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Date: Wednesday, September 18, 2024

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators, Students/Applicants

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Re: 2025 Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s Competition (CGS-M CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce the details of the 2025 Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s (CGS-M) competition. The CGS-M, valued at \$27,000 for one year, has a single harmonized application process for the federal granting Tri-Agencies: Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The selection process and post-award administration are carried out at the institutional level, under the guidance of the three agencies.

Students may apply for up to three eligible Canadian post-secondary institutions; submitted applications are reviewed by the institution at which they propose to hold their award. Each university has a set allocation for each granting agency. The University of Alberta’s allocations are: CIHR: 38; NSERC: 54; SSHRC: 49. Winners may receive offers from multiple institutions, but may accept only one CGS-M offer and are to note the award is not transferrable.

Departments are not required to submit completed rankings and evaluations of UAlberta applications to GPS. Note that prospective graduate students must apply for graduate admission by February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to be considered for the CGS-M competition at UAlberta. GPS strongly encourages all winners of the 2024/25 University of Alberta Graduate Entrance Scholarship to apply for CGS-M funding if they meet the eligibility requirements.

### Application Process

**The CGS-M Portal is Now Open:** Both prospective and current students submit applications through the online [Research Portal](#), the Tri-Agencies’ electronic system for creating, managing and submitting applications for funding. Students are not required to submit applications to their departments or to their proposed department of study.

Refer to the CGS-M section on [NSERC’s website](#) (information applies to all three Agencies) and [GPS’ website](#) for complete program information, application details, and eligibility criteria. Application steps, transcript requirements, timelines, and instructions for students leading up to UAlberta review and adjudication are on the GPS website under Application Procedures.

Students must complete the applications entirely online using the Research Portal, which includes obtaining reference assessment forms and **official** up-to-date transcripts for all post-secondary institutions they have attended. Note: UAlberta will accept unofficial U of Alberta transcripts (**must be produced from Beartracks**); all other transcripts **MUST** be official. *If applicants are applying to other institutions, applicants **MUST** check in with those institutions directly regarding their transcript policies/requirements.* Refer to [GPS’ Application Procedure](#) for complete details on transcript requirements. These instructions are crucial as non-compliance with transcript-related guidelines is the primary reason for the rejection of

applications. **Transcripts deemed incomplete and/or unofficial may result in the applicant being removed from the competition.**

### **Application Deadline and Submission**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024:** Deadline for students to submit their completed application and CCV through the Research Portal before 6:00 PM (Mountain Time)/8:00 PM (Eastern Time). Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their application well ahead of the deadline. As the deadline approaches, delays may occur due to high traffic on the research portal; this may prevent the timely submission of student's applications, and they should plan accordingly. **Requests to submit late applications will not be accepted.** GPS cannot assist with issues students may encounter with the external Research Portal.

- GPS accesses UAlberta applications from the Research Portal, and completes its initial preliminary review to verify eligibility and completeness.
- GPS contacts UAlberta applicants to acknowledge receipt of their applications. At this time GPS informs them that they must apply for admission to a UAlberta graduate program by their Department program deadline, or by February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, **whichever comes first**, in order to be considered for a CGS-M at UAlberta. Note: this is for May 1, 2025, July 1, 2025, September 1, 2025, and January 2026 admission intakes. Recipients of a CGS-M are eligible to take up the award in either May or September 2024, or January 2025.
- Departments are allowed to contact promising CGS-M applicants who have not applied for admission and encourage them to apply.

**February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** If not yet admitted to a graduate program, prospective students must apply for admission no later than February 7<sup>th</sup> in order to be considered for the CGS-M at UAlberta. Prospective students only need to submit an application for admission; complete admission decisions are not required for the CGS-M competition, and thus are included in the full nomination review. Prospective students who haven't applied for admission by this date will have their applications removed from the competition.

**Mid-February 2025 – end of March 2025:** GPS Graduate Scholarship Committee reviews and adjudicates eligible applications.

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025:** Applicants are notified of results on the online Research Portal.

We wish all students and departments success in the upcoming competitions!

Sincerely,

The GPS Awards Team