

# VANIER CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS (DOCTORAL) SGS INFORMATION SESSION FOR STUDENTS

FALL 2024

## Important Disclaimer!

What is said (or not said) at this info session does not supersede the material contained in the agencies' guidelines or application packages.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

# STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates.

For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

# MS TEAMS - ASKING QUESTIONS

- We are recording this session to be uploaded to the SGS website
- Quick clarification questions on a particular slide may be entered in the “chat” section during the presentation. Please save all other questions for the end of the presentation.
- For questions about your personal background or eligibility, please review the eligibility requirements and contact the appropriate Graduate Awards Office member by email if you have further questions.
- Slides will be available on the SGS Vanier webpage under the "Additional Info" section: <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/vanier-canada-graduate-scholarship/>

# AGENDA

1. Overview
2. Eligibility
3. Competition Evaluation Criteria
4. Application Process
5. Q&A



# VANIER CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

- Tri-Agency program designed to attract & retain world-class doctoral students to a Canadian University.
- Do not have to be registered or admitted to a graduate program at time of application
- Must be nominated by University
- Full online submission via ResearchNet for all 3 agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) (<http://www.researchnet.ca>)
- \$50,000/yr for 3 years



# ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, you must:

- be nominated by only one Canadian university, which must have received a Vanier CGS allocation;
- be seeking financial support to pursue your first doctoral degree (or combined MA/PhD or MD/PhD);
- intend to pursue, in the summer semester or the academic year following the announcement of results, full-time doctoral (or a joint graduate research program such as MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD, MBA/PhD) studies and research at the nominating institution; For joint graduate programs, only the PhD portion of the program is eligible for funding;
- have completed no more than 20 months of doctoral studies by May 1, 2025 (started no earlier than Sept 2023) where the doctoral program would begin after the completion of a master's degree;
- have completed **no more than 32 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program, by May 1, 2025, if:
  - enrolled in a **joint graduate research program**, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD, DVM/PhD.
    - For joint graduate research programs in which a master's degree is obtained as part of the program (e.g., MA/PhD, MS/PhD), the months of study are calculated starting on the date on which the applicant is officially registered in the joint program (including the Master's portion)
    - For joint professional undergraduate/PhD programs (e.g., MD/PhD), only months of study in the PhD program will be counted.



# ELIGIBILITY CONTINUED...

- enrolled **directly from a Bachelor's to a PhD** (not previously enrolled in a master's program).  
The months of study completed are calculated from **the doctoral enrolment date**.
- Previously enrolled in a master's program without obtaining the degree.  
The months of study completed are calculated from the original master's enrolment date, regardless of when the master's degree registration began or type of master's degree.
- have achieved a first-class average (A-) in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent;  
and
- have not already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, SSHRC or NSERC to undertake or complete a doctoral program.

## Note:

- All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, will be considered in the evaluation of eligibility.
- Successful MD/PhD students may hold the Vanier CGS only during the PhD portion of their program
- For joint graduate research programs in which a master's degree is obtained as part of the program (for example, MA/PhD, MS/PhD), the months of study are calculated starting from the date on which students are officially registered in the joint program (including the master's portion of the program).
- For joint professional undergraduate/PhD programs (such as MD/PhD, JD/PhD, DVM/PhD), only the months of study in the PhD portion will be counted.



# DUAL DOCTORAL APPLICATIONS

Vanier CGS candidates may apply to the same or different federal granting agency's doctoral awards competition 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. They may not hold more than one agency doctoral scholarship or fellowship.

Applicants may apply to both the Vanier CGS program and another Tri-Agency doctoral-level scholarship/fellowship program (e.g., CGS D) or CGS Master's award program 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. Candidates who are successful in both competitions will have to choose which award to accept.





# EMPHASIS ON RECRUITMENT & STUDENT MOBILITY

Vanier CGS candidates are strongly encouraged to pursue their studies at a university other than that (or those) which granted their undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Candidates who are nominated by a university at which they have completed a previous degree must provide a strong and compelling rationale as to why they have chosen to undertake their PhD at the same university.



# SELECTING THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY

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 in doubt, students are urged to seek written confirmation by the tri-council in advance of submitting their application. Complete guidelines on selecting the appropriate federal granting agency are available at

**<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=FEE7261A-1>**



# THE FEDERAL TRI-COUNCILS

The major federal source of funds for research and scholarship in academic institutions

- **CIHR:** Canadian Institutes of Health Research
- **NSERC:** Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
- **SSHRC:** Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

**Please Note:** You may submit only one application per year to only one granting agency (NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC).

**Selecting the Appropriate Federal granting agency:**

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=FEE7261A-1>



# EVALUATION CRITERIA

**Academic excellence**, as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions.

**Research potential**, as demonstrated by the candidate's research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, the potential benefit to Canadians, and any anticipated outcomes.

**Leadership** (potential and demonstrated ability), as defined by the following qualities:

## Personal Achievement

- Involvement in Academic Life
- Volunteerism
- Civic Engagement

Vanier Selection committee members are expected to give a pre-score (i.e., a score that is given before the selection cmt mtg and that may or not coincide with the final score) between 0.1 and 9.0 to their assigned nominations for each of the three criteria.

Selection Committee Guide: [http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/selection\\_committee\\_guide-comite\\_selection\\_lignes.html#b3.1](http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/selection_committee_guide-comite_selection_lignes.html#b3.1)



# LEADERSHIP (POTENTIAL AND DEMONSTRATED ABILITY)

- Given the prestige of the Vanier CGS program, this is an important criterion that has to be assessed in an indirect manner, since there is no opportunity for the selection committee to interview candidates.
- Before crafting your Personal Leadership Statement, take a moment to review the [instructions for the selection committee on evaluating this criterion](#).
- More information on leadership is available in the SSHRC-funded study, [Leadership at the Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Levels \[ PDF \(260 KB\) \]](#).



# LEADERSHIP (POTENTIAL AND DEMONSTRATED ABILITY)

When crafting your Personal Leadership Statement, consider the following (as described in the [Vanier instructions to students](#)):

- Leadership can take many forms. Be sure to outline not just your accomplishments for the committee, but how those accomplishments required you to leverage your leadership skills to achieve your goals – your personal story.
- Be sure to outline how you have gone above and beyond the expected norms in those areas in order to overcome obstacles, foster others, spearhead change, or otherwise demonstrate leadership.
- for example: how have you created opportunities beyond those that were immediately available to you (due to employment, volunteerism, or circumstance);
- The selection committee does not consider simply participating in sports, arts, volunteering and employment in leadership positions as demonstrating leadership in and of themselves. Therefore, don't simply list what you did, describe and elaborate on the impact you created when serving in the role.



- Define your career goals and trajectory, and outline for the committee the ways in which you have created opportunities for yourself and others, how you have overcome obstacles to your vision, and how your PhD research, knowledge dissemination and mentorship activities will help accomplish those goals.
- What led you to doctoral research? How have your life experiences shaped your academic, research, and leadership choices, challenges, and successes?
- How has your life trajectory driven you to share and disseminate your research?
- How does your nominating institution provide an environment that nurtures your leadership skills?
- If leadership opportunities in your research environment were not available to you, address them here.

You are encouraged to explain any personal circumstances (if applicable) to allow for a fair assessment of your application. Reviewers and committee members are instructed to give careful consideration to, and be sensitive to the impact of, personal circumstances when assessing the application.

This essay gives you the opportunity to present the overarching narrative about your life, leadership accomplishments, and research goals.

## Sample Past Vanier Recipient Extracurricular Activities (from 2020-21)

Teaching Assistant, sports referee, medical volunteer, Event Planning/Administration (multiple charitable events), Mentoring and Tutoring, Attended various events, Member of Women in Nuclear-Canada, Volunteer at Canadian Blood Services, Instructor-Let's Talk Science, Volunteer -Ottawa Hospital

Internship, Steadily Employed, Taught Courses, Event Organizer, Journal Reviewer, Attended various events, Volunteer, Co-supervised PHD student, International Collaboration activities on various projects, Member of Academic Associations,

Teaching Courses, Mentoring, Journal Reviewer, Conference Reviewer, Black Belt in Aikido and has started various social clubs for this activity. Member of Aikido organizations.

Teaching Assistant, CEO and Business Founder/Owner, Volunteer Flood Research, Academic Advisor, Member of Various Musical groups, Delegate to federal conventions for his party in Germany, Committee member of Student Union, Departmental Council, Selection Committee,

Has a number of Credentials and certificates for participation in various courses or activities. Long history of employment at Universities. Has supervised a number of postdoctoral students. Acted as administrator and editor for Canadian Biomaterials society and as the VP of the Montreal chapter

Undergrad. Commentator Coordinator for major conference. Children Activity Coordinator. Tutoring, Director and Choreographer for theatrical productions. Contestant on Trivia TV program. Founded reading group. President of Women Out Loud and volunteered with charitable societies. Committee member for Trinity College Finance Committee.

TA, Research Assistant, Has Taught Various Courses, Conference Initiator and Coordinator, Co-Editor of Journal, Presented at multiple conferences, Managed and founded CORN, Co-founded charitable orgs, managed debate, Text and Broadcast interviews. Performance art.

Taught various courses, Event planning and fundraising for 3 events, Adjudicator, Seminar Leader and Workshop leader for Biocommunication series, Presenter in an Animated film festival, Facilitated Study Group Leader, Member of BMCAA committee and AMI, Frequent academic presentations. Artistic performances as illustrator and programmer.

Lawyer, Co-Chair on the Board of Botanical Gardens, Environmental Stewardship Committee, Meals on Wheels, Researcher and Writer at Harvard University,

Teacher, Lecturer, Human Rights Committee, Affiliate in Centre for Oral History, Frequent presenter, Volunteer

Member of Law Society of Upper Canada, Fellow with Munk School, Taught and Guest Lectured, Mentoring in various positions, Staff editor for Yale Journal of Law, Volunteered as judge in mock trials, Member of board of directors for organization, Out of the Cold volunteer server, Chairperson for Amnesty International, Organizer for Community Engagement, Volunteer Legal Glossary Editor, Multiple litigations and court decisions.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

Please refer to the Vanier website for step-by step application instructions

[http://www.vanier.gc.ca/eng/nomination\\_process-processus\\_de\\_mise\\_en\\_candidature.html](http://www.vanier.gc.ca/eng/nomination_process-processus_de_mise_en_candidature.html)

- Students should be notified of the graduate unit deadline and internal submission requirements.
- Candidates must 1) apply to their graduate unit following the individual unit's instructions, providing all original transcripts; and 2) electronically submit the online application via ResearchNet, by the unit's internal deadline



# Indigenous Applicants (Reminder)

- Applicants who are Indigenous to Canada [First Nations (North American Indian - Status and Non-Status), Métis, or Inuit] are encouraged to self-identify their status as universities are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota to the national competition.
- In order to be considered for this, Indigenous applicants must complete and upload the “[\(Vanier CGS\): Voluntary Self-Identification Form for Indigenous Applicants \[ PDF \(144 KB\) \]](#)” to their application. These applications will be not be adjudicated by SGS and will be forwarded directly to the national competition. As usual, please verify their eligibility.

# Create an online account on ResearchNet



**Current funding opportunities**

Name	Registration/LOI Deadline	Application Deadline
<a href="#">Team Grant: Canada-UK Artificial Intelligence Initiative</a>	2019-08-19	2019-09-12
<a href="#">Team Grant: UK-Canada Diabetes Research Team Grants</a>	2019-08-28	2019-09-25
<a href="#">Operating Grant: SPOR Innovative Clinical Trial Multi-Year Grant</a>	N/A	2019-08-28
<a href="#">Catalyst Grant: Understanding Disease Prevention and Risk Factor Modification</a>	2019-08-28	2019-09-24
<a href="#">Team Grant: Indigenous Component of Healthy Life Trajectories (I-HeLTI)</a>	N/A	2019-08-29
<a href="#">Operating Grant: Methamphetamine and related psychostimulant use</a>	2019-08-30	2019-09-25
<a href="#">Other: Standardization Platform on Age and Sex as</a>	N/A	2019-09-04

**Sign in**

If you don't have an account, please [register](#).

**Email:**

**Password:**

[Forgot your password?](#)

**Sign in**

**News**




# REGISTER FOR A CIHR PIN

The screenshot shows a web interface with a green header bar containing 'Help' and 'Grad Awards'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Help', listing: 'ResearchNet Account Settings', 'Register for a CIHR PIN', 'Validate your CIHR PIN', and 'Sign Out'. Below the menu, there is a table with an 'Actions' column containing links like 'Apply to this Opportunity | Funding Opportunity Details'. The text 's in Canadians (2019-09-18)' is visible at the bottom left of the table area.

- Log into your ResearchNet Account;
- Click on “Register for a CIHR PIN”;
- Complete and submit the on-line registration form;
- CIHR PIN requests are processed Monday to Friday between 7am and 5pm (ET). You should receive a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN within 24 business hours of submitting your form. If it has been longer than 24 business hours since you submitted your form and you still have not received a confirmation e-mail with your CIHR PIN, please call 1-888-603-4178 or e-mail [support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).



- Create a Canadian Common CV(CCV) Account



**Canadian Common CV**  
www.ccv-cvc.ca

<b>Français</b>		<b>Home</b>		<b>Contact Us</b>		<b>Help</b>		<b>Logout</b>	
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>CV</b>	<b>Versions</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Consent</b>	<b>Utilities</b>	<b>PIN/System Account</b>	<b>Account</b>		

**Funding CV - List of Sections** 2020-09-01 00:39 EST

\* Funding Source  

\* CV Type  

PIN/System Account Status  

Section	Included/Entries	Last Updated
<b>0 record(s)</b>		

Modified: 2019-06-25 13:44
[Top of Page](#)
[Important Notices](#)

- Find Funding Opportunities
- Apply for Funding**
- Current Opportunities
- Search Opportunities
- Archived Opportunities
- Administration
- Get Involved

**News**

[ResearchNet Security Enhancements](#)

[Implementation of multi-factor authentication in ResearchNet](#)

[Reminder: Double-check your response to the revised gender identity question in the Self-Identification Questionnaire \(February 24, 2023\)](#)
















[System Maintenance](#)

[View more news](#)

## Apply for Funding

Click on the appropriate link below to begin your application or view the funding opportunity description for any of the opportunities listed below.

To review CIHR's complete list of funding opportunities, visit the [Funding Opportunities](#) section of the web site.

Name	Actions
 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships - 2024-2025 (2024-09-17)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Catalyst Grant - Biomedical Research for HIV/AIDS and STBBI (2024-10-23)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Catalyst Grant - Moving Upstream: Structural Determinants of Health (2024-09-11)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Chair - Implementation Science Chairs in HDCYH (2024-10-15)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Doctoral Research Award - Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award: 2024-2025 (2024-11-21)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Doctoral Research Award - Doctoral Foreign Study Award (DFSA): 2024-2025 (2024-10-17)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Fellowship - CIHR Fellowship (2024-10-02)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Operating Grant - Data Analysis Using Existing CDN Databases and Cohorts (2024) (2024-09-10)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Operating Grant - ECRs in Human Development, Child and Youth Health (2024-09-04)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Operating Grant - HCRI - Data Analysis Using Existing Databases and Cohorts (2024-11-07)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Other - POR Awards – Transition to Leadership Stream – Phase 2 (2024-09-10)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Team Grant - Biomedical Research for HIV/AIDS and STBBI (2024-09-17)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Team Grant - Embracing Diversity to Achieve Precision & Health Equity (2024-10-22)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Team Grant - Healthy Youth (2024) (2024-12-10)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>
 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships - 2024-2025 (2024-10-30)	<a href="#">Apply to this Opportunity</a>   <a href="#">Funding Opportunity Details</a>

## Activity Messages

## Application Process Overview

Please complete the tasks below and submit your application electronically to your nominating institution.

**You must also send your official transcripts of your complete academic record to date to your rese: copy of the transcripts.**



For more information on how to complete this section, please refer to the [Application instructions](#)

## Tasks

Task	Status
 <a href="#">Identify Area of Research</a>	Complete
 <a href="#">Identify Participants</a>	Incomplete
 <a href="#">Identify Referees</a>	Incomplete
 <a href="#">Enter Degree Information</a>	Incomplete
 <a href="#">Enter Proposal Information</a>	Incomplete
 <a href="#">Confirm Documents Sent</a>	Incomplete
 <a href="#">Preview</a>	Incomplete
 <a href="#">Consent and Submit</a>	Incomplete




Under “Enter Proposal Information” section: You must complete the “Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study” field in order for the “Institution Deadline Date” to appear.

Subtasks	Enter Proposal Information - Details
<a href="#">✕ Overview</a>	Fields that appear in bold with an Asterisk * are mandatory. It is important to save any additions or changes before navigating away from this page.
<a href="#">✓ Details</a>	
<a href="#">✕ Descriptors</a>	
<a href="#">✕ Attachments</a>	
	<p><b>Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study</b></p> <p>* <b>Institution (required)</b></p> <p><input type="text" value="CEAA"/> </p> <p>University of Toronto</p> <p>* <b>Faculty (required)</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>* <b>Department (required)</b></p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p>* <b>Are you moving from a Bachelors directly to a PhD program (or equivalent degrees)? (required)</b></p> <p><input type="text" value="No"/> ▾</p> <p><b>Certification Requirements</b> </p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Human Stem Cells</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Human Subjects</p>



### Apply for Funding

Program	Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships - 2019-2020
Funding Organization Application Deadline Date	2019-11-06 20:00 EST (117 Days)
 Research Institution Deadline Date	2019-09-23 20:00 EDT (73 Days)

The graduate unit deadline will be earlier than the “Institution Deadline Date” displayed. Make sure you submit your application by your graduate unit deadline date.

**Applicant - Fong Di Caterina**

**\* Role (required)**

Nominated Principal Investigator

**\* Last Name (required)**


Di Caterina

**\* First Name (required)**

Fong

**\* PIN (required)**

252187

**\* CCV Confirmation Number (required)** 

**\* Telephone Number (e.g. 613-555-1234 or 011-02-5-225-3586) (required)**

416-978-2205

**Fax Number**

**\* Institution (required)**



Other




# IMPLICIT OR UNCONSCIOUS BIASES


The Tri-Agency expects reviewers to consistently guard against the possibility of unconscious bias influencing the decision-making process, whether these biases are based on schools of thought, the perceived value of fundamental versus applied research, areas of research or research approaches (including emerging ones), size or reputation of an institution, age, gender, and/or other personal factors associated with the applicant. To assist members in recognizing potential bias, all SGS committee members are asked to complete the [Unconscious Bias in Peer Review online learning module](#). Members are also encouraged to complete one of the [Sex and Gender training modules](#) produced by CIHR.

**Encourage your supervisor and referees** to also complete the [Unconscious Bias in Peer Review online learning module](#) so that they can be aware and minimize unconscious bias when writing reference reports.



# Identify Referee

Identify Referees  [Add Referee](#)

<u>Referee</u> ▲	<u>Status</u>	<u>Assessment Required Deadline Date</u> (YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm)
Professor, Second	Pending Referee Form	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT  <a href="#">Edit</a>

 [Return to Task List](#)



\* Current Position Title *(required)*

Professor

\* Organization *(required)*

\* Preferred Correspondence Language *(required)*

- English
- French

By default, the Assessment Required Deadline Date is set for two days before your application deadline. However, you can adjust this to any date prior to your deadline.

\* Assessment Required Deadline Date *(required)*

2019-09-21 20:00

The following personal e-mail message will be sent to your referee. You may customize this message or leave the default text. This e-mail message will be sent out on your personal note of the expected Referee Request E-mail.

Set a deadline for your referee well in advance, as assessments must be completed and submitted to ResearchNet before students can complete the submission process

Applicants should enter a deadline at least a week before their graduate unit deadline. The link in the referee email will still be valid after the deadline as long as it's before the institution deadline.



ResearchNet will send two emails to each referee. One “personalized” from the applicant, the other with the unique link to the reference form. Make sure the referees check their junk mail box.

Le français suit l'anglais

Dear Referee:

I would like to request your service to provide a referee assessment for me as a candidate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program. Your assessment would be greatly appreciated. You should be receiving an email from ResearchNet shortly with a link and detailed instructions on how to proceed.

With sincere thanks,

Fong Di Caterina

\*\*\*\*\*

Le français suit l'anglais.

Dear Major Profession,

Fong Di Caterina would like to request a referee assessment for him/her as a candidate for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships program (Vanier CGS). Your assessment would be greatly appreciated. If you do not personally know the applicant, please provide the referee assessment based on the information that the applicant provided to you.

Please refer to the Vanier CGS website for information to help you with this task:

[http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/information\\_for\\_referees-information\\_a\\_l\\_intention\\_des\\_repondants.html](http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/information_for_referees-information_a_l_intention_des_repondants.html)

**The referee assessment must be submitted via ResearchNet no later than 2019-07-13 20:00 EDT.**

If the referee assessment is not submitted in time, the applicant will not be able to submit their application.

Once you have completed the form, click the submit button to submit your referee assessment through ResearchNet and it will be linked to the applicant's submission.

The applicant will be notified that the task is completed, but they will not have access to view the information provided. Applicants can, however, request their referee assessments via an Access to Information and Privacy request.

Once your assessment has been submitted, you can view it by using the link below. However, no further edits can be made.

Click on the link below to access the referee assessment form. If this does not work, copy and paste the link into your browser.

If you are currently logged in to ResearchNet, please ensure you sign out before accessing the referee assessment form.

<https://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/sponsorSubmission.do?sponsorKey=GwFfOow3ncE2P91Y64zmqQ..&valid=true>



**Referee's Assessment**

**Program** vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

**Assessment Required Deadline Date** 2019-09-21 20:00 EDT (1 Day)

**Referee's Assessment of a Candidate for a Vanier CGS Award**

This report will be used when assessing the candidate's application for the Vanier award in support of doctoral studies. Based on the federal Privacy Act, a candidate will have a right of access to the substance of your assessment.

There are three sections to the report, and all three sections must be completed.

Referees should bear in mind that the candidate will need to assemble a complete application package, including this report, by the competition deadline. **The funding agencies will not consider late or incomplete applications.**

**Referee's Assessment**

**Subtasks**

- ✓ Referee Information
- Section 1 - Academic Excellence
- Section 2 - Research Potential
- Section 3 - Demonstrated and Potential Leadership

**Assessment Status:**  
**Not Submitted**

**Candidate** Fong Di Caterina

**First Name\***

**Last Name\***

**Middle Initial**

**Position\***

**Organization\***

**Number of years/months that the referee has known the candidate\*** Years  Months

**Relationship to candidate\***

**Contact Information\***



Section 1 - Academic Excellence: Provide an assessment of the candidate's academic excellence as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions. Since the review committee is multidisciplinary, please provide an assessment that references the norms and expectations of the student's discipline. If applicable, please also comment on results achieved outside of the university environment. Maximum of 2250 characters (~ 1/2 page)

Section 2 - Research Potential: Provide an assessment of the candidate's research potential as demonstrated by their research history, interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field and any anticipated outcomes. Include examples to support your assessment in comparison to the norms particular to the research area(s) (e.g. publication norms for the discipline etc.)

Maximum of 2250 characters (~ 1/2 page)



Section 3 - Demonstrated and Potential Leadership: Provide an assessment of demonstrated and potential leadership ability. Because there is no opportunity to interview the students, please elaborate for the committee how the candidate has gone above and beyond the opportunities presented in order to achieve a goal, contribute to their community, or how they have taken on responsibility for others. Note that high achievement, while admirable, does not necessarily constitute Leadership. Be sure therefore to provide context for the committee that illuminates how the candidate's participation in activities (be they volunteer or work, sport or art, and any other participation) goes above and beyond active participation and becomes Leadership. Maximum of 4500 characters (~ 1 page).

**It is the applicant's responsibility to provide referees with the information that they need in order to complete their assessments.**



Identify Referees			
Referee ▲	Status	Assessment Required Deadline Date (YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm)	Actions
Professor, First	Completed 2019-09-20 16:22:18	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT	<a href="#">View</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>
Professor, Second	Pending Referee Form	2019-09-21 20:00 EDT <a href="#">Edit</a>	<a href="#">View</a>   <a href="#">Delete</a>   <a href="#">Resend Email</a>

[Return to Task List](#)

Applicants can “Resend Email” for pending referee forms.  
 “View” displays the contact information of the referee.

Remind your referee to save a copy of their reference report before submitting.  
 This way, they will be able to reference it in the future and won’t have to start all over if they need to make modifications and you need to delete their online reference.

If a referee needs to make a revision in a submitted form, applicants must “Delete” the reference and re-add the referee to send a new request.

Once the reference is deleted, an automatic email is sent to the referee saying their reference is no longer required. Applicants should warn referees about this email if they are only making edits to reduce confusion.

Le français suit l'anglais.

Dear First Professor,

This email is to inform you that Fong Di Caterina will no longer require you to submit the referee form for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships application.

Thank you for your collaboration.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the applicant.

Sincerely,

Fong Di Caterina via ResearchNet

\*\*\*\*\*

Applicants upload their own two (non-academic) leadership reference letters in the Identify Participants Task. They're not confidential.

Vanier recommends that each of the four required letters (two academic and two leadership) come from four individuals but letters from the same sources will not be declared ineligible.

Leadership letters must be signed by only one individual per letter.

Subtasks	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Participant Information	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equity and Diversity Questionnaire	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attachments	

Identify Participants - Attachments		
All documents must be in PDF format. The total size of the attached document(s) cannot exceed 30Mb. Fields that appear in bold with an asterisk * are mandatory.		
Consult the " <a href="#">How to Apply</a> " section of this funding opportunity for page limits and other specific instructions.		
Uploading Documents:		
1. Attach the appropriate file by clicking on the browse button to the right of the associated document type field. Select the document from your hard drive or other location.		
2. Click "Attach" to upload the documents that you have specified.		
Applicant - Fong Di Caterina		
Document Type	Upload Date	* Actions
* Personal Leadership Statement (required)		<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen
* Leadership Reference Letter (required)		<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen
* Research Contributions (required)		<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen
--		<input type="button" value="Choose File"/> No file chosen

# TRANSCRIPTS

- You do not upload your own transcripts;
- If you are registered in the fall session, you must provide a U of T transcript or ACORN print out showing fall 2024 registration, along with all previous undergraduate and graduate transcripts to graduate unit;
- Graduate units may use previous official transcripts from your admission file.
- Applicants can confirm on ResearchNet that documents have been sent.



# Transcripts (cont'd)

- **Summary of Foreign Transcript Form:**

Institutions must attach a 250-word summary to describe the variations in the grading system from the country of the transcript and the Canadian level equivalents, and/or explain international credentials and equivalencies. The summary should be a PDF document attached at the beginning of their transcripts. In order to assist with this task, foreign transcripts submitted by the applicant should be accompanied by a grade legend.

- Accordingly, graduate units should attach to the beginning of foreign (non-US) transcript file, a completed Summary of Foreign Transcript Form (use attached template).



# Sex- and Gender-based Analysis Plus (SGBA+)

In order to ensure the research we fund is impactful and relevant to the diversity of the population, Vanier encourages 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 encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see [Application/nomination instruction - Task 10](#)).

Reviewers are instructed when assessing the quality of the applicant's research proposal, consideration of sex, gender and diversity in the research design must be considered, if applicable:

- rationale and methodology for including SGBA+ in the research (from its design to the analysis of research findings) are clearly described;
- should be evaluated in terms of scientific rigour and usefulness of the proposed research.



## Enter Proposal Information

This task collects information related to your research project. To complete the task, you must complete the four sub-tasks listed on this screen.

### Subtasks

Overview

Details

Descriptors

Attachments

### Enter Proposal Information - Details

\* Canadian University Proposed for Doctoral Study

\* Institution *(required)*

\* Faculty *(required)*

 Other 

\* Is [sex](#) as a biological variable taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? *(required)*

\* Is [gender](#) as a socio-cultural factor taken into account in the research design, methods, analysis and interpretation, and/or dissemination of findings? *(required)*

\* If yes, please describe how sex and/or gender considerations will be integrated into your research proposal.  
If no, please explain why sex and/or gender are not applicable to your research proposal.

(2000 character limit) *(required)*

\* Proposed End Date of PhD studies (YYYY-MM) *(required)*

# ATTACHMENT: RESEARCH CONTRIBUTIONS (1 PAGE)

- The agencies have signed DORA which recognizes that research contributions are not limited to published journal articles but include a broader range of contributions (e.g., research publications, reports, posters, abstract, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, books, guidelines, dataset, code, tools, software and commercialized products, protocols, knowledge mobilization activities) and impacts (e.g., influence on policy and practice, societal outcomes, distinctions-based, meaningful and culturally safe research).
- From your research-related contributions, choose up to five that you judge to be the most significant and relevant to your research proposal.
- This should be written in narrative form. It's not meant to be a repeated list from your CCV.
- Reviewers are asked to assess research excellence broadly and to avoid using journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research publications. As stated in DORA, the "scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published".
- Full instructions: [https://vanier.gc.ca/en/nomination\\_process-processus\\_de\\_mise\\_en\\_candidature.html#d3](https://vanier.gc.ca/en/nomination_process-processus_de_mise_en_candidature.html#d3)



# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES (REVISED) (1 PAGE MAX)

- [https://vanier.gc.ca/en/nomination\\_process-processus\\_de\\_mise\\_en\\_candidature.html#d4](https://vanier.gc.ca/en/nomination_process-processus_de_mise_en_candidature.html#d4)
- The Secretariat acknowledges that certain circumstances may legitimately affect an applicant's record of research achievement. **Applicants are encouraged to explain any circumstances (*including when gender, race, diversity, ability, sexuality, health disparities, educational access, etc.*) that have impacted their academic trajectory in order to allow for a fair assessment of their research achievement.**
- Committee members are entrusted with the responsibility to assess the impact and significance of research contribution while taking into account the impacts of career interruptions as well as interpersonal, community, and career responsibilities.
- Applicants can describe circumstances such as administrative responsibilities, health problems, family responsibilities, disabilities, trauma and/or loss, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, pandemic impact or other circumstances (for example, the time necessary to complete a monograph or research project, file a patent, or academia and/or career advancement, scientific research, other research, dissemination of results, training, etc). They may explain any gaps in the chronology of their experience.
- Include the start and end dates; the impact areas; and the reason(s) for or a brief explanation of the absence. Applicants may explain any gaps in the chronology of their experience. However, you are not required to justify circumstances when noting considerations related to personal identity considerations. Should you choose to include this information, please note that it will be reviewed by selection committee members.
- If the potential or current supervisor is unable to provide the applicant with a referee assessment, they may use this section to briefly provide an explanation.



## OTHER ATTACHMENTS (NEW)

- Part-time studies must be outlined in this section. If you have been enrolled part-time during your PhD studies, specify which semesters. The information must be reflected in the transcripts.
- If you are registered in a joint program (e.g., MD/PhD), use this document to provide a timeline of your undergraduate/graduate versus doctoral program studies, broken down by semester. This calculation must be consistent with the transcripts provided. For purposes of this calculation, the undergraduate/graduate portion will not count towards the number of months completed.
- Once completed, the document must then be uploaded as a single PDF document (unprotected) not to exceed 30 MB under "**Other**" in the "**Attach Application Materials**" task.

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION?

- 1. Graduate unit review:** The graduate unit (your department) reviews all applications submitted to them. They will nominate competitive applications within their quota to SGS.
- 2. SGS review:** SGS reviews all applications received from units for the university-wide competition. The SGS Awards Committee (a subcommittee for each agency) selects the top applicants to forward to Vanier for the national competition. Each file is read by three committee members who are outside the applicant's department.
- 3. Vanier review:** Vanier reviews all applications received for the national competition and selects the recipients for the awards. Results are communicated directly by Vanier via ResearchNet in April.

You should receive an email from your department letting you know if your application was nominated to SGS. If nominated to SGS, we will let you know the outcome of the SGS review (i.e., whether your application is being forwarded to Vanier).

# PARENTAL LEAVE FUNDING

- Federal agency (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC/Vanier) scholarship parental leave supplements
  - Up to 12 months of paid parental leave equal to award amount;
  - Amount dependent on # of sessions of leave.
  - Submit Request for Deferment of Start Date or Interruption of Award.
- Parental leave supplements through supervisor's Tri-agency grant
  - Apply through supervisor and Research Services Office

# VANIER RESULTS – U OF T

	2024-25				2023-24				2022-23			
Vanier Council	# app Received	Forwarded	successful	success rate of initial application	# app Received	Forwarded	successful	success rate of initial application	# app Received	Forwarded	successful	success rate of initial application
CIHR	85	46	15	18%	104	45	13	13%	123	45	14	11%
NSERC	64	21	9	14%	52	19	9	17%	47	19	6	13%
SSHRC	59	27	9	15%	58	23	7	12%	60	24	6	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>11%</b>

# PREVIOUS VANIER RECIPIENTS GUESTS

- [2023 Video recording of live Vanier Info session \(with SSHRC Vanier recipients in Q&A\)](#) (enter your utoronto email address when prompted to sign-in, then login using UTORid credentials)
- [2022 Video recording of live Vanier Info session \(with CIHR Vanier recipients in Q&A\)](#)
- [2021 Video recording of live Vanier Info session \(with NSERC Vanier recipients in Q&A\)](#)
- [2021 BME Podcast with NSERC Vanier awardee Joseph Sebastian](#) on how to write a successful Vanier CGS application.





# Questions: SGS Contacts

## CIHR Vanier

Janine Harper

Graduate Awards Officer

416-978-3555

[janine.harper@utoronto.ca](mailto:janine.harper@utoronto.ca)

## NSERC Vanier

Margaret Meaney

Acting Graduate Awards Officer

416-978-2205

[margaret.meaney@utoronto.ca](mailto:margaret.meaney@utoronto.ca)

## SSHRC Vanier

Graduate Awards Office

[graduate.awards@utoronto.ca](mailto:graduate.awards@utoronto.ca)



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

