

For reference purposes, please consult:

- **Table I:** describes the selection criteria and their indicators in the application. It is used by the NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships Selection Committees.
- **Table II:** shows the relative weightings assigned to each criterion.



Guidelines for the Verification of NSERC PGS M and PGS D Applications for the 2010 Competition

Please read the information section on Postgraduate Scholarships in the 2009 *Program Guide for Students and Fellows* (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/ProgramGuide-GuideDesProgrammes_eng.asp).

Applicant Eligibility:

Ensure that the applicant:

- is eligible to apply as of November 25, 2009, as described in the 2009 *Program Guide for Students and Fellows*.
- is currently registered full or part-time or on an approved leave of absence at your university, **or** is not registered and has completed all requirements for a degree from your university in 2009.
- if registered, is registered in an NSERC-supported field. (Please contact NSERC if you are unsure.)
- is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada as of November 25, 2009.
- has a first-class average in each of the last two completed years (24 months) of study in a field supported by NSERC (2 years of part-time study equals 1 year of full-time study).

Proposed research and program of study:

For each application, verify that:

- the research subject code corresponds to the applicant's **proposed** field of study (see Form 200).
- the proposed research is in an area of natural sciences or engineering supported by NSERC. Do not send an application to NSERC from an applicant who should be applying to CIHR or SSHRC. You will not be able to replace this application if it is rejected by NSERC. If in doubt, contact NSERC as soon as possible.
- the program of study the applicant is pursuing or intends to pursue is eligible for NSERC support. Clinically-oriented programs (e.g. clinical psychology) or joint degree programs including a professional degree (e.g. MD/PhD) are not eligible. If in doubt, contact NSERC as soon as possible.

Completeness:

Ensure that the applicant:

- used a font comparable to 12 point, Times New Roman regular.
- signed the cover page.
- completed **ALL** sections of Form 200, including the free form section (may indicate "N.A.", where necessary).
- respected the page limits.

Appendix 1:

For each application, verify that:

- two (2) Appendix 1 forms have been completed.
- both Appendix 1 forms are signed. If a reference letter is presented on letterhead paper, a blank copy of Appendix 1 with the referee's original signature must be attached to the letter, in accordance with the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* (ATIP).

Appendix 2:

NEW THIS YEAR – Appendix 2 is no longer required:

- Departments will still be able to include additional comments to the process, such as justification for recommending an applicant who has not achieved a first-class average during the last two years of study, or description of international degrees or diplomas used as a basis for the applicant's admission to the current program. These comments should be written on separate sheets and attached to the appropriate green sheet.
- For internal evaluation purposes universities may request that each department provide an evaluation for the applicants that they are recommending to the Faculty (School) of Graduate Studies. This information must not be included with the applications when submitted to NSERC.

Ensure that:

- the academic average and maximum possible average for the last two completed periods of study have been indicated directly on the applicant's transcripts.
 - See instructions for calculating the average of the last and second last periods in the document *Scholarship Liaison Officer Responsibilities in the Administration of the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships 2010 Competition* on NSERC's secure Web site.
- If a student has self-identified as an Aboriginal, the application will not be included as part of the university quota, the university must indicate this information on the *Aboriginal Applicants* form (template provided on the NSERC secure Web site).

Transcripts:

Verify that the transcripts:

- of all university studies in the natural sciences and engineering are included;
 - including any transferred courses taken at other universities.
- are official, original, up-to-date, clear, and suitable for photocopying. Certified copies will be accepted **only** for transcripts from foreign locations where official transcripts would be hard to obtain.
- clearly indicate the weighted average for each of the applicant's last two completed periods of study.
- indicate any semesters when the applicant was not a full-time student or was registered even though no courses were taken.
- provide the exact date when a student was transferred from a master's degree to a doctoral degree without having completed their Master's.
- are translated if the original is in a language other than English or French.
- **are accompanied by a supporting statement in the case of applicants who have completed all previous studies outside of Canada or the United States.** (Statement about the academic strength of the applicant and the reputation of the university at which the applicant's studies were completed to be provided by the department chair, the Faculty of Graduate Studies or the University Scholarships Selection Committee.)

Incomplete applications may be rejected by NSERC or disadvantaged in the review process.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND RECOMMENDED
NSERC POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (PGSM)
2010-2011

Deadline: October 8, 2009

*Recommended students must have a minimum GPA of 3.75 in **each** of the last two full years of study.
Incomplete applications will be returned to the Department

DEPARTMENT:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE NUMBER:

PGSM – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND RECOMMENDED IN ORDER OF MERIT

1.	11.
2.	12.
3.	13.
4.	14.
5.	15.
6.	16.
7.	17.
8.	18.
9.	19.
10.	20.

COMMENTS:

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

SIGNATURE:

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND RECOMMENDED
NSERC POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS (PGSD)
2010-2011**

Deadline: October 8, 2009

*Recommended students must have a minimum GPA of 3.75 in each of the last two full years of study.
Incomplete applications will be returned to the Department.

DEPARTMENT:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE NUMBER:

PGSD – HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AND RECOMMENDED IN ORDER OF MERIT

1.	11.
2.	12.
3.	13.
4.	14.
5.	15.
6.	16.
7.	17.
8.	18.
9.	19.
10.	20.

COMMENTS:

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

SIGNATURE:

NOT RECOMMENDED ONLY

NSERC POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Note: Please do not forward not recommended applications. It is the department's responsibility to contact those students who are not recommended to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Any not recommended applications forwarded to Graduate Studies will be returned.

2010-2011

DEPARTMENT:

CONTACT PERSON:

PHONE NUMBER:

PGSM

1.

7.

2.

8.

3.

9.

4.

10.

5.

11.

6.

12.

PGSD

1.

7.

2.

8.

3.

9.

4.

10.

5.

11.

6.

12.

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

SIGNATURE: