



Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
Killam Centre for Advanced Studies
2-29 Triffo Hall, University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2E1

T 780.492.9460
F 780.492.0692
grad.awards@ualberta.ca
ualberta.ca/graduate-studies

Date: July 14, 2025

To: Students, Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, and Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

Re: **2025-2026 Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral Competition**

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce the details of the 2025-2026 Canada Graduate Research Scholarship (CGRS D) competition at the University of Alberta (U of A). The scholarship and fellowship programs administered by the three federal research funding agencies – the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) – have been streamlined into a new harmonized talent program called the Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS).

The Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D) program (\$40,000/year for 36 months) recognizes and supports the next generation of outstanding innovators, knowledge workers, creative thinkers and researchers. By providing support for a high-quality research training experience to awardees, the program strives to foster impacts within and beyond the research environment.

As the agency portals have officially opened to accept applications, notification is hereby provided of the institutional application and nomination process. **Students must apply through the appropriate agency's online system in accordance with their instructions.** To assist in the promotion of this doctoral scholarship, we request departments disseminate information about this year's national competition to their students and potential applicants.

After the GPS Graduate Scholarship Committee's (GSC) review of all applications, reviewers recommend the best applications, regardless of their status or proposed location of tenure. Institutions forward the best applications to the national level even if they are proposing to hold their award at a different institution. The calculated [institutional quota](#) is a function of the average number of doctoral scholarships awarded to students who applied through the institution over the past three years. When calculating quotas for future years, all awards are counted as successful applications for the institution that forwarded the application to CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC regardless of where the award is taken up.

2025/26 recipients of the U of A Graduate Entrance Scholarship and the U of A Graduate Recruitment Scholarship are encouraged to apply for Tri-Agency funding if they are eligible.

Eligibility

Students eligible to submit their application through the U of A are to review the CGRS D program [website](#) for complete eligibility criteria and requirements. It is the student's responsibility to read all eligibility criteria and instructions on the [CGRS D website](#) and [GPS's website](#), and be familiar with the application process before applying.

Applications that do not meet all of the eligibility criteria or do not submit by GPS's application deadline of September 15, 2025 will be deemed ineligible.

Subject matter eligibility (research area): The onus is on the applicant to carefully select the agency that best aligns with their research subject matter to ensure their application will be reviewed by experts in disciplines closest to their field(s) of study. Refer to [Selecting the Appropriate Agency](#) of the CGRS D Application Procedures.

Application Process and Timelines

Applications submitted in Fall 2025 term are for awards to start May or September 2026, or January 2027. All applicants registered in a degree program at the U of A at any time during the calendar year of application (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025) must apply through the U of A (with a quota), even if they intend to pursue their doctoral studies at an institution other than the U of A.

For more information, refer to the [Where to submit an application](#) table of the [CGRS D program](#) application procedure. Failure to submit an application through the correct channel may result in an application being removed from the competition.

September 5, 2025: SSHRC Applicants Only: students who studied part-time or interrupted their doctoral studies must contact GPS by September 5, 2025 to request an 'Official letter to confirm part-time study and/or leave of absence'. This letter is to be uploaded with the PDF of the transcripts.

September 15, 2025, 11:59 pm (MST): Institutional (GPS) deadline for students to submit their complete application in the appropriate agency portal/online system (available July 2025. Referee assessments and transcripts as described in each agency's application instructions). Refer to the chart below for the competition timeline and deadlines. **Late submissions of applications will not be accepted, and changes cannot be made after September 15, 2025 11:59 pm (MST).**

Students: This is a direct application whereby students apply through the appropriate agency's website in accordance with their instructions (available July 2025). GPS accesses U of A applications from each agency portal for university review and adjudication:

CIHR: [ResearchNET](#) and [instructions](#)

NSERC: [Online system](#) and [instructions](#)

SSHRC: [Registration and login](#) and [instructions](#)

- It is the student's responsibility to read all criteria and instructions on the [CGRS D website](#), as well as [GPS's website](#) for the complete details on application instructions and transcript requirements for applying through the U of A.
- Students may use [GPS's Gantt charts](#) as a resource to guide them through the application stages and applicable deadlines. Recommended timelines of starting on the CCV, research proposal, etc. are included.

Departments: There is no nomination, list, or ranking required by the department. Departments will be notified of students successfully forwarded to the national competition (via GSMS email notification), and of any winners approximately in April 2026.

Note that GPS will not provide copies of students' applications or reference letters to departments. Should departments want a copy of the student's application for advisement purposes, they may request this directly from the student. As referees are required to submit a confidential online form, letters are not available to students.

Students and departments are to take note of the following:

- Institutions are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous applicants above their application quota. Indigenous applicants must agree to their personal information being used for this purpose by making the appropriate selection in the application form.
- Note applicants are not automatically forwarded to the national level; they will be reviewed and recommended by GPS's GSC among the full pool of applicants.
- *"Indigenous peoples" is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. "Aboriginal peoples" is often used as a synonym. For the purposes of these programs, NSERC uses the Canadian Constitution act, 1982 definition as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.*

Transcripts

Students are to order transcripts as early as possible. **Once an application is submitted in the appropriate agency portal by the university deadline, applications will not be returned to students due to missing, incomplete, or ineligible transcripts.**

- Students are responsible for obtaining transcripts for all institutions attended and attaching them to their application in each CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC online application portal. Students are to follow the *Transcripts* sections of each agency's online portal instructions, and the U of A's transcript policy and requirements posted on [GPS's website](#) (under Application Procedures). These instructions are crucial as non-compliance with transcript-related guidelines is the primary reason for the rejection of applications.

- Transcripts include any and all up-to-date copies of all undergraduate and graduate studies. For students currently registered, this includes U of A transcripts that must show Fall 2025 registration. GPS cannot provide copies of transcripts to students.

Timeline 2025-2026:

July	<p>CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC online systems and instructions open</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are to read the CGRS D and GPS website materials and familiarize themselves with the full program, eligibility criteria, application portals, and application requirements. • Students are responsible for reading all instructions on both the CGRS D website and the GPS website, which includes important information on the university's deadline and process of submitting their application through the U of A. Not following the university's process may render the application ineligible. • Students are to arrange their transcripts as early as possible. Refer to GPS's website for the university's transcript policy and requirements, in addition to each agency application instructions for transcript requirements. For students currently registered, this includes U of A transcripts that must show Fall 2025 registration. • Students should begin to consider selecting references (letters of recommendation). • Students will not have the opportunity to revise their application after the university deadline. • Students may use GPS's Gantt chart as a resource to guide them through the application stages and applicable deadlines. Recommended timelines of starting on the CCV, research proposal, etc. are included.
August	<p>GPS Information Sessions (NSERC / CIHR / SSHRC PHD AWARDS): Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral program Training Suite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sessions hosted by GPS regarding research proposal writing and obtaining reference letters. • Dates TBA via the Grad Student and Staff Digests
September 5, 2025	<p>SSHRC ONLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for students to request an "Official letter to confirm part time study and/or leave of absence" from GPS (if applicable). • Refer to the Transcripts section of SSHRC's Application Instructions.
September 8, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested deadline for letters of recommendation to be submitted via the appropriate agency portal. It is highly recommended students give their referees a deadline at least one week prior to any application deadline in order to avoid possible delays/changes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are responsible for ensuring their references have completed and successfully submitted the letters of recommendation via the applicable agency online portal. • Students should have all required transcripts by this date. • Only completed applications will be reviewed after the September 15, 2025 university deadline. Edits or corrections such as spelling, grammar, formatting, attachments, etc. are the responsibility of the student and will not be checked by GPS. Students who do not follow each agency's Application Instructions and On-line Presentation and Attachment Standards may jeopardize their application. See GPS's Application Procedures for complete details.
September 15, 2025, 11:59 pm (MST)	<p>U of A internal (institutional) application deadline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the U of A's internal deadline for students to submit their complete CGRS D application to GPS for university review through the appropriate agency's online portal (CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC). The application submission deadline is for applications submitted through the U of A only ("Application Deadline Through a Canadian Institution). If applicants fail to submit their application through the correct channel, their application will not be considered. For more information, refer to the Where to submit an application table of the CGRS D program application procedure. • Late submissions of applications or transcripts, or applications incorrectly submitted after September 15 will not be accepted under any circumstance. • Students are responsible to ensure all transcripts are uploaded and references have completed and successfully submitted their letter of recommendation. • Changes cannot be made after the application has been submitted. • Submission of an application does not mean it has been forwarded to the national CGSR D competition. All eligible applications will be shared with GPS's Graduate Scholarship Committee adjudicators for review. • It is very important to be aware that the "Application deadline Directly to the agencies" of October 17 is NOT the university's deadline. Applications submitted on or after October 17 will not be accepted under any circumstances.
September 16 – mid October 2025	<p>GPS Award Services Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS Award Services reviews applications for eligibility and completeness. • Students will not have the opportunity to revise their application.

Mid October –mid November, 2025	University Adjudication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GPS's Graduate Scholarship Committee reviews applications and selects nominees to be forwarded to CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC for review at the national level.
November 21, 2025	University Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for GPS to forward university nominations to the tri-agencies for the national competition.
End of November, 2025	University Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results of the CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC competition at the University level will be shared with departments. Students whose applications have been forwarded to the agency in which they applied will receive a notification from GPS. Unsuccessful students will be notified via the individual agency's portal.
April 2026	National Results <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final national results announced expected to be announced by Tri-Council. GPS will connect with recipients regarding award acceptance. Departments will be notified of all successful/unsuccessful results.

We wish all students and departments success in the upcoming competition!

Sincerely,

Award Services