



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 11, 2015

SUBJECT: **2016 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 in the [PGS D Program Guide](#). **Universities must submit their quota of PGS D applications to NSERC by Wednesday, November 25, 2015, at 8 p.m., EST.**

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. If no transcript for the fall session is available, the university must submit a letter confirming the applicant's registration status. 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 - Form 201](#) 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 2016 competition will be posted on the [secure website](#) shortly.

3. *NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships (PDF) Program*

Up-to-date program literature and forms are available in the [PDF Program Guide](#).

Effective as of the 2015 competition, changes to the administrative timelines were made in order to advance the award announcement for the PDF competition. For the 2016 competition, NSERC will notify all applicants of the results by mail by the end of January 2016. The competition deadline remains unchanged; NSERC must receive applications electronically by **October 15, 2015, at 8 p.m. EST.**

4. [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships \(Banting PDF\) Program](#)

The 2015-2016 competition has been launched. Updated program literature is available on the [Banting PDF](#) website. The deadline for submitting applications is **September 23, 2015**.

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 4, 2015**.

6. [Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements \(CGS-MSFSS\) Program](#)

Up-to-date program literature is available in the [CGS-MSFSS Program Guide](#). The deadline for submitting applications is **October 10, 2015**.

7. [Summer Program in Japan or Taiwan](#)

Consult the [Summer Programs in Japan or Taiwan](#) page of the NSERC website for information on program changes and updated literature for the upcoming competition.

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

New this year: Applications to the Summer Program in Japan must be sent to the Japan International Opportunities Program at jiop@usask.ca.

8. [Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellowships \(JSPS\)](#)

Consult the [JSPS](#) web page for information on program changes and updated literature for the upcoming competition.

NSERC will be accepting nominations for the JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowships Program. The application deadline is **January 25, 2016**. For more information, contact NSERC at schol@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 [2016 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. Note that, as of August 2015, the NSERC mandate eligibility guidelines in the [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#) document have been updated to provide greater clarity in determining the eligibility of applicants' proposed research. Additionally, an [Addendum to the Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health](#), which contains examples of eligible and ineligible research topics, has been added to the NSERC website.

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 and Application - Form 201](#) for further details.

11. NSERC/SSHRC Canadian Universities Global Payments Guide 2015

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

PGS/CGS D INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR SLOs

The information package for university SLOs for the 2016 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. **Appendix A:** Lists the selection criteria, their relative weightings by program, and where their indicators are found in the application form.
3. **SLO Responsibilities in the Administration of the NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (PGS D) 2016 Competition:** Summarizes the responsibilities of the SLOs in the administration of the PGS D competition.
4. **Guidelines for the Verification of NSERC PGS D Applications 2016 Competition:** Provides detailed information for verifying PGS D applications.
5. **Guidelines for the University Selection Committee(s):** Provides detailed information and regulations for use by the university scholarships selection committee(s).
6. **2016 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. 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 the email.

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. 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.