The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce the details of the 2021 Vanier CGS Preliminary competition at the University of Alberta. Although the competition has not yet been launched, notification is hereby provided of the FGSR preliminary assessment process.

All applicants wishing to be considered for this year’s competition must first complete a mandatory Vanier Preliminary Assessment package which consists of Vanier Preliminary Assessment Form, transcripts, Canadian Common CV, research proposal, project references and leadership statement. For Preliminary competition purpose, one Letter of Reference to Support Application for Graduate Awards Form must also be completed and signed by the applicant’s current graduate supervisor (or equivalent). Additional pages attached with the form will not be assessed by the Graduate Scholarship Committee and will be redacted. Applicant must advise his/her referee to submit the required form directly to the their home department. This letter of reference form does not replace the Vanier Referee Assessment. If an applicant is selected as a final nominee, all referees will be required to complete a referee assessment according to the Vanier Application Instructions and Vanier Information for Referees guidelines. Departments are asked to ensure the completed and signed form is sent directly to them by the referee.

The purpose of this package is to identify outstanding Vanier applicants well in advance who will then proceed to completing the full Vanier application package. In identifying these candidates early on in the process, it is hoped that these applicants will have additional time to finesse their final application forms and that departmental workload will be reduced with respect to the number of departmental nomination letters ultimately required. The preliminary packages will be evaluated by members of the FGSR Graduate Scholarship Committee and candidates will be advised if they are selected to proceed to the next level i.e completing the full Vanier application package. As this is a mandatory preliminary assessment, applicants who bypass this process will automatically be rejected.

All Vanier applicants must submit Preliminary Assessment packages to the department by departmental deadline date. The process and timelines are detailed below:

1. May/early June - Departments set deadline date for receipt of Vanier Preliminary Assessment packages and advise prospective applicants accordingly ensuring enough time is allotted to review packages.
2. July 15, 2020 - Deadline for departments to submit the preliminary package(s) and ranked list of Vanier nominees using the FGSR Vanier Preliminary Ranking Form by email to graduant@ualberta.ca before 4:00 pm. FGSR will not accept packages directly from students. Departments should notify any students whose packages were deemed uncompetitive and thus not forwarded to FGSR.
4. Aug 1-31, 2020 – FGSR Graduate Scholarship Committee review and adjudication
5. Early September – applicants for whom preliminary packages have been forwarded to FGSR will be advised, via email, as to whether they have been selected to complete the full Vanier package. FGSR will also advise those students who were not chosen to proceed in the competition. Departments will be copied on these emails.

Further details regarding deadlines for the full Vanier application, changes for this year’s competition etc will be provided once the competition is formally launched.