



**FROM:** Serge Villemure, Director, Scholarships, Fellowships &  
Chairs for Women in Science and Engineering Programs

**TO:** NSERC Scholarships Liaison Officers (SLO)

**C.C.:** Deans of Graduate Studies  
**DATE:** September 10, 2014

**SUBJECT:** 2015 NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships Competition

## **UPDATES FROM THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS DIVISION**

### **1. Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGS M) Program**

The CGS M program description, as well as the *Research Portal* and *Canadian Common CV* will be posted shortly. For more information, consult the [Tri-Agency Harmonization of the Canada Graduate Scholarships](#) web page. Enhancements were made to the *Research Portal* facilitating the processes for applicants and SLOs. These enhancements will serve as a foundation for the future harmonization of the doctoral program.

### **2. Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS D)/NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (PGS D) Programs**

There are no changes to the CGS/PGS D programs. Up-to-date program literature and forms are available on the [NSERC website](#). **Universities must submit their quota of PGS D applications to NSERC by Tuesday, November 25, 2014, at 8:00 p.m., ET.**

#### **Transcripts for PGS D Applications**

The inclusion and completeness of each applicant's transcripts/proofs of registration is essential for NSERC staff to determine eligibility and is an integral part of the evaluation material reviewed by selection committees. This includes transcripts for programs of study started in the fall session of the year of application. Refer to the Guidelines for the Verification of NSERC PGS D Applications (included as part of the SLO Information Package) and the [instructions](#) for completing an application for further details.

#### **NSERC PGS D Application Quotas**

For most universities, the calculated quota is a function of the average number of PGS and CGS awarded to students applying through the university, over the past three years, at the Masters and Doctoral levels. Those universities who qualify for a quota of two or less will receive a quota of two (2), the minimum. The PGS D quotas for the 2015 competition will be posted on the [secure website](#) shortly.

### **3. NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF) Program**

Up-to-date program literature and forms are available on the [NSERC website](#).

Through consultations with the community and following a recent evaluation of the PDF program, NSERC is committed to address some of the feedback received regarding the advancement of award announcement, the value of awards, and how to address application pressure. NSERC will announce any decisions relating to these issues as soon as possible.

Effective the 2015 competition, the award announcement for the PDF competition will take place on January 21, 2015. Changes to the administrative timelines have been made; the competition deadline

remains unchanged.

**4. *Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships (Banting PDF) Program***

The 2014-2015 competition has been launched. Updated program literature is available on the [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) website. The deadline for submitting applications is **September 24, 2014**.

**5. *Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS) Program***

Consult the [Vanier CGS](#) website for information on program changes, and updated literature for the upcoming competition. The deadline for submitting nominations is **November 5, 2014**.

**6. *Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (MSFSS) Program***

Up-to-date program literature is available on the [NSERC website](#). The deadline for submitting applications is **October 10, 2014**.

**7. *Summer Program in Japan or Taiwan***

Applications to the Summer Programs in Japan or Taiwan must be made through the [Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Program](#). Consequently, you must hold a Canada Graduate Scholarship to be eligible. For more information, contact NSERC at [Japan-Taiwan@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:Japan-Taiwan@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)

**8. *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellowships (JSPS)***

NSERC will be accepting nominations for the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships Program. The application deadline is January 25, 2015. For more information, contact NSERC at [Japan-Taiwan@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:Japan-Taiwan@nserc-crsng.gc.ca).

**9. *Eligibility Criteria for Students and Fellows (PGS D and PDF)***

Universities and applicants must consult the [Eligibility Criteria for Students and Fellows](#) section of the [2014 Program Guide for Students and Fellows](#) for important information on eligibility criteria pertaining to proposed program of study and research. Applicants should also consult the tri-agency document [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#) which contains important information, and guidelines for each agency, to help select the one best suited to consider their application.

**10. *Justification for Eligibility of Proposed Research (PGS D and PDF)***

Applicants must complete this section of the application if their research has any link with, or overlap or relevance to, health or social sciences and humanities. This justification will be used by NSERC when evaluating the eligibility of the proposed research and must accompany the application at the time of submission. Applicants whose application is rejected because of ineligible subject matter will not be allowed to submit the justification afterwards. Consult the [instructions](#) for completing an application for further details.

**11. *NSERC/SSHRC Canadian Universities Global Payments Guide 2014***

An updated version of the guide was posted on the NSERC [secure website](#) in May 2014.

**PGS/CGS D INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS LIAISON OFFICERS (SLOs)**

The information package for university SLOs for the 2015 PGS/CGS D competition has been posted on

NSERC's [secure website](#). On this site you will find documents pertaining to the receipt, processing and review of NSERC PGS D applications from your university. All documents are posted under **Documents common to all institutions – NSERC Scholarships**. Please follow the guidelines carefully and provide the information needed in the format requested.

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 disciplines 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. **Scholarships Liaison Officer (SLO) Responsibilities in the Administration of the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (PGS D) 2015 Competition:** Summarizes the responsibilities of the SLOs in the administration of the PGS D competition.
5. **Guidelines for the Verification of NSERC PGS D Applications 2015 Competition:** Provides detailed information for verifying PGS D applications.
6. **Guidelines for the University Selection Committee(s):** Provides detailed information and regulations for use by the university scholarships selection committee(s).
7. **2015 Recommended PGS D Applicants Form:** All universities must send NSERC an unranked list of the applicants that were forwarded (with Aboriginal applicants identified) by email to [Schol-SLO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:Schol-SLO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca). If a university wishes to provide a justification for the submission of an applicant who does not meet the eligibility criterion of having obtained a first-class average in each of the last two completed years of study, they must do so in a separate document attached to this e-mail.

## **MEMO DISTRIBUTION AND THANKS**

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

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office at [Schol-SLO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:Schol-SLO@nserc-crsng.gc.ca). You can also search our [staff directory](#).

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