



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Pascal Papathanasakis, Graduate Awards Officer, Federal
CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Charmaine Williams, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid
Date: July 6, 2020
Re: 2021 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)

Award Overview

Student submission deadline:	Monday, August 31st, 2020 (online application submission)
Deadline for Referees:	Date set by applicant
Value/Duration:	\$50,000 per year for three years
Level of study:	To support PhD, or combined MA/PhD or MD/PhD
Required Legal Status:	Domestic or International
Results:	Early April 2021 directly from Vanier

Purpose:

The Vanier CGS program aims to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting students who demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health. The Vanier CGS program strongly encourages candidates to pursue their studies beyond the university that granted their previous degree(s).

Eligibility to Apply:

Please refer to the Vanier website for complete [eligibility requirements](#).

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, applicants must:

- be nominated by only one Canadian university, which has received a [Vanier CGS allocation](#).
- be pursuing their **first** doctoral degree (including the PhD portion of a joint program including MD/PhD, JD/PhD) full-time at the nominating university in the academic year immediately following the of release of results in April;
- have completed no more than:
 - **20 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program as of May 1, 2021;
 - **32 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program, by May 1st, 2021 if enrolled in a joint graduate research program, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD, DVM/PhD. Applicants that fall into this category have access to the 32-month window whether or not they were previously enrolled in a Master's program; or
 - **32 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program by May 1, 2021 if accelerated directly from a Bachelor's to a PhD (no time spent in a Master's program); or
 - **32 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program by May 1, 2021 if accelerated from a Master's degree into a Doctoral program **without obtaining the Master's degree**.
 - See number of [Number of months of doctoral studies](#)
- have achieved a first-class average (A-), in **each** of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent;
- not hold or have held a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from [CIHR](#), [SSHRC](#) or [NSERC](#) to undertake or complete a doctoral program (or combined MA/PhD or MD/PhD)

Note: Applicants may apply to both the Vanier CGS program and another doctoral-level scholarship/fellowship program (e.g. PGS D) under the same or different federal granting agency in the same academic year, provided that the research proposed in each application falls within the mandate of the federal granting agency to which the application is submitted. Applicants being considered for a Vanier CGS may not apply for a CGS Master's award in the same year.

Nomination:

Applicants must be nominated by the institution at which they wish to study and hold the award. Applicants seeking institutional nomination must first receive the endorsement of their proposed graduate unit through a local selection process. Applicants seeking this endorsement must submit a completed Vanier CGS application using the [ResearchNet](#) application system. Graduate units will view the submitted applications from candidates seeking endorsement via ResearchNet.

Nomination Letters must be completed and **signed** by the **Department Head** nominating the candidate (see SGS Instructions to Administrators for guidelines on preparing this letter and candidate selection to be distributed later in July).

Application Process:

Applicants should refer to the Vanier website for step by step [application/nomination instructions](#). The ResearchNet application will only be accessible to applicants until the published ***Institution Internal Deadline*** of **Sept 21st at 8pm**, at which time it will go offline.

Applicants must complete the entire application process by **Monday, August 31, 2020** to be eligible for consideration, this includes:

- contacting their proposed graduate unit regarding their specific student submission deadline and requirements;
- submitting a completed Vanier CGS application via [ResearchNet](#); and all original official transcripts to Chau Dang. (**Reminder:** Institutions will be required to include an evaluation/summary of all

foreign transcripts. In order to assist with this task, foreign transcripts submitted by the applicant should be accompanied by a grade legend.)

- **New:** Applicants are now required to submit a completed [Doctoral Studies Timeline](#) form as a PDF file, along with the Official Transcripts to Chau Dang.
- **New:** Vanier now requires applicants to systematically examine how differences in identity factors (such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability) affect the outcomes of research and the impacts of research findings. Applicants are now encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see [Application/nomination instruction - Task 10](#)).

Please note the following reminders:

- Students are strongly encouraged to complete the “Identify Referee” task on ResearchNet well in advance as referee assessments must be completed and submitted by the referee before the student can complete the submission by the graduate unit deadline. New this year, applicants will be able to determine individual deadlines for their referees on ResearchNet. As a result, there will no longer be a single deadline for all referees.
- Applicants are required to upload **two leadership reference letters** as separate PDF attachments under the same task (the ability to upload the second letter will appear after the first one has been uploaded). In addition, **two confidential academic assessments** will be requested and submitted through ResearchNet. Note: Vanier recommends that each of these come from four individuals but letters from the same sources will not be declared ineligible.
- All information about interruptions to a student’s academic career, choice of nominating institution, and mobility must be included the Personal Leadership Statement instead of a “special circumstances” document.
- The students’ proposed research project and doctoral program of study must be eligible within the mandate of the agency to which the nomination will be submitted. If there is any doubt (especially for those applying to SSHRC or NSERC whose subject matter touches upon health in **any** capacity), students are urged to email the granting agency directly with a one page summary of their research to seek **written confirmation** in advance of submitting their application. Complete guidelines on selecting the appropriate federal granting agency are available at www.science.gc.ca.

Contacts & Resources:

Graduate unit quotas and instructions for submission to SGS will be forwarded separately later in July.

Questions regarding the Vanier Awards competition can be directed to Vanier at info@vanier.gc.ca or the Graduate Awards Office at the School of Graduate Studies

Vanier CIHR

Olivera Joksimovic
Graduate Awards Officer
416-946-0808
o.joksimovic@utoronto.ca

Vanier NSERC

Pascal Papathanasakis
Graduate Awards Officer, Federal
416-978-8260
p.papathanasakis@utoronto.ca

Vanier SSHRC

Stacey Kwan
Graduate Awards Officer, Provincial
416-978-2205
staceym.kwan@utoronto.ca

For more information visit:

[Vanier website](#)

[U of T Vanier website](#)