



# Graduate School Funding and Awards

If you are planning to apply to research-based graduate school programs, you may improve your application by applying for grants and scholarships. Start early as these awards are highly competitive, and receiving an award will help to fund your research and add prestige to your academic CV.

## Base Funding for Research-Based Graduate Studies (University)

There are universities in Ontario that offer base funding for students in research-based graduate programs, sometimes called “doctoral-stream” programs. Even within graduate departments there can be differences in funding package policies so applicants should check with the research stream graduate program that interests them. Funding packages may include funds from a variety of sources, including external scholarships, university awards, teaching assistant positions and research assistant positions.

As an example of what these funding packages might look like, see the “Understand Your Funding” section here: [www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Financing-Your-Graduate-Education.aspx](http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Financing-Your-Graduate-Education.aspx)

## NSERC: The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (Federal)

[www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/index_eng.asp)

**NSERC** (“en-serk”) provides research funding for residential (Canadian citizen or permanent resident) post-secondary students in the fields of natural sciences and engineering programs. NSERC values novel ideas to improve global excellence and take a leading role in discovery and innovation.

For example, awards NSERC provides for undergraduate students and early master’s applicants include:

- ✓ **Canada Graduate Scholarships (Master’s) (value of \$17,500 for 1 year):** given to exceptional undergraduates applying to, or already in the first year of a master’s or direct-entry doctoral level Canadian program, and have achieved a first-class average (usually A-, A or A+), in each of the last 2 years/10 credits of study.
- ✓ **NSERC Indigenous Student Ambassadors Award (Up to \$5000):** given to Aboriginal students registered full-time in a degree program in the natural sciences or engineering. Applicants must have a second class average (usually a cGPA of “B- or B”). The aim of the award is to engage Aboriginal students in promoting interest and participation in the natural sciences and engineering by sharing their research in Canada’s Aboriginal communities.

## SSHRC: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Federal)

[www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/index-eng.aspx](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/index-eng.aspx)

**SSHRC** (“sherk”) provides funding for graduate research and training in the fields of social sciences and humanities. The most relevant award for a master’s applicant is:

- ✓ **Canada Graduate Scholarships (Master’s) (value of \$17,500 for 1 year):** given to exceptional undergraduates applying to, or already in the first year of a master’s or direct-entry doctoral level Canadian program, and have achieved a first-class average (usually A-, A or A+), in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent).

## CIHR: Canadian Institutes of Health Research Federal Funding Agency (Federal)

[www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/795.html](http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/795.html)

CIHR provides funding for students pursuing health related research and demonstrating a high-caliber academic transcript and involvement. Students applying for these awards must demonstrate academic excellence and additional achievements.

The most relevant award for a master's applicant is:

- ✓ **Canada Graduate Scholarships (Master's) (value of \$17,500 for 1 year):** given to exceptional undergraduates applying to, or already in the first year of a master's or direct-entry doctoral level Canadian program, and have achieved a first-class average (usually A-, A or A+), in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent).

## OGS: The Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Provincial)

[cou.on.ca/key-issues/education/graduate-education/ogs/](http://cou.on.ca/key-issues/education/graduate-education/ogs/)

OGS is designed to provide financial aid to students pursuing graduate studies in Ontario universities, and is a merit-based scholarship valued at **\$5000 per session**. Recipients of the award can hold the award for 2 or 3 consecutive terms (maximum value for a 3 term award is **\$15,000**). This scholarship encourages students to pursue research-based degrees and is not restricted to any particular field.

To apply, undergraduates must be intent on registering in a full-time eligible graduate program and have earned a cGPA of at least "A-" in the last two years of full-time studies.

OGS is different at each university in terms of application process and deadlines. If you're applying to more than one graduate program at different schools, submit an OGS application for each school. Contact the [Graduate Studies Office](#) at the school you're planning to attend for details on their application deadlines and process.

## QEII-GSST: Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (Provincial)

[osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRDR015102.html](http://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRDR015102.html)

QEII-GSST targets high-achieving students pursuing a graduate degree in science and technology. It is valued at **\$5000** per session for 2 to 3 sessions (consecutive; totaling **\$15,000**). To apply, undergraduates must be registered or in the process of registering for an eligible full-time graduate program, and have achieved at least an "A-" in the last two years of full-time studies.

QEII-GSST is different at each university in terms of application process and internal deadlines. If you're applying to more than one graduate program at different schools, you must complete a QEII-GSST application for each of the schools you are planning to attend. Contact the [Graduate Studies Office](#) at the [participating Ontario school](#) you are planning to attend for complete details on their QEII-GSST application process.

## Additional Resources

See the (a) Financial Aid and (b) Graduate Studies websites of any university to which you intend to apply! Examples of the kinds of resource pages to seek out:

- [www.utoronto.ca/registrar/external-awards](http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/external-awards) (links to additional scholarship collection websites)
- [www.future.utoronto.ca/finances/scholarships](http://www.future.utoronto.ca/finances/scholarships)
- <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/currentstudents/Pages/Scholarships-and-Awards.aspx>