The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce the details of the 2020 NSERC Doctoral Competition, now available on FGSR’s website. Information regarding the University of Alberta’s quota for the 2020 – 2021 competition is pending, and will be updated on FGSR’s website at a later date. Departments are to submit an alphabetical list of their students to FGSR by 4 PM on October 3, 2019; refer to the Application and Department Nomination process below for details. 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.

Please ensure applicants refer to NSERC’s website for clarification concerning the value, duration, and eligibility criteria. Applicants are also to consult NSERC’s website to determine registration status at time of application submission, and for assistance in selecting the appropriate agency when applying for funding.

As a reminder, 2019/20 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 2020 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.

Application and Department Nomination Process and Timelines
Departments are encouraged to set an earlier, internal Departmental deadline to allow time to collect and review applications. Note that institutions are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants to the PGS D Program above their application quota. In order to be considered for this, Indigenous applicants must provide consent within the application form to share this information with their institutions and NSERC. Departments are to follow and advise students of the following process:

1) Students must notify their Department of their intention to apply. To complete a full application, students must follow NSERC’s Application instructions and submit through NSERC’s On-line Services portal. It is the student’s responsibility to read all instructions and be familiar with the application process before applying.
2) 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 (the University designate) will need to upload student transcripts at a later date. Only students nominated by the Department will have their transcripts uploaded – refer to step 4 - 6 for transcript requirements and submission details.

3) By the Department internal deadline:
   - Students are to print a copy of their application from the On-line system, and submit to the receiving Department for internal adjudication purposes. As referees are required to submit a confidential online form, letters are not available to students. If academic reference letters are required for Department internal adjudication purposes, Departments must contact the referee directly to obtain a copy. FGSR will not provide copies of students’ applications or reference letters to Departments.

   - It is the students’ responsibility to submit any required official, up-to-date transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies to their Department by the Departmental deadline. Departments are asked to refer students to NSERC’s Transcripts or proof of registration for transcript requirement guidelines (ex. definition of up-to-date; ALL postsecondary coursework undertaken, etc). If FGSR has up-to-date official transcripts required for their NSERC application on file (example: submitted and all conditions cleared for Admissions purposes), applicants are not required to re-submit them. 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 by the nomination deadline.

   - University of Alberta transcripts are not required – FGSR will provide copies for those students nominated by the Department.

4) Departments are not required to rank their applications, but are required to submit their list of nominees on the signed Tri-Council Doctoral Scholarship Nominee List Form to grad.awards@ualberta.ca by Thursday, October 3, 2019 before 4:00 PM. Students who apply to this competition, but are not included on the Department’s applicant list will not be considered. As FGSR has access to NSERC’s On-line Services, hard copies of students’ applications and reference letters are not required.

5) It is the responsibility of the Department to inform their nominated students of the name and contact information of our U of A designate. In order for FGSR to upload student transcripts, please provide the following to students immediately following submission of the list of nominees:

   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

6) Following the application/Department submission deadline of October 3, FGSR will then review students’ applications for eligibility and completeness based on the list provided by Departments.

7) Early November: FGSR will upload students’ transcripts in NSERC’s On-line Services portal. Departments are to advise their students that all transcripts have been uploaded and that students can click “submit” in their on-line application. FGSR will send a notification email to Departments when transcripts are uploaded.

8) End of November: Results of the NSERC competition at the University level will be shared to Departments. Only those students who have 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.

9) Final NSERC doctoral results are expected to be announced in April 2020.

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