The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce the details of the 2019 SSHRC Doctoral Competition, now available on FGSR’s website. The University of Alberta’s quota for the 2019 – 2020 competition is 68. The deadline for Departments to submit applications to FGSR is Wednesday, October 31st, 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 SSHRC Guidelines.

Please refer to the following Department Nomination process and Appendix (pg 3) for a number of important updates and reminders for the 2019 competition with regard to eligibility. Please ensure applicants refer to SSHRC’s website for clarification concerning the value, duration and eligibility.

**Application and Department Nomination Process**

Students must complete SSHRC’s on-line web-based forms; the application form is to be updated in the web-application system, printed, and re-submitted to the receiving department. All documents where a signature is required from the student, the Department, or referees (application, Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information, Department Appraisal, Letters of Appraisal) MUST include a handwritten signature; SSHRC will not accept digital signatures, images, etc.

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).

**Department Appraisal**

Each application must include SSHRC’s Department Appraisal form printed and signed by the Department Graduate Coordinator/Chair (or designate); electronic signatures cannot be accepted. The Departmental ranking cannot be signed by an individual whom has written a letter of reference or is supervising a student whose application is being forwarded to FGSR. Please only include the total number of students being nominated to FGSR in the ranking section; the total number of applications Departments receive for internal adjudication is not required.

**Reference Letters**

Referees must use the Letter of Appraisal form (one page limit) provided by the student. Reference letters provided in other formats will not be accepted. Letters should be provided by student's master's program supervisor and by their current doctoral program supervisor (including newly admitted students). Refer to SSHRC’s Application for a Doctoral Award Instructions (Web) on FGSR’s website for more details.
Transcripts
It is the student’s responsibility to ensure FGSR has all official up-to-date hard copy transcripts, including but not limited to transcripts from institutions at which students took only a few courses, and transcripts for partially completed degrees. If a student is unsure which transcripts are with FGSR, they must provide us with their student ID number and a list of transcripts they wish confirmed. If FGSR has the official up-to-date transcripts, these transcripts do not need to be submitted again. FGSR will generate a U of A transcript.

Submission Instructions
Departments are to submit the complete application as one PDF per student to grad.awards@ualberta.ca by October 31, 2018 at 4PM. Please use “SSHRC DOCTORAL COMPETITION – DEPT NAME” in your subject line. FGSR no longer requires the hard copies.

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

Sincerely,

Award Services
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) (New)

As of June 2018, the granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) are asking all applicants for funding competitions (grants, scholarships, and fellowships) to self-identify with information on age, gender, Indigenous identity, and status as a member of a visible minority group or person with a disability. A harmonized self-identification data collection process allows the granting agencies to monitor the equity performance of its programs and design new measures that achieve greater equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise. Completing the self-identification form will be mandatory, but for each category there is an option for “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.

Indigenous Talent Measures (New)

SSHRC is committed to supporting research by and with Indigenous peoples—in Canada and abroad—as well as Indigenous students and postdoctoral researchers seeking to advance careers in the social sciences and humanities. 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.

Special circumstances
Indigenous applicants may also complete an allowable inclusion to explain any special circumstances that may have delayed their academic career (e.g., cultural or community responsibilities, and/or challenging socio-economic contexts). This information should be taken into account by selection committee members.

Indigenous research
Applicants may identify a proposed program of study as Indigenous research, such that SSHRC’s Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research will apply.

NOTE: Applications involving Indigenous research count towards the institution’s quota unless the applicant has also selected the option to have their application considered for submission beyond their institution’s quota.

Eligibility and Calculation of the Number of Months of Doctoral Study Completed

Applicants registered in a degree program at a Canadian university with a quota during the year of application must apply through that university. Please refer to SSHRC’s Applicant Status table to determine registration status.

NEW* The previous requirement for applicants to be pursuing their first PhD has been removed.

In calculating the value and duration of awards, SSHRC considers all studies counted toward the degree for which funding is requested. These include individual courses and spring/summer sessions that did not lead to a degree, and/or that were credited to the graduate degree for which funding is requested but that were taken before being officially registered in a PhD program.

SSHRC assumes that all studies were full time and uninterrupted. Students who studied on a part-time basis, or who interrupted their studies with their institution’s official approval, must specify the dates of interruption or part-time study in an official letter from their institution, to be included with the application. FGSR Awards will automatically write this letter for all students chosen to be forwarded to the next level.

For combined MA/PhD or fast-track programs, SSHRC determines the value and duration of an award based on the number of months of full-time study (or equivalent) the applicant will have completed by December 31 of the year of application.
Calculation in fast-track situations where no credits have been transferred will begin from the start date of the doctoral portion. Calculation for combined MA/PhD programs and fast-track situations where credits have been transferred will begin from the start of the Master’s portion. Please ensure this information is clear in the application.

**Combined MA/PhD, Fast-Track and Direct-Entry Programs**

Students who are or will be registered in a combined MA/PhD, fast-track program (accelerated from a Master’s program into a doctoral program without obtaining the Master’s degree) or direct-entry doctoral program may be eligible to apply to the Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master’s Scholarship program (CGS M), if they have completed between zero and 12 months of graduate-level studies by December 31 of the year of application.

Students who are currently registered in a combined MA/PhD, fast-track or direct-entry doctoral program and have or will have completed more than 12 months of graduate-level studies as of December 31 of the year of application may only apply to the Doctoral Awards funding opportunity.

These procedures apply whether or not the degree was completed and whether or not the current university recognizes the previous credits or years of study.

**Multiple Applications**

In general, applicants may submit only one application to SSHRC in a given year. Also, fellowship and scholarship applicants may only submit one application in each academic year to either SSHRC or NSERC or CIHR. The only exception to this rule is that applicants may simultaneously apply to both the Doctoral Awards program and the Vanier CGSD program. At the U of A, applicants who are in the current SSHRC Vanier CGS competition should also complete the SSHRC Doctoral application (using SSHRC online forms) if they are eligible (i.e., citizenship status is Canadian/Permanent Resident). Successful applicants may only take up one award.

**Eligibility of Subject Matter at SSHRC (Update)**

In May 2017, the *General Guidelines for the Eligibility of Subject Matter at SSHRC* were updated. The following are considerations when assessing the eligibility of the subject matter of applications related to health:

- Applicants whose proposed research is health-related should consult CIHR’s mandate first to explore eligibility. CIHR has policies and procedures to adjudicate the full range of social sciences and humanities research proposals related to health research.
- The use of social science or humanities theories, methodologies and hypotheses is, in and of itself, not sufficient to make a proposal eligible at SSHRC.
- Applicants working in research areas where boundaries overlap are advised to state clearly in their application for funding why they believe their proposal is appropriate for support by the agency to which they are submitting their application.

Applicants are to explore funding opportunities at one of the other federal granting agencies while the proposal is reviewed for eligibility, to ensure that deadlines are not missed. Note that SSHRC does not permit appeals on grounds of subject matter eligibility.

**Related Initiatives**

SSHRC and its partner organizations offer initiatives that complement this funding opportunity:

- [Canada Graduate Scholarships—Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements](#)
- [Canada Graduate Scholarships to Honour Nelson Mandela](#)
- [Sport Participation Research Initiative](#)