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Date: Wednesday, August 9, 2023

To: Students and Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

Re: **2024 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council - Doctoral (NSERC PGS D) and Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral (NSERC CGS D) Competition**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce the details of the 2024 NSERC Doctoral competition, now available on [FGSR's website](#). The University of Alberta's quota for the number of applications that can be forwarded to NSERC for consideration in the 2024 competition is 67. There is a single application and review process for the [PGS D](#) and the [CGS D](#) programs. The top-ranked applicants are awarded the CGS D (\$35,000 per year, tenable only in Canada) and highly-ranked applicants in the next tier are awarded the PGS D (\$21,000 per year, tenable in Canada and abroad).

This is a direct application, whereby students apply through NSERC's [On-line Services](#) portal. There is no nomination, list, or ranking required by the department. The Departments will be notified of students successfully forwarded to the national competition, and of any winners. To assist in the promotion of this doctoral scholarship, we request Departments disseminate information about this year's national competition to their students and potential applicants.

Institutions must not discriminate against applicants proposing to hold their award at a different institution. For most institutions, the calculated [application quota](#) is a function of the average number of PGS/CGS D scholarships awarded to students who applied through the institution over the past three years. When calculating application quotas for future years, all awards are counted as successful applications for the institution that forwarded the application to NSERC regardless of where the award is taken up.

Institutions are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota. Note applicants are not automatically forwarded to the national level; they will be reviewed and recommended by FGSR's Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) among the full pool of applicants. **"Indigenous peoples" is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. "Aboriginal peoples" is often used as a synonym. For the purposes of these programs, NSERC uses the Canadian Constitution act, 1982 definition as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.*

2023/24 recipients of the UofA Graduate Entrance Scholarship and the UofA Graduate Recruitment Scholarship are encouraged to apply for Tri-Agency funding if they are eligible (i.e. citizenship status is Canadian/Permanent Resident).

Applicants may apply in the same year to both the NSERC Doctoral Scholarship program and the NSERC Vanier CGS program. At the U of A, those applicants who have completed the 2024 NSERC Vanier CGS application are strongly encouraged to also complete an application for the NSERC PGSD/CGSD competition if they are eligible (ie. citizenship status is Canadian/Permanent Resident). NOTE: Students cannot hold an NSERC Doctoral scholarship and Vanier CGS scholarship simultaneously, but applying for both may increase a student's probability of obtaining a Tri-Council Scholarship.

Application Process and Timelines

Refer to, and ensure applicants are directed to, [NSERC's website](#) for clarification concerning the value, duration, and eligibility criteria. See FGSR's [website](#) for the complete application submission process, timelines, and instructions for students leading up to the application submission deadline. Note that FGSR will not provide copies of students' applications or reference letters to Departments. Should Departments want a copy of the student's application for advisement purposes, they may request this directly from the student. As referees are required to submit a confidential online form, letters are not available to students.

COVID-19 related measures pertaining to the eligibility window

The calculation of the number of completed months takes into consideration leaves or part-time studies. Students are encouraged to use the Special Circumstances section of their application to explain COVID-related delays, especially if their progress was disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Transcripts

FGSR designates are no longer tasked with uploading student transcripts to NSERC's On-line Services Portal. Applicants are responsible for obtaining transcripts for all institutions attended and attaching them on the *Transcripts* page of their application. Applicants are to follow the *Transcripts and proof of registration* section of NSERC's [Instructions for Completing an Application - Form 201](#). These instructions are crucial as non-compliance with transcript-related guidelines is the primary reason for the rejection of applications.

Application Deadline and Submission

Monday, October 3, 2023, 11:59 pm (MST): Deadline for students to submit their completed application via NSERC's On-line Services portal. Note that there is no system shutoff in NSERC's portal October 3, 11:59 pm; however, student's applications will be date and time stamped once submitted and this will be the copy used for university review and adjudication. Applications submitted after this date will not be accepted and extension requests will not be granted.

- The deadline above is for applications submitted through the University of Alberta only. Failure to submit an application through the correct channel may result in an application being removed from the competition. For more information, refer to the flow chart ["Where should I submit my application?"](#) of the [CGS D Scholarships descriptions](#). This flowchart details which option should be selected within the online application form. Note: all applicants registered in a degree program at the UofA (with a quota) at any

time during the calendar year of application must apply through the UofA, even if they intend to pursue their studies at an institution other than the UofA.

- Only completed applications will be reviewed. Changes cannot be made after the application has been submitted.
- Edits or corrections such as spelling, grammar, formatting, attachments, etc. are the responsibility of the student and will not be checked by FGSR. Students who do not follow NSERC's [application instructions](#) and [On-line Presentation and Attachment Standards](#) may jeopardize their application. See [FGSR's Application Procedures](#) for complete details.
- Submission of an application does not mean it has been forwarded to the national NSERC competition. All eligible applications will be shared with the GSC adjudicators for review.

FGSR Award Services Review

October 4 - Mid October, 2023: FGSR Award Services reviews applications for eligibility and completeness.

- Students will not be offered the opportunity to revise their applications.

University Adjudication

Mid October - Mid November, 2023: FGSR's GSC reviews applications and selects nominees to be forwarded to NSERC for review at the national level.

University Deadline

November 21, 2023: deadline for FGSR to forward university nominations to NSERC for the national competition.

University Results

End of November, 2023: Results of the NSERC competition at the University level will be released. Students whose applications have been forwarded to NSERC will receive a notification email from FGSR. Unsuccessful students will be notified via the NSERC portal.

NSERC National Results

April 2024: final NSERC doctoral results are expected to be announced.

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

Sincerely,

Award Services