The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce the details of the 2019 NSERC Doctoral Competition, now available on FGSR’s website. The University of Alberta’s quota for the 2019 – 2020 competition is 84. The deadline for Departments to submit applications to FGSR is 4 PM on Monday, October 15, 2018. There are no restrictions on the number of applications that Departments may forward to the FGSR for the doctoral competition; however, the FGSR requests that Departments consider the workload of the adjudicators and nominate only those students who have a reasonable chance of success relative to the limited number of applications that may be forwarded to Ottawa for the competition. Applications being forwarded to the FGSR should be reviewed within the Department to ensure that they are complete and accurate according to the NSERC Guidelines.

Eligibility

To determine registration status at time of application submission, please refer to NSERC’s website. Applicants are to refer to NSERC’s website for clarification concerning the value, duration, and eligibility, and are to note the following.

- Students should consult the Eligibility Criteria for Students and Fellows for important information on eligibility criteria pertaining to proposed program of study and research.
- Students should consult Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency to help them select the appropriate agency when applying for funding. An addendum to these guidelines, called the Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health, provides examples of eligible and ineligible research subject matter related to NSERC’s function.

New for NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral (PGSD) applications:
1. First-class average in each of the last two years of completed study is no longer an eligibility criterion. Universities will recommend the top-ranked applications to NSERC.
2. Joint programs with a professional degree (e.g., MD/PhD, DVM/PhD) are eligible, provided they have a significant research component.

Beginning in August 2018, NSERC (in coordination with SSHRC and CIHR) will be asking all applicants to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, disability and visible minority status. Completing the new self-identification form will be mandatory for applicants and co-applicants but for each category there is an option “I prefer not to answer.” This self-identification information collected as part of EDI activities will not be visible on the doctoral awards application form. For more information, please visit: http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_97615.html
New this year, institutions may submit applications from Indigenous doctoral applicants beyond their quota of applications for the national competition. Indigenous applicants who would like their application considered for submission beyond their institution’s quota are asked to select the “Option for Self-Identified Indigenous Applicants” in the “Identification” section of the online application form. Once completed, this information will be displayed on Page 1 of the application form.

**NOTE:** Applicants who have selected the option to have their application considered for submission beyond their institution’s quota are advised that this information will be shared with authorized officials at their institution. This information is otherwise considered confidential and should not be shared with selection committees.

**Application and Department Nomination Process**

Students are required to complete their application using NSERC’s On-line Services, and provide the Department with any required up-to-date official transcripts. Departments are therefore encouraged to set an earlier, internal departmental deadline to allow time to collect, and to submit the following documents (as one complete package) to FGSR by **4 PM on Monday, October 15, 2018**:

1.) An alphabetical list of students applying through their Department (along with Student ID numbers).
   - Departments are not required to rank their applicants, and may email the list to grad.awards@ualberta.ca. **Students who apply to this competition, but are not included on the Department’s applicant list will not be considered.**

2.) All required **up-to-date** official transcripts.
   - Transcripts must be provided for all postsecondary coursework undertaken, even if a degree was never completed.
   - Departments are asked to refer students to NSERC’s Transcripts/Proof of Registration requirements. It is the student’s responsibility to provide the necessary documentation to Departments, and it is the responsibility of the Department to inform students of the name and contact information of our U of A Designate (required as part of the application process). Refer to the “Transcript Submission and Timelines” section below for further details.
   - If students have already submitted the **up-to-date** official transcripts to FGSR for Admissions purposes, Departments are not required to collect these documents from their students. Students are also not required to provide University of Alberta transcripts. **If students have not yet submitted the required up-to-date official transcripts to FGSR, Departments are requested to collect them from their students and submit them to FGSR as part of the Departmental submission package.**

If Departments require a copy of their students’ NSERC applications for internal adjudication purposes, Departments must request this directly from the student. FGSR will not provide copies of students’ applications to Departments. Referees are required to submit a confidential online form, and therefore letters are not available to students. If academic reference letters are required for internal adjudication purposes, Departments must contact the referee directly. As FGSR has access to NSERC’s On-line Services, please do not submit hard copies of students’ applications and reference letters. Following the application/department submission deadline of **October 15, 2018**, FGSR will upload copies of all required up-to-date official transcripts to the applicants’ online applications by mid-November.

As a reminder, 2018/19 recipients of the UofA Master’s Scholarship and UofA Doctoral Recruitment Scholarship are required to apply for Tri-Agency funding if they are eligible (ie. citizenship status is Canadian/Permanent Resident).
Applicants may simultaneously apply to both the NSERC Doctoral Scholarship program and the NSERC Vanier CGS program. At the U of A, those applicants who have completed the online 2019 NSERC Vanier CGS application are strongly encouraged to also complete an application for the NSERC PGS-D competition if they are eligible (ie. citizenship status is Canadian/Permanent Resident). NOTE: If a student accepts an NSERC CGS-D/PGS-D scholarship, they are no longer eligible to hold a Vanier scholarship.

**Transcript Submission and Timelines**

It is the responsibility of the Department to inform students of the name and contact information of our U of A designate. Please provide the following to the students forwarded to FGSR:

In the “Transcripts – University” task of the online application, students are to indicate the following information for the University Designate who will scan and upload their transcripts:

**First Name: Ling**
**Last Name Jiang**
**E-mail: grad.awards@ualberta.ca**

1. Once students complete their application section and the letters of reference have been submitted, students must click “verify” only. At this time, students will not be able to click “submit” as FGSR will still need to upload their Transcripts at a later date.
2. FGSR will then review students’ applications for eligibility and completeness based on the list provided by Departments.
3. FGSR will upload students’ transcripts in the portal and will send a notification email to the departments so that they may advise their students that all transcripts have been uploaded, and that students can click “submit”.
4. Results of the NSERC competition at the University level will be shared to Departments. Only those students who’ve been nominated to NSERC will receive a notification email from FGSR that they have been forwarded to the national competition level. Unsuccessful students will be notified via the NSERC portal.
5. Final NSERC doctoral results are expected to be announced in April 2019.

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

Sincerely,

Awards Services