

SGS Award Announcement

To: Canada Graduate Scholarship Holders
From: Debbie Chau, Graduate Awards Officer
Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies, and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Yana Yunusova, Acting Vice-Dean, Students; Emma Thacker, Acting Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid
CC:
Date: August 8, 2022
Re: **2022-2023 Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements for CGS Award Holders**

Award Overview

Student Deadline: September 19, 2022
Value/Duration: Up to \$6,000 to fund 2-6 months of travel
Level of study: Master's or Doctoral
Eligibility: CGS award holders (CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC)
Required Legal Status: Canadian citizen or permanent resident
Where to apply: SGS Graduate Awards Office

Purpose

The Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS) Program supports high calibre Canadian graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions abroad. By accessing international scientific research and training, CGS-MSFSS recipients will contribute to strengthening the potential for collaboration between Canadian universities and affiliated research institutions and universities, or other research institutions outside of Canada. A total of 250 awards are available Canada-wide each year. The current distribution of supplements among the three agencies is: 125 for SSHRC, 80 for NSERC, and 45 for CIHR.

Eligibility to Apply

In order to be eligible, you must:

1. have accepted or hold one of the following awards:
 - Canadian Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS M);
 - CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Doctoral Award (CGS D);
 - NSERC Alexander Graham Bell Doctoral (CGS D);
 - SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral (CGS D); or
 - Vanier CGS
2. depart for your proposed trip abroad:
 - after the CGS-MSFSS federal competition close date (October 10, 2022*); and
 - within one year of receiving the notice of award for the CGS-MSFSS; but
 - no later than the last day of your CGS award tenure

3. be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada by the application deadline;
4. propose a research period of a minimum of two months to a maximum of six months; and
5. not hold or have held another CGS-MSFSS.

To remain eligible, successful recipients must:

1. hold an active CGS award at the time your research study abroad period starts;
2. be registered full time in a graduate research studies program at a Canadian institution for the duration of the research study period abroad; and
3. return to complete the degree in Canada.

Complete program details are available on the single harmonized program description hosted on NSERC's website (see below under Contacts and Resources).

Safety Abroad

Please ensure you comply with university travel guidelines and restrictions. For the most up to date information, refer to the [U of T COVID-19 Information for Students webpage](#).

Safety Abroad procedures are mandatory for all U of T students travelling outside of Canada, including to the U.S.A., and must be completed before the travel). Travel for in-person conferences that is conducted without prior completion of all Safety Abroad requirements would render students ineligible.

The following steps must be completed prior to departure for in-person conferences:

Review the [Safety Abroad website](#) for details on what action is necessary prior to your travel date; Contact the Safety Abroad Office directly by emailing safety.abroad@utoronto.ca to discuss your planned travel and be added to the [Safety Abroad Registry](#);
Sign the Consent and Terms of Participation waiver forms;
Complete the online [Safety Abroad pre-departure workshop](#) (valid for 1.5 years); and
Obtain supplementary health insurance (if not already covered).

Application Process

Applicants must submit an electronic copy of their completed application as a single PDF file via email to the [SGS Graduate Awards Officer](#). Applicants are encouraged to visit for additional information on the application process. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Each application package must contain the following items: Incomplete applications will not be considered. Each application package must contain the following items:

1. Application Forms

The MSFSS application for all three agencies should be obtained from the single harmonized program description hosted on [NSERC's website](#). Each agency has its own application form and instructions, and care should be taken to ensure that the appropriate form is used. The completed and signed application package must be emailed as a single PDF file to the [SGS Graduate Awards Officer](#) for consideration.

For NSERC and SSHRC: Applicants must complete the individual agency's web-based application form, which will generate an application number and PDF file.

For CIHR: Applicants must complete the fillable PDF application form.

Budget Proposal: The supplement covers costs associated with travel (such as accommodation, meals, tuition, insurance and other necessary, non-research-related costs) during the research study period abroad. Costs directly related to the research must be covered by other funding sources.

Note: Students are to include only eligible expenses in the “Proposed Expenditures” section of the MSFSS Application form (as above). If there is a need to identify other ineligible expenses in your application, (e.g., visa fees, participant fees, and local transportation expenses), you may list these under the “Other Travel Related Expenses” section. However, **they will be excluded** when determining your grant value. Note the Tri-Agency normally caps the grant amount at the student’s estimated budget amount or \$6,000, whichever is lower. Therefore, it is recommended to be realistic and not underestimate the amount that is needed.

2. Intended Research Plan

The Research Plan should be a maximum **two-page description (this includes all references and citations)** of:

- the intended research activities during the research study period abroad (including objectives, methodology, timelines and expected outcomes);
- an indication of how this relates to the applicant’s CGS research topic; and
- a description of the potential benefits to be derived from working at, or attending, the host institution in relation to current research objectives

Applicants are encouraged to review the selection criteria on the granting agency websites before preparing a research plan.

3. Two Signed Letters of Support

Letters must be emailed directly from the Supervisor as a PDF attachment to the [SGS Graduate Awards Officer](#) with “MSFSS Letter of Support” in the subject line. Letters may only be a maximum of one page in length, submitted **on official letter head and signed**. Any translations must be performed by a certified translator.

- a) **The letter from the current U of T Supervisor** must include a justification or explanation as to why this research travel is required to complete the applicant’s thesis or dissertation. The letter must also confirm the applicant’s research is related to their CGS research topic.
- b) **The letter from the host Supervisor** must come directly from the host Supervisor. A letter of admissions as a visiting scholar is not sufficient. Additionally, this letter must detail any resources they will be able to provide - e.g., supervising time, equipment, access to labs, libraries, etc., and any additional financial support. Non-academic host supervisors must demonstrate that they have experience supervising graduate student research.

4. Consent Form

All applicants are required to submit a signed copy of the Consent to Disclose Personal Information form. Please find the document at the following sites:

NSERC: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/doc/Students-Etudiants/GS-MSFSS_TCForm_e.pdf

CIHR: 1) http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/applicant_consent_form_fillable_e.pdf; and

2) https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/documents/consent_disclosure_form-eng.pdf

SSHRC: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/forms-formulaires/pdf/Consent_to_Disclosure-Consentement_a_la_divulgation-e.pdf

Results

SGS will notify all applicants of the results of the University competition prior to the Tri-agency application deadline. Decisions regarding the national competition are usually released two months after the competition deadline directly to students by the granting agency.

Contact and Resources

For more information, please contact the SGS Graduate Awards Officer, at debbie.chau@utoronto.ca or the council administering your CGS award (for NSERC and SSHRC inquiries, be sure to include the subject line MSFSS in your email).

For complete program information please refer to the [Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Program website](#).

CIHR

CGS-MSFSS Program Design and Delivery Branch

Email: CGSMSFSS-SEEMSBESC@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

NSERC

CGS-MSFSS Scholarships and Fellowships Division

Email: schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

SSHRC

CGS-MSFSS Research Training Portfolio

Email: fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca