CGS – Master’s CIHR / NSERC / SSHRC
2018-19 Competition Information

The Lingo
• Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
  • Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship – Masters (CGS-M)
• Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
  • Alexander Graham Bell CGS-M
• Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
  • Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS-M

Value
• $17,500 for 1 year
  • Eligible Tri-council award winners at U of Guelph receive a $5,000/year top-up for duration of award
• Non-renewable

Fact Finding
• Google “Guelph CGS-M”
  • For details on Guelph’s internal process
  • Link to NSERC website for eligibility, application, instructions and subject matter eligibility

Important Dates
• Dec 1, 2017 – Application Due Online
• April 1, 2018 – Earliest results available online
  • 21 days later – Applicant must respond to offer(s)

Eligibility Criteria
• Canadian or permanent resident
• Full-time in an eligible Master’s program
• Completed O-12 months of full-time study or equivalent of:
  • Master's program
  • Direct-admit doctoral program (never registered in a Master’s)
  • a master’s program that was or will be fast-tracked to a doctoral program, and you are requesting funding for the first 12 months of this doctoral program
• Not previously held a CGS-M
• A first-class average, as determined by the university, in each of the last two years of study (full-time equivalent)

• Submit a maximum of one application a year

Subject Matter
• Applicants must categorize proposed field of research:
  • Health (CIHR)
  • Natural Sciences and Engineering (NSERC)
  • Social Sciences and Humanities (SSHRC)

• Ensure submission to the correct agency
  • Google “selecting federal granting agency”

Allocation:
• CIHR = 3
• NSERC = 20
• SSHRC = 19

How Do I Apply?
• On-line using the Research Portal
  • Read the instructions!

• Select up to five universities
  • where you are currently registered
  • where you intend to register

• Selection process & post-award administration carried out by universities

Selection Criteria
• Academic Excellence 50%
• Research Potential 30%
• Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills 20%

Warning: Challenges Ahead
• Order all transcripts now
  • By Nov 24 for free Guelph transcripts

• Start your CGS-M Canadian Common CV (CCV)

• Ask 2 professors to complete Letters of Appraisal

• Research proposal
• Submit your entire application package before the due date!

**Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (MSFSS)**
• Available to CGS award holders
• Fosters research abroad
• Up to $6,000 to offset the cost of travel abroad for 3-6 months

**Making your application stand out: What makes you different?**
• The competition is fierce, but keep in mind some of the tips and advice to follow and you just might come out on top!

**The Message (Research Proposal)**
• Exude enthusiasm and excitement
• Demonstrate thorough knowledge and deep understanding of your field
  • Provide context for your research
  • Highlight main research question(s)
  • Describe significance/impact
• Write for lay audience

**The Details**
• Highlight and elaborate your significant contributions
  • Awards
  • Publications/presentations
• Showcase your personal strengths and commitments
  • Volunteer, service, extracurricular

**The Shout Out!**
• (aka letters of support)
  • Don’t underestimate the importance of picking solid referees
    • Adam Chapnick, *How to ask for a reference letter*, University Affairs
  • You have an A…what else?
  • Leaving an escape route...

**The Nitty Gritty**
• Did you spel things rong?
• Is your application organized?
• Have you left any gaps?
Staying Positive

- “Keep on keepin’ on”. Bob Dylan

Questions?
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