



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

CGS Master's Scholarship

Student Workshop

**Dr. Donna-Marie McCafferty, Assoc. Dean FGS
Kelsey Pennanen, Graduate Leaders Circle Co-Chair
Hannah Dimmick, Graduate Leaders Circle Co-Chair**

2022

- **Background**
- **Eligibility**
- **Timelines**
- **Application Procedures & Components**
- **Selection Criteria**
- **Research Proposal**
- **CCV**
- **Academic References**
- **General Tips**
- **Resources**
- **Questions & Contact Info**



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Background

CIHR

Canadian Institute for Health Research

NSERC

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

SSHRC

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

- [Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s program](#)
- [Instructions for completing an application](#)
- [Instructions for completing a Canadian Common CV](#)
- [Instructions for completing the reference assessment form](#)
- [Instructions for completing the reference assessment form](#) (tutorial video)

- **CIHR:** Frederick Banting and Charles Best CGS
- **NSERC:** Alexander Graham Bell CGS
- **SSHRC:** Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS

- Value: **\$17,500** for one year, non-renewable.

- Not sure which Tri-Agency you fall into? **Ask them!**
<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=en&n=FEE7261A-1>
 - **CIHR** cgsma@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
 - **NSERC** schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
 - **SSHRC** fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

The Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative

Overview		
Funding streams	Indigenous Scholars Supplement	Indigenous Scholars Award
Value	\$5,000	\$17,500
Duration	12 months	
Application deadline Footnote *	December 1, 2022	
Apply	Via the Canada Graduate Scholarships—Master's program	
Results announced	April	

- Experience in applying for funding and in scholarly writing (especially proposals)
- Prestige! Tri-Agency success is a broad metric across Canada
- Your success helps the university/program distribute funding to others.
- You do not want to wait until the first time you think that you have a legitimate shot at a scholarship to submit an application!

- CGS Masters applicants may also be considered for scholarship funding through other sources (e.g., AGES program) based on ranking in the university competition.
- Your program also receives graduate funding to distribute.

Applying to the Tri-Agency can increase your visibility to other funding sources.

- All applicants to the CGS Masters competition submit through a common online portal.
- Applicants apply to the university they plan to carry out their studies (may be different from their present locale).
- Applicants can apply to up to 3 institutions.
- Universities receive a *quota* per Tri-Agency and the awards are determined by the University (FGS) committee (application does not go to Ottawa).

CIHR: 40

NSERC: 33

SSHRC: 32

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CGSAllocations-QuotasBESC_eng.asp

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Eligibility

- Eligibility to apply is set by the Tri-Agencies

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp#star2

- Eligibility to while holding an award:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Guides-Guides/TriRTA-TriBFR_eng.asp

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Timelines

**CGS Masters Deadline:
Thursday, December 1, 2022
8:00 PM ET/6:00 PM MT**

Pay attention to countdown!

Contact REFEREES ASAP

Applications are submitted electronically through the [Research Portal](#).

Instructions:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/CGS_M-BESC_M_eng.asp

- If you are **currently registered** as a master's student at the University of Calgary, and you are not applying for this award at other universities, you may request copies of your transcripts <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships>
- Please do **not** request updates on the status of your transcripts prior to the date on the website. FGS will contact you if there are issues with your transcripts.
- **If you are not currently registered as a master's student** at the University of Calgary, or are applying elsewhere, transcripts must be requested from the [registrar](#) of each post-secondary institution you have attended.

- If you select 'health' as your field of research, you will need a CIHR Personal Identification Number (PIN)
- It can take up to one full working day to process your CIHR PIN request.
- Register with CIHR here: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38201.html>

How will I find out if I am successful?

- Notification on Research Portal by **April 1st**
- All universities will send out results on same day by email: Successful, Unsuccessful, or Alternate List.
- As applicants have applied to multiple schools, there is a tumble down of offers as awards are declined.
- Offers to alternate candidates may be made up until January 31 of the next calendar year. It is the responsibility of the applicant to regularly verify the Research Portal between April 1 and January 31 for results of the competition.
- An offer of a scholarship from a university does not mean acceptance to a program at that university.

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Application Procedures & Components

What do you need to submit?

- Application through Research Portal (open)
- Brief summary of proposal (maximum of 1,800 characters (including spaces), in language that the public can understand)
- Outline of proposed research (max 1 page)
- Bibliography/citations (max 1 page)
- Up-to-date undergraduate and graduate transcripts
 - You upload them after receiving official copies from institution
- The CGS-M Canadian Common CV (CCV)
 - To be completed then connected to application through Research Portal
- Two reference assessments
 - Uploaded through Research Portal



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Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria Weightings	
	CGS M (percent)
Academic excellence	50
Research ability or potential	30
Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills	20

- **50% Academic Excellence**
 - Transcripts
 - Awards
 - Reference assessments (x2)

- **30% Research Potential**
 - Research proposal
 - Common CV
 - Reference assessments (x2)

- **20% Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills**
 - Common CV
 - Reference assessments (x2)

- As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions:
 - Academic record (first class average)
 - Transcripts
 - Scholarships and awards held
 - Application form, CCV (Awards), reference assessments
 - Type of program and courses pursued
 - Course load
 - Relative standing (if available)

- **Since this is worth 50%, do everything you can to make sure you address all of the selection criteria:**
 - **Reference assessments**
 - **Address potential weaknesses head-on**

- Quality and originality of contributions to research and development
- Relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research
- Significance, feasibility, and merit of proposed research
- Judgement and ability to think critically
- Ability to apply skills and knowledge
- Initiative, autonomy, and independence
- Research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with the candidate's academic experience

- Publications, conferences, etc.
- Early stages of graduate career (most contributions are helpful):
 - Non-refereed publications (e.g., working papers)
 - Conference presentations – including small local conferences, student conferences, etc.
- More advanced students (quality of contribution also taken into consideration)
 - Refereed journals are most highly valued
 - International conference venues

- Work experience
 - CCV
- Leadership experience
 - CCV, reference assessments
- Project management including organizing conferences and meetings
 - CCV, reference assessments
- The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical, and/or scientific concepts clearly in written and oral formats
 - Research proposal, references, awards, CCV
- Involvement in academic life
 - references, CCV
- Volunteerism/community outreach
 - references, CCV

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Research Proposal

Highlight:

- What is new and important about your research?
- What is the key question your research addresses and how will it be answered?
- How does your research fit with institutional and/or funding agency priorities?
- What are estimated milestones and what does success look like for this research proposal?
- Write clearly
- What is the **impact**?
- Feasibility. What resources are available?



- Don't exceed the 1 page limit (additional text will be removed!)
- Don't cram as much text as possible into the document.
- Consider using some of the following:

- Space between paragraphs
- Indentation
- Headings

Image copyright Ally Brosh
<http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.ca/>

How set in stone are the project's and movement's names at this point? To grow faster, the movement needs to make a good first impression, taking advantage of anyone's fleeting first exposure to it so a person will want to learn more and believe it could actually offer a possible real solution or they won't bother. But this name, "The Venus Project", rather than encouraging one to listen with an open mind could cause one's attention to go up, waving for the crazy, not realistic, but of this world part. (In guessing the Venus in the Venus Project comes from Jacques being in Venus, Florida, but to any newbie "Venus" means something "out there" on other planet, and I think that makes an easily avoidable bad first impression. The "Venus Project" name doesn't sound serious to me, it sounds childish. Also the name of the movement, "Zeitgeist", is not only needlessly non-self-descriptive (we're wasting valuable exposure time with a mysterious name - using the opportunity that on each occasion when the name of the organization is mentioned, that in itself could be sending an introduction to a new idea, like if the name were "Technology Solves All Movement for a sloppy example), but it will also forever tie the movement to what some will call the conspiracy stuff (911, religion, etc.) because of your identically named movie Zeitgeist, and this will only distract and alienate from the RBE price. I was in the 911 Truth Movement and saw up front & personal so many who had an instinctively negative visceral reaction to any suggestion that 911 was an inside job, that they would hear no more. Also, why alienate those with strong beliefs in their religion? Is it really necessary for us to first convince everyone they've been lied to about everything their whole life before introducing a sane alternative to a profit based society when there are no good jobs anymore even in the first world? People are desperate for an alternative and these other things I think are unhelpful distractions to a beginner's introduction to the possibility of another way. Activists for a new system won't get so many bites at the mainstream media exposure apple that we can afford to squander any by tying a hand behind our back with unimportant inconsequential stuff like names and logos. Perhaps if we eliminate these easily changed hurdles, the movement will grow faster and have less fact and debunking charges to respond to. Trust me, I know that responding to 911 debunking charges is a full time job in itself, it's a rabbit hole. Unless we get away from the Zeitgeist movie name, we will be linked to the what people call the 'conspiracy' stuff. Of course, this suggestion should not in anyway detract from your contribution, Peter. You actually created the movement, right? and probably lots of us learned of BECAUSE of your movie's addressing of the 'conspiracy' stuff. This is truly only a request for a superficial and easily made de-link the V.P. and a R.B.E. with the unrelated items others deem conspiracy and/or non-positive theories. I say easily made because people's flyers, t-shirts, logos, stuff that is printed when needed, can be changed digitally on computers using existing technology generally available to those who print the stuff (just retyping, or simple editing, right?) and there are stockpiles of stuff with the current names on it that would be wasted I assume? Thanks in advance for your consideration, and please also address whom you think such a decision as to the movement's name should be made.

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- Consider your audience
 - The committee will likely include non-specialists
 - Will be organized by Tri-Agency
- Avoid jargon
- Limit abbreviations (or avoid them altogether)
- Explain technical terms

- “Hooking” your audience
 - Draw the audience into the importance of the work quickly
 - Introduction written at newspaper level
 - Understandable regardless of educational level

Introduction:

*Even if humanity could completely halt human carbon emissions today, the climate risks they pose would persist for millennia,¹ yet fossil fuels remain our primary source of energy to satisfy the population’s energetic needs. [...] According to climate scientists, if there is no immediate and substantial reduction of CO₂ emissions, the earth will witness massive and effectively irreversible impacts on ocean ecosystems before 2100. Hence, society is left with the question: **how can we avoid disastrous long-term consequences when we know that society is as dependent on fossil fuels as ever?***



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CCV

[Instructions for completing a Canadian Common CV](#)

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CCV_CGSM-CVC_BESCM_eng.asp

- Use this to your advantage!
- Start early – can be tedious.
 - Plan for outages
- Keep criteria from each section in mind (Academics, Research Potential, Personal Characteristics).
- Demonstrate that you are well-rounded.

No limits on number of entries per contribution.



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Academic References

- **Ask early:** Give your referees time to write a good assessment.
- **Choose wisely:** ask your potential referees if they can provide you with a positive, strong reference; one of them should be your current supervisor or someone who is familiar with your academic work. CGSM are research awards, so it is best to have researchers write your assessments.
- **Follow up - Don't be shy!**
 - Remind your referees of the deadline a week or more before the reference is due.

Do not just ask someone for a reference. Be proactive and make it easy for your referee to write a good assessment:

- Provide the selection criteria.
- Provide transcripts and a CV: highlight areas you wish to have covered in the assessment.
- Meet to discuss: what criteria do you think they should address? Provide examples
- Inform them of the deadline & REMIND them.

Strong assessments:

- Address the criteria in each sub-field.
- Describe characteristics and abilities. Use extracurricular activities, and describe roles (any leadership roles), address personality traits and comment on where you think this student will end up in their career.
- **Be specific.** Back a point up with an anecdote.

- Guide on writing a reference – send this: <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-guide/step-1-applying/preparing-your-application/writing-scholarship-reference>
- [Instructions for completing the reference assessment form](#)
- [Tutorial video](#)
- Remind letter writers of the deadline!

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General Tips

- What is this person going to do?
- Is the research feasible?
- What will be the outcomes and their **impact**? Is it new? Who will care?
- Do I have a picture of who this person is?
- Is this a good investment?

Scan Test:

- Have someone outside your field read you application ***quickly*** (scan it, ~ 5 minutes).
- What major point(s) do they take away from it? Is it what you wanted them to?

- A generic reference--the assessment is positive but gives no specifics and does not address criteria
- Content, context and/or impact of research not clearly stated. "So what?"
- Not following instructions by stretching the rules
- Frustrating evaluators by making material hard to find
- Diluting genuinely important/impressive material by describing generic material at length
- Not addressing possible weaknesses in the application

- **Start early**
 - Writing a good application takes time and planning. Make a schedule so that you can meet the competition deadlines and submit with confidence.

- **Know what you are applying for**
 - Read the terms of reference to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria and understand what is required to complete the application.

- Review your application one last time, check for spelling, grammar, formatting or factual errors.
- Read the application instructions again.
- You will increase your chance of success by following these tips and following the instructions exactly.
- Ask the Writing Centre in the Student Success Centre to review your application



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Resources

Technical Assistance Helpdesk:

<https://portal-portail.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/s/help-aide.aspx>

Program Related:

FGS: Email: gsaward@ucalgary.ca

CIHR Email: cgsma-bescbm@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

NSERC Email: schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

SSHRC Email: fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

- Plan your **support network**: your supervisor, your program (is there a department workshop?)
- Consult current scholarship holders in your program
- **Peer review**: Scholarship Cafés & Drop-In Mentoring (Zoom)

- Scholarship Café appointments are 30-minute one-on-one mentoring meetings. **You must register ahead of time for a time slot, and appointments are limited.**
- Sign up for Cafés using the links on <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships>
- You will receive a reminder of your appointment 1 day before the appointment.

- Drop-in hours are first come, first serve. However, we ask that you register ahead of time using the registration link on the FGS Awards page. You will be let in from the Zoom waiting room when a mentor is ready to meet with you.
- Attend a drop-in session using the links on <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships>

- These sessions will be hosted as live Q&A WebEx events.

They are supported by a series of informational videos available on the NSERC YouTube channel. These videos are intended to completely replace the presentation portion of the CGSM sessions, allowing CGSM staff and applicants to engage in a more in-depth and detailed Q&A session than we would normally have time for.

Participants should watch the videos in advance and come to the Q&A session with specific questions in mind:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6ox0GB7vXYIhaAY7mEqwmMqYK9TGCp1E>

- Session Details are posted online:
<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/canada-graduate-scholarships>.



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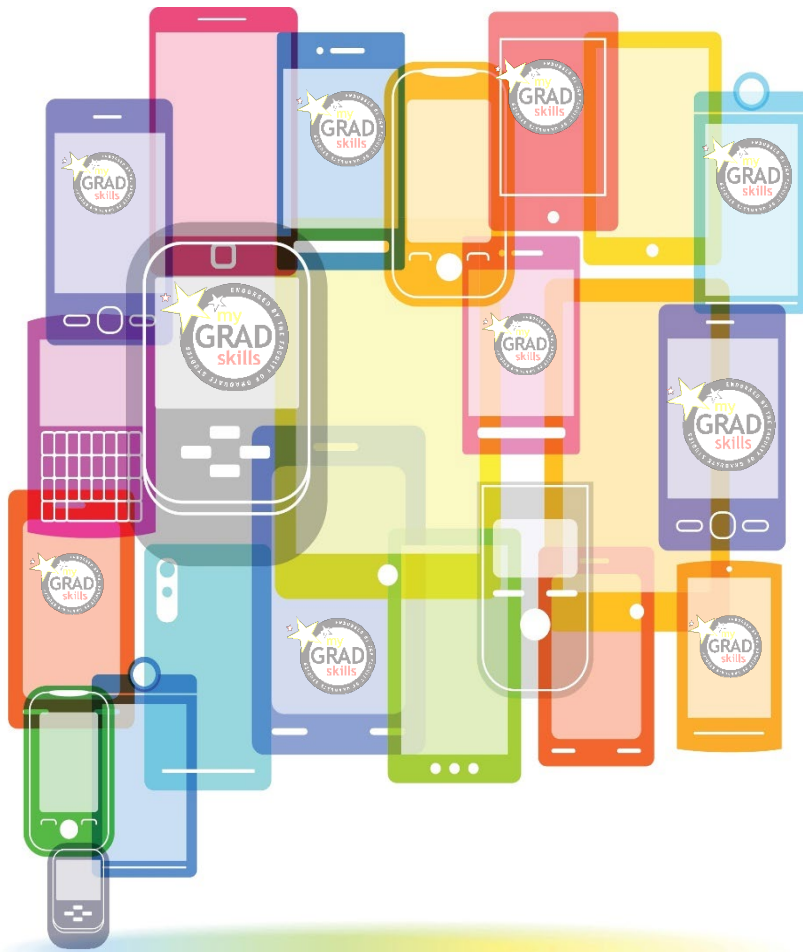
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- [Instructions for completing the reference assessment form](#) (tutorial video)

- Graduate Scholarship Officers:
 - CIHR: Elsa-Lee Alho (elsalee.alho@ucalgary.ca)
 - NSERC : Erin J. Coburn (ecoburn@ucalgary.ca)
 - SSHRC: Sophia George (georges@ucalgary.ca)
 - Faculty of Graduate Studies: gsaward@ucalgary.ca

- Graduate Leaders Circle
 - gradlead@ucalgary.ca
 - Scholarship Cafés & Drop-Ins

Connect and learn more about other workshops!



[ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/
workshops](http://ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/workshops)

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mygradskills@ucalgary.ca

[http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards
/tips_for_success](http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tips_for_success)

