The FGSR is pleased to announce the details of the 2017 Vanier CGS selection process at the University. Our quota for the 2017 competition is 13 for NSERC, 11 for CIHR, and 9 for SSHRC.

Eligibility. The following eligibility rules apply to the nominees in fall, 2015, for the upcoming Vanier competition:

1. They must be enrolled full-time in a doctoral program no later than January 2018.
2. If already enrolled full-time in a doctoral program, they could not have started that doctoral program earlier than September, 2015.
3. If currently enrolled full-time in a master’s program (with the intention of being switched to a doctoral program without completing the master’s degree), then the master’s program could not have started earlier than September, 2014. The switch to a doctoral program must occur in accordance with #1.
4. Must have achieved first-class standing (GPA of at least 3.5) in each of the last two years of full-time study (or equivalent).
5. Must be pursuing their first doctoral (or MD/PhD) degree.
6. Must not have already received a doctoral scholarship from CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC.

Please note that the dates in #2 and #3 apply to full-time students only. For part-time student eligibility, please contact the FGSR at gradvani@ualberta.ca so we can confirm eligibility.

Please note that the online application system (ResearchNet) is already open.

Deadlines. The timeline of the 2016 Vanier CGS competition at the UofA:

- September 19 (midnight MST), 2016
  - Deadline for submission of the application form on ResearchNet and for receipt at the FGSR of official transcripts (UAAlberta transcript is not required) and a nomination letter completed and signed by the Department Head (please see below for more details). If
FGSR has your official up-to-date transcripts for completed degrees from other institutions on file, these transcripts do not need to be requested again.

- **September 20 – November 1, 2016**
  - FGSR reviews complete applications received by the September 19 deadline to ensure completeness and accuracy and to confirm eligibility.
  - The UAlberta Graduate Scholarship Committee adjudicates complete application packages received and prepares a shortlist of nominees.
  - Short-listed applicants are given an opportunity to finalize their applications.
  - FGSR finalizes all documents for submission.

- **November 2, 2016**
  - The FGSR submits final nominations to Vanier-Banting Secretariat.

**Workshop**
- FGSR is will host a workshop for applicants on **August 24, 2016 at 3:00 – 4:30 PM in CCIS 1-140**.

**Additional Information:**
- Subject to availability, editorial help will be available for all UAlberta nominees who wish to make use of it.
- Departments must provide a nomination letter for each candidate and send it to gradvani@ualberta.ca by the **September 19, 2016** deadline in a PDF format. Please ensure that the document is signed by the Department Chair (or Dean if a Faculty) and is on the current UAlberta letterhead.

**Nomination Letters**
Institutions must provide a nomination letter, along with the application form, for each student nominated for a Vanier CGS.

This nomination letter must be completed and signed by the **Department Head** nominating the candidate (equivalent or designate) and must be on the **institution's letterhead**. If signed by someone other than the Department Head, it should be clearly indicated in the letter that the signee has authority to nominate candidates to the Vanier CGS program.

The nomination letter should be a **maximum of two pages** in length and address the following points:

1. **Rationale for the choice of candidate:**
   - Highlight the factors used to determine why the student is deserving of a Vanier CGS. Clearly articulate the excellence of the candidate according to the three selection criteria: **academic excellence**, **research potential** and leadership (potential and demonstrated ability). Ensure that the letters focus on leadership potential and demonstrated abilities.

2. **Research training environment:**
Elaborate on the appropriateness of the supervisor in terms of resources, funding, publications, their research and training environment. Examples may include (but not limited to) funding, facilities/resources and personnel that will be available to support the candidate as they carry out their proposed research and develop their leadership potential.

Discuss how the research interests/background of the student and supervisor align with the institution’s priorities (Ensure that claim about uniqueness of the research environment are accurate.) For institutional priorities, please refer to institutional documents on the VP Research website: [http://www.research.ualberta.ca/OfficeoftheVice-PresidentResearch/InstitutionalDocuments.aspx](http://www.research.ualberta.ca/OfficeoftheVice-PresidentResearch/InstitutionalDocuments.aspx)

Provide details that suggest that the Candidate has selected the appropriate supervisor and research environment. Discuss how the supervisor’s commitment will be available to support the candidate in furthering their professional and leadership development.

If known, comment on the research group and/or faculty with whom the candidate will interact and how the University of Alberta will support the development of the candidate’s leadership potential.

If unknown, please address the reasons behind why the candidate has not selected a supervisor and research environment.

3. **Potential benefits to the University of Alberta of recruiting the candidate:**
   - Clearly justify the institution’s nomination of the candidate in light of the institution’s research environment and articulate how the applicant will benefit from being awarded a Vanier CGS. If known, also elaborate on the benefit the candidate will bring to the University of Alberta. (e.g., role model, networking, etc.)

4. **Recruitment and student mobility:**
   - Comment on how the institution’s nomination of the candidate promotes the recruitment of new foreign or Canadian candidates to Canadian institutions.
   - If the candidate has completed a previous degree within UAlberta, provide justification for the lack of mobility and an explanation as to why it is in the candidate’s best interest to stay at the same institution (i.e. research/paid institution [or its affiliate], supervisor or co-supervisor, availability of specialized equipment).

Please note that FGSR posted additional resources on the [website](http://www.research.ualberta.ca/OfficeoftheVice-PresidentResearch/InstitutionalDocuments.aspx) with tips from Vanier winners and committee members regarding various aspects of preparing a successful Vanier Scholarship application.