NSERC Information Session
Scholarships and Fellowships
2018-2019
Agenda

• EDI initiatives at NSERC
• Postgraduate programs
• Postdoctoral programs
• How to apply
• Tips and advice
• Contact information
Equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives at NSERC
NSERC’s focus on EDI

- **NSERC** is committed to implementing policies and processes to identify and mitigate barriers and biases within our programs

- **Sound EDI practices at NSERC will:**
  - increase access to the largest pool of qualified applicants
  - enhance the integrity of our application and selection processes
  - increase the overall excellence of the research
Why is addressing EDI issues important?

The gender gap in science: How long until women are equally represented?

“Despite recent progress...the gender gap is especially large in authorship positions associated with seniority, and prestigious journals have fewer women authors.”
What features does NSERC have in place to enhance EDI for students/postdocs?

- Diversity on selection committees
- EDI training for staff and members
- Extensive list of examples of activities demonstrating communication, interpersonal, and leadership abilities
- Parental leave policies
- Evaluation of applicants based on active period
- Collection of equity data
- Special circumstances section
- Applications from Indigenous applicants
This new data is important for monitoring the equity performance of our programs and informing future measures to increase equity, diversity and inclusion in the research enterprise.


Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Indigenous identity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your date of birth?</td>
<td>Do you identify as Indigenous; that is First Nations (North American Indian), Métis, or Inuit?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[DD/MM/YYYY]</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer not to answer</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>If “Yes”, select the options that you identify with.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select the option that you identify with.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woman</td>
<td>First Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man</td>
<td>Inuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender-fluid, non-binary, and/or Two-Spirit</td>
<td>Métis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I prefer not to answer</td>
<td>I prefer not to answer</td>
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</table>
Postdoctoral fellowships
## NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Value and duration</strong></th>
<th>$45,000 per year for two years</th>
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</table>
| **When and how to apply** | • By 8 PM (ET) on October 15  
• NSERC Online System |
| **Who can apply?** | • Canadian citizens  
• Permanent residents of Canada |
| **Where can you hold the award?** | • Canadian universities  
• Provincial research institutions in Canada  
• Other appropriate research laboratory in Canada  
• Universities and research centres abroad *(PhD must be from Canadian institution)* |
| **What is the eligibility window?** | • PhD must have been completed after October 15, 2016 (some exceptions) |
| **When are awards announced?** | • Mid-January 2019 |
### Selection criteria and weightings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selection criterion</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic excellence</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research ability or potential</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** You can only apply once to the PDF program
What happens to your PDF application at NSERC?

- NSERC staff verify eligibility of applicant and proposed research
- Members review applications
- Top-ranked applicants are discussed at fellowships review meeting
  *(larger selection committees may pre-award some applications)*
- Final ranked list is produced
- Results are announced in January
PDF application statistics

- Number of applications/awards
- Applications received
- Awards offered
- Success rate
  - 2014: 20.7%
  - 2015: 30.8%
  - 2016: 31.1%
  - 2017: 33.5%

Competition year:
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
Should you apply during or after your PhD?

\[ \chi^2 = 0.0858, \ p = .77 \]
## Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Banting PDF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Value and duration</strong></td>
<td>• $70,000 per year for two years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When and how to apply?</strong></td>
<td>• By 8 PM (ET) on September 19, 2018&lt;br&gt;• ResearchNet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who can apply?</strong></td>
<td>• Canadian citizens&lt;br&gt;• Permanent residents of Canada&lt;br&gt;• Foreign citizens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where can you hold the award?</strong></td>
<td>• Canadian and foreign universities&lt;br&gt;• Affiliated research hospitals, colleges and not-for-profit organizations with a strong research mandate and capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Selection criteria (weighted equally)</strong></td>
<td>• Research excellence and leadership in the research domain&lt;br&gt;• Quality of applicant's proposed research program&lt;br&gt;• Institutional commitment and demonstrated synergy between applicant and institutional strategic priorities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Japan Society for the Promotion of Science - Postdoctoral Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Deadline</strong></th>
<th>February 1</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value:</strong></td>
<td>JSPS provides funding for airfare, monthly maintenance allowance, settling-in allowance and travel insurance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration:</strong></td>
<td>12 to 24 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When and how to apply?</strong></td>
<td>Apply directly to NSERC. Contact <a href="mailto:schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca">schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca</a> for application form and instructions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **To be eligible, you must:** | • be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada  
  • You must have completed all requirements of your first doctoral degree no more than six years before the application deadline. |
• New fellowship launched by NSERC and the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation
• Value $45,000 per year for 2 years
• 2 awards in all priority areas of the National Housing Strategy, 2 awards for research on Indigenous housing
• Apply for NSERC PDF by the deadline date
• Submit justification
How to apply

Completing Form 201 – application for a postgraduate scholarship or a postdoctoral fellowship
Online system

A braintrust of more than 11,000 researchers and 30,000 students, powered by over $560 million annually. Rigorous quality assurance of NSERC Discovery investments create and build the foundation for innovation.
Form 201 – Application Profile

Program Postgraduate Scholarships - PGS D

Title of proposal

Application language English

Proposed starting date of award

Current status

Option A = You are currently registered at a foreign university.

Option B = You are not currently registered at a university; or are registered, but not in a degree program; and have completed all of the requirements for a degree program prior to January 1 of this year.

Option C = You are currently registered at (or were registered at during the year of application), or are on an approved leave of absence from, a Canadian university in a degree program.

Option D = You are not currently registered at a university; or are registered, but not in a degree program; and have completed all of the requirements for a degree program from a Canadian university since January 1 of this year.
Form 201 – Person Profile

This information was transferred from the New User Registration Information screen. If you need to update these fields, use the Maintain User Profile function under Account Management on the eConsole screen.

**Family name**: Smith
**Given name**: Sarah
**Initial(s) of ALL given names**: E
**Previous family name**:  
**NSERC PIN**: 362018
**Email address**: sarah.smith@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

**Citizenship**: Canadian Citizen

**Date of landing**: [YYYY MM DD]

**Self-Identification statement**:  
Please note: Answers to the self-identification statement are not seen or used during the review process or by an applicant’s references.

**Statement 1**: I self-identify as Indigenous.
- I agree with Statement 1. I consent to this information being shared with my institution and used for my PGSD application for the purpose of being considered above my institution’s application quota.
- Statement 1 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 1.

NSERC may increase equity and diversity by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman, if sufficient funds are made available.

**Statement 2**: I self-identify as Indigenous.
- I agree with Statement 2. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 2 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 2.

**Statement 3**: I self-identify as a woman.
- I agree with Statement 3. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 3 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 3.
Form 201 – Person profile PGS D

Citizenship

Date of landing as stated on official immigration document

Self-Identification statement:

Please note: Answers to the self-identification statement are not seen or used during the review process or by an applicant’s references.

Statement 1: I self-identify as Indigenous.
- I agree with Statement 1. I consent to this information being shared with my institution and used for my PGS D application for the purpose of being considered above my institution’s application quota.
- Statement 1 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 1.

NSERC may increase equity and diversity by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman, if sufficient funds are made available.

Statement 2: I self-identify as Indigenous.
- I agree with Statement 2. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 2 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 2.

Statement 3: I self-identify as a woman.
- I agree with Statement 3. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 3 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 3.
Form 201 – person profile PDF

Citizenship

Date of landing as stated on official immigration document

Self-Identification statement:

Please note: Answers to the self-identification statement are not seen or used during the review process or by an applicant’s references.

NSERC may increase equity and diversity by giving award priority to meritorious applicants who self-identify as Indigenous and/or as a woman, if sufficient funds are made available.

Statement 1: I self-identify as Indigenous.

- I agree with Statement 1. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 1 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 1.

Statement 2: I self-identify as a woman.

- I agree with Statement 2. I consent to this information being used by NSERC as described above.
- Statement 2 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 2.

Statement 3: I self-identify as a woman.

- I agree with Statement 3. I consent to this information being used for my PDF application for potential consideration for programs targeted at women (i.e. L’Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Supplement, and/or the Alice Wilson Award).
- Statement 3 does not apply to me / I do not agree with Statement 3.
Form 201 – Academic Background

Include only current and past degree programs. Please use the section 'Other' for any additional degree.

**Type of degree Bachelor's**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Institution</strong></th>
<th>Use the 'List...' button</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Department</strong></th>
<th>Use the 'List...' button</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Country</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Period of study</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Started yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awarded/Expected yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Name of discipline** | (50 chars) |

**Type of degree Master's**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Institution</strong></th>
<th>Use the 'List...' button</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Department</strong></th>
<th>Use the 'List...' button</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
<td>(100 chars)</td>
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</tbody>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Period of study</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Started yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Transferred to Ph.D. without completing master's
Form 201 – Work Experience

Beginning with the most recent, list your academic, research and other relevant work experience. In the Nature of work field, indicate if you gained the experience during a program of study.

Current occupation 1 of 6

Period of employment from

[ ]

[ ]

to

[ ]

[ ]

Type of appointment

[ ]

Position held

[ ] (60 chars)

Organization

[ ] (100 chars)

Department

[ ] (40 chars)

Supervisor

[ ] (60 chars)

Nature of work

[ ] (100 chars)

Previous occupation 2 of 6

Period of employment from

[ ]

[ ]

to

[ ]

[ ]

Type of appointment

[ ]

Position held

[ ] (60 chars)

Organization

[ ] (100 chars)

Department

[ ] (40 chars)

Supervisor

[ ] (60 chars)
**Form 201 – Scholarships and Other Awards Offered**

List only competitive awards based on academic or research excellence and/or leadership or communication abilities. Include NSERC awards and declined awards. You may list up to ten awards starting with your most recent awards.

**Note:** "declined awards" refers to awards that were offered to you but which you declined.

### New Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of award</th>
<th>(35 chars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location of tenure</td>
<td>(35 chars)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value Per Year</td>
<td>$CAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period held from</td>
<td>yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to</td>
<td>yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

### New Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of award</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Location of tenure</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>$CAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period held from</td>
<td>yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to</td>
<td>yyyy mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Form 201 – Location of Tenure**

Indicate where you would like to hold this award, in order of preference.

**Note:** The 'List...' button contains a list of postsecondary institutions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed location of tenure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution / organization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program of study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second location (if appropriate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institution / organization</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name if not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program of study</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Form 201 – justification for location of tenure (PDF only)
Form 201 – scholarship/fellowship information (PGS D/CGS D only)

### Form 201 - Scholarship/Fellowship Information

At the time of application, are you attending university? [ ]

**Proposed degree program**

If you are offered an award, do you plan to take it up at a foreign university? [ ]

If you answered yes to the previous question, do you still want to be considered for an Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship which is tenable only in Canada? [ ]

Number of months of graduate studies (master’s and doctoral) you have completed as of December 31 of the year of application in the natural sciences and engineering (if none, enter "0"):

- [ ] Months of full-time studies
- [ ] Months of part-time studies

Number of months of studies you have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, in the program for which you are requesting funding (if none, enter « 0 »):

- [ ] Months of full-time studies
- [ ] Months of part-time studies
Form 201 –
thesis information

Form 201 - Thesis Information

Information on theses completed or in progress. For completed degrees, indicate the date by which you completed all degree requirements (not the convocation date). This includes your thesis defence, corrections, and deposition of thesis.

- **Degree**
  - [Input Field]
- **Supervisor**
  - [Input Field]
- **Date degree requirements completed**
  - [Input Field: yyyy mm]
- **Title of the thesis**
  - [Input Field]
  - [Character Limit: 200 chs]

Summary of thesis most recently completed or in progress. Use plain language. Do not reproduce the thesis abstract. To confirm that your text will fit, save your information and select 'Preview', then adjust accordingly.
Form 201 – Keywords/Research Subject Code

The Research Subject Code entered on the application will determine the selection committee in which the application will be evaluated. Consult the List of Research Subject Codes for Scholarships and Fellowships before making your selection.

**Research subject code**

```
Primary Use the 'List...' button
```

**Key words**

List up to ten (10) key words that describe your proposed research (for example, nuclear physics, geochemistry, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key word</th>
<th>(36 chars)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>
Advice and tips on completing Form 201
Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship

Selection committee member presentation and/or video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvUsRO9ZB8E
General (but important!) tips

- Read the program description
- Read the application instructions
- Read the selection committee guide
What makes a good research proposal?

- Write the proposal yourself
- Be as clear as possible
- Describe the objectives, hypothesis, experimental approach, methods, significance, etc.
- Clearly explain the significance to the NSE
- Make your proposal understandable for all members (consider their broad range of expertise)
- Do not repeat info from the thesis section (you can refer to it)
- Focus on what you will be working on during the tenure of the award
- Describe how EDI is considered in the research plan and design, if applicable (see Guide for Applicants)
- Maximum of one page in length (including references)
Making sure your research and your program are eligible at NSERC

- Major challenges must lie in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE), other than the health sciences

- Consult NSERC’s eligibility criteria (guidelines and addendum)

- Applications containing research proposals that are not eligible under these guidelines may be rejected

- You can only apply to one agency per academic year
Justifying the eligibility of your research

- Complete the *justification for eligibility of proposed research* section if your research overlaps with health or social sciences

- used by NSERC staff to determine eligibility of your proposed research; not seen by the selection committee members

- use plain language to explain why you believe that your research is eligible at NSERC

- should not be another description of your research project

- should be a short explanation (a paragraph is fine, you do not need to use the whole page)
Contributions and applicant’s statement

Important to refer to instructions when completing this section!

- Part 1: Articles published, accepted, submitted
- Part 2: Most significant contributions to R&D
- Part 3: Applicant’s statement:
  - research experience
  - relevant activities
  - special circumstances

Page limits: PGS D – 2 pages / PDF – 4 pages
No updates accepted once application is submitted
Things to watch out for when writing proposal/contributions/statement

- Impact/importance of research not explained
- Repetitiveness throughout the application
- Citations
  - Missing recent relevant/important work in the area
  - Irrelevant articles included
  - Relying on secondary sources (lack of understanding)
- Contributions to research not properly highlighted
- Lack of focus or coherence
- Spelling mistakes
- Repetitiveness
- Too much modesty
- Convey your passion for the research you are doing!
Transcripts

- Follow the transcript guidelines in the Form 201 instructions; your application will be rejected if you do not adhere

- Transcripts must be:
  - **up-to-date** (dated or issued in the current fall session or after the last term during which you were registered, even if there are no grades or updates)
  - **official** (issued by the Registrar’s Office, not web transcripts)
  - **included for each program listed in your application** (for PDF, you only need your doctoral transcripts)

- You are responsible for ensuring all transcripts have been uploaded according to the guidelines (even if your institution does the uploading)
Reports on the applicant

• Who should you ask to write your reports?
  o Your thesis supervisor
  o Another person familiar with your research and other abilities
  o Not your proposed supervisor (unless they have been or are currently your supervisor)

• How do you invite your references to complete the reports?
  o Enter their names and email addresses in the online system; the system will send them an email with instructions
  o Invite them well in advance of the deadline; your application cannot be submitted without these reports
Where to get additional information

• Resource videos
  o Tips on applying for an NSERC scholarship or fellowship
  o Demystifying the review process for NSERC scholarships and fellowships
  o CGS M instructions for completing the reference assessment form

• Program literature
  o Program guide for each program
  o Form 201 instructions
  o Selection committee guide
  o Tri-Agency research training award holder’s guide

• See NSERC website for other opportunities and supplements
• Talk to your supervisor – you may have an opportunity to receive indirect support through their grant
Contact information

• NSERC scholarships and fellowships: schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

• Online services helpdesk: webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
  (613) 995-4273