



Guidelines for the University Scholarships Selection Committee(s)

Consult the [PGS D Program Guide](#) for further information on the Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (PGS D) program

Background:

Each university is given a quota of applications that it may submit to NSERC for the PGS D competition. 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 disciplines.

When evaluating the Applicants:

- Evaluate together all currently registered students (full and part-time) and all non-registered applicants who will have completed their degree requirements in 2015.

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 of study (full-time equivalent).

First Class Average:

First class average is defined as a minimum grade of A- in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent; two years of part-time study equals one year of full-time study). The last two years of completed study should be the 24 months prior to the last day that the student was registered in his/her program (or September 1st of the year of application for students still registered). The average should be calculated for each of these years separately as students are required to have a first class average in each of the two years; however, if there is only one mark during the full two years, then that is the mark used to determine eligibility.

Exceptions:

If applicable, prepare a statement (one for each applicant) that will be sent to NSERC along with the *2016 Recommended PGS D Applicants* form. This statement should be used to:

- specify the reasons that could offset a marginal academic record;
- describe international degrees or diplomas used as a basis for the applicant's admission to the current program; and/or
- address any unusual situation that you wish to communicate to NSERC.
- *Note: Do not use this statement to indicate that the student is a self-identified Aboriginal student.*

For reference purposes, please consult:

- **Appendix A:** describes the selection criteria, their relative weightings, and their indicators in the application. It is used by the NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships Selection Committees.