Transcript

NSERC CGRS-D: Learn about the scholarship

[Introduction]

Welcome to the NSERC CGRS-D: Learn about the scholarship, a 10-minute recording presented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Play the audio recording for each slide by selecting the icon in the lower right corner of the screen; or, in the menu select Slide Show, then From Beginning for a continuous recording.

This is the first in a 2-part presentation. Part 2: Application advice will be provided during our online and in-person workshops in August and September 2025.

# Accessibility Statement

For a copy of these slides and a transcript of this recording (including hyperlinks), please visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) [Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships-doctoral.php) website. Content is available in Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, and other formats upon request.

If you experience accessibility barriers with this presentation please contact Lisa Pender, Scholarship Officer, by email at lpender@uvic.ca or by telephone at (250) 721-6167.

# What you will learn

At the end of this presentation, students will be able to answer the following questions:

* What is the NSERC CGRS-D?
* Am I eligible?
* How do I apply?
* When is the deadline?
* What are my next steps?

While every effort has been made to provide accurate information, please refer to the NSERC program materials as your primary source of information.

# What is the NSERC CGRS-D?

The Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral is a scholarship provided by Canada’s research councils: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (known as NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (known as SSHRC), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (known as CIHR).

Together, these research councils are often referred to as the Tri-Agencies, the Tri-Councils, or the granting agencies.

The value of the CGRS-D is $40,000 per year for up to three years.

The purpose of the CGRS-D is to support research excellence so that scholarship recipients may focus on their doctoral studies. The scholarship is based on indicators of excellence set out in the selection criteria. It is not based on financial need.

In addition to the funding provided, another reason why students may choose to apply for this scholarship is the impact of having a competitive award in your academic experience.

# Am I eligible?

Eligibility for the NSERC doctoral scholarship program has changed as of the fall 2025 competition.

The program was formerly known as the CGS-D, and was open only to domestic students. Beginning fall 2025, the new CGRS-D program is open to both domestic and international students. In order to be eligible, international students must be registered in a doctoral program at the time of application. NSERC advises that a study permit is not required in order to apply: this means that international students at UVic who are beginning their doctoral program remotely while waiting for their study permit are eligible to apply.

Domestic students can apply prior to being registered in a doctoral program (for example, in the last year of their master’ program) provided they will be registered in a doctoral program no later than January 1, 2027.

Your doctoral program must include a significant research component that leads to the completion of a thesis, dissertation, or major research project.

Another significant change to the program this year, is the window for application has extended from two years to three. You must have completed no more than thirty-six months of full-time study in your doctoral program as of December 31st of the year of application.

A final change to the program is that you may apply to the CGRS-D a maximum of three times. This new limitation begins with the fall 2025 competition: applications submitted earlier under the former CGS-D program don’t count.

# How do I apply?

You may submit one application per year to one research council. Begin by [selecting the appropriate research council](https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/selecting-appropriate-federal-granting-agency?OpenDocument) – NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR – according to the guidelines provided in the link.

If your area of research overlaps with two or more research councils it is important to seek advice, as applications submitted to the incorrect research council may be rejected as ineligible, and you will not be permitted to re-submit your application to another research council in that competition. If your research relates to health, when you follow the link, scroll down to find specific guidelines for health research. Consult with your academic supervisor or contact FGS to learn how you may request advice from NSERC.

Review the [Where to submit an application instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_eng.asp#a5) on the CGRS D program website to confirm that you should submit your application to the UVic competition. If you are a current UVic student, you should submit your application to the UVic competition. This is true even if you intend to hold your award at a different institution.

The CGRS-D application is a web-based form in the [NSERC On-line System](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp). Register, then initiate your application, following the [NSERC Form 201 instructions](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/201/pgs-pdf_eng.asp).

How do you indicate that you are applying to the UVic competition? When you initiate your application in the NSERC On-line System, at the beginning of the application you will be asked to select an option that reflects your current registration status: you will select the option that indicates you are **currently registered at a Canadian institution with an NSERC quota**, then select University of Victoria from the list of institutions. You can find a link to step-by-step instructions on the UVic CGRS D website. I recommend that once you have initiated your application, email our office to confirm that we can see your application in the UVic competition: if we can’t see your in-progress application in the NSERC portal, your application is in the wrong place and it will not be considered. Our contact information is available at the end of this presentation.

# When is the deadline?

The table on this slide provides a timeline of the CGRS-D process, beginning with the online portal opening for applications in summer 2025, and ending with successful applicants receiving their scholarship payments as early as May 2026.

The NSERC online portal opens for applications on July 9, 2025.

FGS will host two application workshops:

* Online on Friday, August 22 at 9:00am Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) which is the time zone here in Victoria. A Zoom link is available on our [UVic CGRS-D website](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships-doctoral.php) under NSERC applications.
* In-person on Wednesday, September 3 at 10:30am in the Jamie Cassels Centre, Senate Chambers.

The deadline to submit your application is Wednesday, September 24, 2025 by noon Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)*.* This is the deadline for applicants in the UVic competition. While you are reviewing information on the NSERC website you may see a reference to a separate deadline of October 17. This deadline is **not applicable for UVic students**.

Applications are reviewed and scored by a committee of natural sciences and engineering researchers on campus, with top-scoring applications forwarded to the national competition in late November. UVic is an institution with an NSERC quota, meaning that NSERC sets a maximum number of applications that we may forward to the national competition.

NSERC will announce results of the competition in April 2026.

Successful applicants can choose to activate their award and begin receiving scholarship payments on either May 1 or September 1, 2026, or January 1, 2027. NSERC also provides options to defer a start date under certain circumstances.

# What are my next steps?

1. Consult with your academic supervisor and begin drafting your Outline of Proposed Research and Research Contributions and Statements: these are important components of your application. Set a schedule that allows time for feedback from an NSERC coach. Coaches are UVic faculty members who are available to provide application advice and written feedback. Their contact information is available on the UVic CGRS-D website under NSERC applications.
2. Contact your referees: two people who will provide letters of reference as part of your application. Provide them with your draft application, CV, and NSERC instructions for referees. One referee should be your academic supervisor. If you would like advice about choosing your second referee, please consult with your academic supervisor or a UVic NSERC coach.
3. Review the selection criteria: learn how your application will be evaluated.
4. Plan to attend our application workshops where you can meet your NSERC coaches, receive application advice, hear from students who have successfully applied for the award, and have your questions answered. Workshop details are posted on our website and I will share the link on the next slide.

# Contacts and resources

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Pender, Scholarship Officer, by email at lpender@uvic.ca, by telephone at (250) 721-6167, or in-person at the Jamie Cassels Centre, room A207 Wednesdays to Fridays.

Visit the [UVic CGRS-D website](https://www.uvic.ca/graduatestudies/finances/search-funding/award-pages/canada-graduate-scholarships-doctoral.php) where you can find contact information for the NSERC coaches, workshop dates, the UVic deadline, and helpful information.

NSERC resources on the [CGRS-D program website](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_eng.asp) include the selection criteria, application instructions, referee instructions, links to tutorial videos and contact information for technical support.

This concludes the presentation. Thank you.