Interdepartmental Correspondence

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Date: Friday, August 18, 2017

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

From: FGSR Awards Services

Re: 2017 CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS) June Competition

The CGS-MSFSS Program supports high-calibre graduate students in building global linkages and international networks through the pursuit of exceptional research experiences at research institutions abroad. By accessing international scientific research and training, CGS-MSFSS recipients contribute to strengthening the potential for collaboration between Canadian and foreign institutions. These supplements are available to Canadian citizens or permanent residents who hold a Joseph-Armand Bombardier, Alexander Graham Bell or Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) at the master’s or doctoral level, or a Vanier CGS at the doctoral level.

Value:
The value of the CGS-MSFSS award is up to $6,000, based on the information and budget justification provided in the application. Supplements are non-renewable. The related research study period abroad normally lasts between three to six months, but must be for a minimum of three months.

Deadlines:
September 15, 2017 (4:00pm MST): deadline for departments to submit applications to FGSR
October 10, 2017: U of A deadline to submit recommended applicants to the Tri-Agencies

Departments may set an earlier internal deadline to receive applications from students and conduct internal adjudication.

Application/Nomination Process
The U of A allocations for the 2017/18 academic year (remaining after the June 10, 2017 competition) are NSERC: 4; and SSHRC: 2.

CIHR will not be allocating a pre-determined number of supplements to universities this year. As a result, CIHR encourages each university to forward all eligible applications requesting CGS-MSFSS funds to CIHR for consideration.

Eligible applicants must complete the appropriate web-based application form online, and also print the form and submit the printed form and all other required documentation to their home department.

There is currently no limit on the number of eligible applications (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR) a department can forward to FGSR.

Note: SSHRC and CIHR applications must be submitted as hard copies to departments and forwarded as hard copies to FGSR, as original signatures are required (see chart below).
New this year: Effective April 27, 2017, award holders are no longer required to submit a copy of their travel itinerary for approval to the agencies as this information is required within the host supervisor’s final report and the student’s activity report.

Reminders: 1.) For CGSM and Vanier CGS recipients, a copy of the latest updated CGS project proposal must be sent with the completed CGS-MSFSS application. 2.) Non-academic host supervisors must demonstrate they have experience supervising graduate student researchers.

Application Instructions and Eligibility Criteria: Please direct interested applicants to read the full Agency requirements (see chart below), as well as the information posted on the FGSR website.

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<th>CIHR</th>
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<td>Instructions</td>
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<td>Submission Method</td>
<td>FGSR will submit winning applications on behalf of the student by mail.</td>
<td>Applications must be uploaded to the institutions library within the CGS-MSFSS section of the Tri-Agency Awards Extranet</td>
<td>FGSR will submit winning applications on behalf of the student by mail.</td>
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Granting agency review

Members of the GSC will review all eligible applications, adjudicate, and forward recommended applications to the relevant granting agency. Each agency will then review the applications forwarded and make all CGS-MSFSS offers.

Notification of decision

Once the granting agencies complete the review processes, they will announce the results to candidates (CIHR and SSHRC by mail and NSERC by email), and to each institution by posting the list of all successful applicants by institution on the Tri-Agency Awards Extranet.

Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements will be administered (this includes overseeing and initiating payment) by FGSR, on behalf of the Tri-Agencies.