

# SGS Award Announcement

**To:** Graduate Chairs/Directors, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Administrators – Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering (Applied Science & Engineering), Department of Computer Science (Arts & Science)

**Re:** 2023-2024 Bell Graduate Scholarships

When communicating this announcement to students, **please include information specific to your graduate unit's internal competition** (e.g., internal deadline(s), contact information for the submission of the applications).

## Award Overview

<b>Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:</b>	<b>June 2, 2023</b>
<b>Value/Duration:</b>	\$20,000 for one year
<b>Level of Study:</b>	Master's or Doctoral
<b>Required Legal Status:</b>	Domestic (Ontario resident)*
<b>Results</b>	July 2023

## Purpose

The Bell Graduate Scholarships provide financial assistance to eligible graduate students registered in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering and the Department of Computer Science who are conducting research within the following areas: software, information systems, human computer interaction, and computer engineering. Eight (8) scholarships will be awarded for the 2023-24 academic year (4 per graduate unit).

## Eligibility

At the time of nomination, candidates **must**:

- Be engaged in one of the following research areas:
  - Software;
  - Information systems;
  - Human computer interaction; or
  - Computer engineering.
- Be a currently registered student in a full-time U of T graduate degree program or have accepted an offer of admission to a full-time U of T graduate degree program (commencing September 2023) within the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) or the Department of Computer Science (CSC);
- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, or protected person under subsection 95(2) of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act \(Canada\)](#);
- Be a resident of Ontario\* as defined by OSOTF requirements; and
- Demonstrate financial need\*\* by completing and providing the [online U of T Financial Aid Estimator](#) report.

**Note:** Recipients must maintain full-time registration throughout the year in which the award is to be held.

## Ontario Residency

\*To be considered a resident of Ontario (as per OSOTF guidelines), the candidate **must** meet one of the following criteria:

- Student has always lived in Ontario; or
- Ontario is the last province in which student has lived for 12 months in a row without being a full-time postsecondary student; or
- Student now resides in Ontario and has lived in Canada for less than 12 months in a row.

**If student is married/common-law, student can be considered an Ontario resident if:**

- Spouse has always lived in Ontario; or

- Ontario is the last province in which spouse has lived for 12 months in a row without being a full-time postsecondary student; or
- **Both** of these statements are true:
  - Student now resides in Ontario; and
  - Student and spouse have lived in Canada for less than 12 months in a row.

**If student qualifies as a dependent, student is considered an Ontario resident if:**

- Ontario is the last province in which parent(s) have lived for at least 12 months in a row; or
- **Both** of these statements are true:
  - Student now resides in Ontario; and
  - Student and parent(s) have lived in Canada for less than 12 months in a row.

*The above requirements are the guidelines established by OSAP to determine Ontario residency for OSAP.*

## Financial Need

\*\*Applicants must complete the [online U of T Financial Aid Estimator](#) and submit the report within their Bell Graduate Scholarship application package in order to demonstrate financial need.

This online tool, when completed, will generate a report with an estimated financial need amount and verification of Ontario residency for OSOTF purposes. Financial need is demonstrated if the "Estimated Financial Need" amount is greater than zero.

Further information on the online form can be viewed on [SGS' Financial Need Assessment \(Online\) webpage](#).

## Terms and Conditions

To maintain the award, recipients **must**:

- Remain registered as a full-time graduate student at the graduate unit from which the Bell Graduate Scholarship was awarded throughout 2023-24;
- Maintain at least an A- average;
- Be making satisfactory progress toward the completion of their degree (as determined by the graduate unit); and
- Abide by all other terms, as determined by the graduate unit.

Recipients who withdraw, transfer to part-time status, complete degree requirements prior to the end of their award, or fail to complete the full term will be required to repay any funds received for the incomplete term.

## Application Process

Graduate units may choose to nominate the same students for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) and the Bell Scholarship competitions or nominate different students for each competition.

It is each graduate unit's responsibility to decide whether or not their nominees may hold both the OGS and Bell Scholarship concurrently (in the event that a nominee is awarded both).

Applicants must complete the 2023-24 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Application form on the [SGS Website](#). Those who have already submitted a 2023-24 OGS online application **do not need to complete a second application**, but they will need to request that their graduate administrator return or "unsubmit" their application so they may gain access to it and make the necessary updates/additions (see below). They must also replace their existing U of T transcript if Winter 2023 grades are available (ACORN print-outs are acceptable).

**NOTE:** Candidates' OGS online applications should only be returned or "unsubmitted" by the graduate administrator in accordance with the unit's adjudication timeline. For example, the unit may decide to review the Bell applications after their unit's OGS review process has been completed (i.e., after committee members have reviewed and ranked all the OGS applications).

Applicants must make the following additions/edits, whether they are completing a new 2023-24 OGS application or updating an existing one. For detailed instructions on how to complete the OGS online application, please refer to [SGS' OGS Application Instructions](#).

- Select “Yes” to the question “Would you like this application to be considered in other graduate award competitions?” (see “Awards and Financial Aid” section)
- **New:** Select “Yes” to the question “Has the particular award competition(s) to which you are applying requested specific documents to be uploaded to this form?”.
- An Upload button should appear to allow applicants to upload the following materials as **a single PDF document** (max. file size 500 kb):
  1. Plan of Study (1 page typed in non-technical language);
    - Must indicate the appropriate research area: software, information systems, human computer interaction, or computer engineering
  2. Appendices containing non-textual material (i.e., charts, tables) may be included, in addition to the plan of study (1 page) and references/citations (1 page); and
  3. A [U of T Financial Aid Estimator](#) report.

## Nomination Process

The Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering and the Department of Computer Science are invited to nominate eligible candidates. The top 4 applicants from each unit will be selected to receive an award (8 awards in total). Upon final confirmation of eligibility by the Graduate Awards Office (GAO), units will be notified of the winners and will then provide official award offers to the successful candidates.

Graduate units are asked to:

- 1) Ensure that each nominee is eligible for the award, especially meeting OSOTF requirements, including the demonstration of financial need.
- 2) Complete all columns for Recommended & Alternate candidates including ranking on the Bell Nomination Spreadsheet.
- 3) Save the spreadsheet as both an Excel and PDF (with authorizing signature) document and upload both to your unit’s SGS Drive folder.
- 4) Save each nomination package as a PDF to your unit’s SGS Drive folder (please use the following file naming convention: LastName - Bell2023).
- 5) Email [janine.harper@utoronto.ca](mailto:janine.harper@utoronto.ca) by 4:30 PM on Friday June 2, 2023 to confirm that your unit’s nominations are ready to be picked up.

Within 24 hours, the Graduate Awards Office will provide confirmation by email that your nominations have been received. Please be sure to follow up with the designated awards officer in the absence of email confirmation.

## Contacts & Resources

Please direct all questions regarding the competition or nomination process to:

Janine Harper  
 Graduate Awards Officer  
 School of Graduate Studies  
[janine.harper@utoronto.ca](mailto:janine.harper@utoronto.ca)  
 416-978-3555