



Western  
UNIVERSITY • CANADA

# **IMN-Ontario Webinar Series: Graduate Scholarship Opportunities**

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# Some questions

- Where do I want to study?
- When will I need the money?
- Do I have the academic talent to compete?
- How committed am I to research?
- Is my current choice of research topic for life?
- Have I demonstrated leadership at school and beyond?
- If I could fix a problem in the world, what would it be?

# Where in the world?

- **Remain in Canada – National Awards:**
  - Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master’s (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)
    - \$17,500 a year for one year
  - Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)
    - \$35,000 a year for 3 years
  - Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC)
    - \$50,000 a year for 3 years
  - NSERC Postgraduate Doctoral Scholarship
    - \$21,000 a year (2 or 3 year durations)
  - SSHRC Doctoral Award
    - \$20,000 a year (1 to 4 year durations)
  - Trudeau Doctoral Scholarships (SSHRC disciplines)
    - \$40,000 a year for 3 years

# Where in the world?

- **Remain in Canada – Provincial Awards:**
  - Ontario Graduate Scholarships (master's and doctoral – all disciplines)
    - \$15,000 a year for one year
  - Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships
  - Fonds de recherche du Québec-Santé (FRQS)
  - McCall MacBain Scholarships for postgraduate study at McGill University in Montreal

# Where in the world?

- Head Overseas:
  - Global Affairs Canada opportunities, like
    - Commonwealth Scholarships Plan - India
  - CIHR Doctoral Foreign Study Award
    - \$35,000 a year for 3 years
  - NSERC Postgraduate Doctoral Scholarships (PGSD)
  - SSHRC Doctoral Awards (Fellowships)
  - Frank Knox Scholarships
    - Master's or PhD study at Harvard University
  - Rhodes Scholarships
    - Postgraduate study at University of Oxford

# Annual Scholarship Deadlines (W means Western-specific deadline)

- August 15<sup>th</sup> – Rhodes Scholarships to Oxford (W)
- August 28<sup>th</sup> or last Friday in August – Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (W)
- September 25<sup>th</sup> –
  - McCall MacBain Scholarships to McGill
  - Tri-Agency Doctoral Awards (W) x
- November 18<sup>th</sup> – Frank Knox Memorial Fellowships to Harvard
- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGSM)
- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Trudeau Doctoral Scholarships
- February 1<sup>st</sup> – Ontario Graduate Scholarships (W)

# How am I assessed at the Master's Level?

- **Academic Excellence (50%)**
  - Transcripts, scholarships & awards, comments by referees
- **Research Potential and Experience (30%)**
  - Quality of proposal, research activity and output, comments by referees
- **Communication and Interpersonal Skills and Evidence of Leadership (20%)**
  - Presentation and quality of the application, work experience, extracurricular activity (outreach, volunteer), international engagement, research initiative, comments by referees

# How am I assessed at the Doctoral Level?

- **Research Ability and Potential (50%)**
  - Quality of proposal, research activity and output, comments by referees
- **Relevant Experience and Achievements Obtained Within and Beyond Academia**
  - Work experience, extracurricular activity (outreach, volunteer), academic excellence, presentation and quality of the application, international engagement, research initiative, comments by referees

# Are my marks high enough?

- You will require a minimum first-class average *in each* of the two most recently completed years of full-time study
- First-class average as measured by your adjudicating university. At Western, the cut-off is 80%.
- If either one is below the cut-off you may still be able to compete
- Typically scholarship averages that are high first-class (each > 85%) are successful

# What if I change my mind afterwards about my research topic?

- That's ok, providing your new project fits within the rules of competition e.g. if your project switches from applied math to physics, both still fall within NSERC's funding mandate
- Not ok if your new research project is not supported by the mandate of the agency that offered you the award
- [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#)

# Indigenous Talent Measures at the Tri-Agency

- Indigenous Talent Measures aim to support research by and with Indigenous peoples—in Canada and abroad—as well as Indigenous students and postdoctoral researchers seeking to advance careers in the social sciences and humanities.
- These measures include:
  - an opportunity for self-identified Indigenous doctoral applicants to have their application considered for submission beyond their institution's quota;
  - A check-box in the application to identify a proposed program of study as Indigenous research, such that the agency indigenous merit review guidelines will be used
  - Careful consideration given to special circumstances that may have had an impact on the academic or career paths of Indigenous applicants.

# This all sounds stressful...

- What if I am not eligible? not successful? – *keep trying!*
- Whom do I ask to be my referee? – *profs who know your excellent work best and most recently*
- What if I am too busy in the fall? – *go at your own pace, there is always next year*
- What if I took a leave of absence before because my mom was ill? - *that's part of your story; simply report it in your application*
- What if I had a crappy freshman year? – *keep trying your best; upward trends matter!*
- Is the Canadian Common CV really a nightmare? – *no, it's annoying but necessary*
- What if I want to go to Queen's? – *good, we'll help get you there!*
- Seek advice and be open to getting out of your comfort zone - *always*

# Be Good to Yourself

This is your life, your career, led by your passion.  
Let it take you where it will...



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