

Frequently Asked Questions Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program

What is the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program?

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program is designed to attract and retain world-class doctoral students who demonstrate leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in doctoral studies. The program helps attract top doctoral students to Canada's universities by offering a significant financial award to assist successful candidates while they study.

What is the monetary award for each Scholarship?

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships are valued at \$50,000 per annum for three years. This level of funding will provide successful candidates with significant freedom to pursue and complete doctoral studies which will lead to the growth of the global knowledge base.

Are the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships open to Canadian and international students?

Yes. Both Canadian and international students may apply for a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. While individuals of this calibre will make a significant contribution to Canadian society and will always be linked to Canada, they will also make a contribution to global society in general.

How is the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program beneficial to Canada?

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship Program confirms Canada's standing as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. By becoming a world leader in research, Canada's universities and all Canadians will benefit from greater international partnerships, increasing economic sustainability and innovation as well as greater learning opportunities for our university students.

What is the appeal of studying in Canada?

Canada has a world-class education system that includes 92 universities, many of them bilingual, located from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Moreover, Canada has made a substantial investment in education, research, and innovation over the last decade which means doctoral students will be working in a country that appreciates the social and economic value of higher education. Canada is also a beautiful, friendly, multi-cultural, multi-lingual, tolerant society.

Who is responsible for delivering the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program?

Canada's three research granting council's (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Science and Engineering Council (NSERC), and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR)) will provide all the guidance, support and tools needed to administer and promote the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program.

Does the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program help to position Canada globally as leader in higher learning?

Yes. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program confirms Canada's standing as a global centre of higher learning. The \$50,000 annual award paid to the scholarship recipients each year for up to three years will allow world-class doctoral students to pursue and complete advanced programs of study. This will benefit Canada and the rest of the world.

How does the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program fit in with Government priorities?

The Government of Canada is dedicated to ensuring our future success by implementing its new Science & Technology strategy and investing in building advanced learning capacity. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship program is one of the ways the Government is delivering on this commitment. Introduced in Budget 2008, this program strengthens Canada's ability to attract the world's top doctoral students. This program will encourage partnerships, promote world-class excellence, and help brand Canada as a leader in higher learning, research, and science and technology development. The goal is to attract – and retain – the best and brightest students, both in Canada and abroad.

On what criteria are the students awarded a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship?

To qualify for nomination to the Vanier CGS program, candidates must:

- be nominated by a Canadian university with a Vanier CGS quota;
- be seeking support to pursue their first PhD (or equivalent);
- be pursuing doctoral studies (or a combined MA/PhD) ; or
- have not already received a scholarship or fellowship from SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR to undertake or complete a doctoral degree or combined MA/PhD;
- not be pursuing a degree program that combines undergraduate and graduate degrees.
- Canadian citizens, permanent residents and international students are eligible for nomination for a Vanier CGS.

For more information on the selection criteria, please visit www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca

What universities are eligible to hold an award?

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships are tenable only at recognized universities in Canada. There are no exceptions. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships must be taken up at the university that submitted the nomination.

What is the nomination process for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships?

1. The nominating university approaches candidates (Canadian citizens, permanent residents and international students) for nomination.
2. Nominees and the nominating university complete the nomination form and submit the package to the council by the October 15, 2008 deadline.
3. The multidisciplinary Peer Review Committee evaluates the nomination packages and forwards 70 nominations to the Inter-Agency Selection Board.
4. Inter-Agency Selection Board selects 55 Vanier CGS winners from each of the three granting councils.
5. All nominees are notified by the council whether they will receive a Vanier CGS Scholarship.
6. Canadian nominees who are not selected for a Vanier CGS scholarship from the 210 nominations forwarded to the Inter-Agency Selection Board will be offered the agency-specific Canada Graduate Doctoral Scholarship (CGS) (however, international students are not eligible to receive CGS awards).

For more information on the nomination process, please visit www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca

What are the evaluation criteria for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships?

Nominees will be evaluated solely on academic excellence, research potential and leadership ability, measured by:

- past academic results, demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;
- the program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge and innovation (critical thinking, originality), as well as the demonstrated potential of leadership skills;
- relevant professional and academic experience, including research training and potential leadership ability, as demonstrated by work experience, community involvement, participation in preparing publications, conference presentations or papers,
- two written evaluations from referees; and
- An Institutional Nomination sheet (for those registered at Canadian universities).

For more information on the evaluation criteria, please visit www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca

Who is on the Selection Board for the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships?

Chair

Laurent Beaudoin, Chairman of the Board of Bombardier Inc..

Vice Chair

Martha Piper, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alberta-based National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT)

Board Members

Marc Lortie, Ambassador of Canada to France
Thomas Kierans, Chair, SSHRC Council
James Edwards, Chair, NSERC Council
H. Arnold Steinberg, Vice-Chair, CIHR Council
Richard Dicerri, Deputy Minister, Industry Canada

Additional Board members will be appointed in the Fall of 2008 and will include Canadian and international researchers from a variety of disciplines.

Will there be a quota between domestic and international students who can apply for a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships?

No, there is not quota. Applications will be assessed on factors including academic excellence, research potential, and leadership ability, measured by : academic results, awards and distinctions, the program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge, relevant professional and academic experience, including research training and potential leadership ability, as demonstrated by work experience, community involvement, participation in preparing publications, conference presentations or papers, written evaluations from referees; and the Institutional Nomination sheet (for those registered at Canadian universities).