

Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS)

Scholarships Liaison Officers' Webinars May 2025

Jointly
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by



Agenda

1. Background

2. CRTAS Program Overview

- I. Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master’s (CGRS M)
- II. Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D)
- III. Canada Postdoctoral Research Award (CPRA)

3. Additional Key Points

4. Resources

5. Q&A session

Background

Commitment to Harmonization (2024)

- **Budget 2024**: to make it easier for students and postdoctoral researchers to access support, the enhanced suite of scholarships and fellowship programs will be streamlined into one talent program.
- **Talent Evaluation**: recommendation #9: Reassess direct funding and clarify its role as part of the future portfolio.
 - Management Response: The agencies will review the suite of scholarships and fellowships offered by the agencies to improve, coordinate, and streamline the direct funding portfolio
- **Tri-agency Research Training Strategy**: continue to simplify and harmonize the suite of programs offered by the funding agencies by merging existing agency-specific scholarships and existing national-level programs while retaining opportunities for international applicants.

Background (cont'd)

Launched on March 11, 2025, the scholarship and fellowship programs administered by CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC have been streamlined into a new harmonized talent program called the **Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS)**.

Through the CRTAS, the Tri-agency is committed to continue supporting the next generation of students and researchers by:

- offering funding and high-quality research training,
- cultivating research skills, fostering creativity, and
- empowering awardees to make significant contributions to the Canadian research ecosystem, economy, and prosperity.

Background (cont'd)

Ten programs will sunset, and funds will be reprofiled to CRTAS:

- Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's
- Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral / CIHR Doctoral Foreign Study Award / NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships / SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships / Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships
- Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships / CIHR Fellowship / NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships / SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships

The new harmonized programs within CRTAS are:

- [Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master's](#) (CGRS M)
- [Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral](#) (CGRS D)
- [Canada Postdoctoral Research Award](#) (CPRA)

Program Overview

The annual number of tri-agency scholarships and fellowships available will increase by **1,720** awards for funding cycle 2026. This increase will include:

- **300 additional awards at the master's level**
- **1,200 additional awards at the doctoral level**
- **220 additional awards at the postdoctoral level**

Priority research areas:

- **600 to 900 awards of the new total of awards will be reserved by the three agencies to support federal research priority areas.**
- **Priority areas will be identified and communicated in the coming months.**

Program Overview (cont'd)

Upcoming 2025/2026 competition cycle:

- minimal changes to processes of past programs for seamless transition
- open for applications in summer 2025
- deadlines varying by agency and program
- applicants will continue using the funding agencies' current online systems

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master’s (CGRS M)

Award value and duration:	\$27,000 for one year
Research portal opening:	September 3, 2025
Application deadline:	December 1, 2025 (8:00 pm ET)
Primary changes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of the award• Research Portal – all master’s level awards (<i>past and present</i>) will appear as “CGRS M”.• Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements program currently offered by NSERC and SSHRC will be extended to CIHR starting in the 2025/2026 competition cycle.

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D)

Award value and duration	\$40,000 per year for three years
Program literature posted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 8, 2025
Online systems opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIHR and SSHRC: July 8, 2025• NSERC: July 9, 2025
Institutional internal submission deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set by institution
Direct applicant submission deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 17, 2025 (All three agencies)
Institutional deadline to agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 21, 2025
Selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Potential (50%)• Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia (50%)

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral (CGRS D)

Primary changes

- **Eligibility window has increased from 24 to 36 months** of full-time equivalent study completed in program.
- Open to **international students that are currently** enrolled in a doctoral program of study at an eligible Canadian institution at the time of application.
- **Up to 15% of all doctoral awards** will be awarded to **international applicants**, and they may only hold the award in Canada.
- **Up to 20% of all doctoral awards** would be eligible to be **held abroad**.
- Institutions will continue to be able to submit additional applications from **Indigenous students above their quota**.

The use of **doctoral quotas** will be maintained

Institutional submission and **pre-selection process will be maintained**

Canada Postdoctoral Research Award (CPRA)

Award value and duration	\$70,000 per year for two years
Program literature posted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• July 8, 2025
Online systems opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIHR and SSHRC: July 8, 2025• NSERC: July 9, 2025
Submission deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CIHR: September 17, 2025• NSERC: October 17, 2025• SSHRC: September 11, 2025
Selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Potential and experience (50%)• Quality of proposed research program (50%)

Canada Postdoctoral Research Award (CPRA)

Primary changes

- Applicants may apply a **maximum of three times** to this funding opportunity.
- **The eligibility window will be up to 36 months from the degree completion date.** Exceptions to the doctoral degree completion eligibility period are granted up to a maximum of an additional 36 months if you meet certain criteria.
- **Open to international students** that must meet one of the following:
 - Be currently enrolled in or have completed a doctorate or health professional degree at a Canadian institution; or
 - Be conducting postdoctoral research at a Canadian institution
- **Up to 20% of all postdoctoral awards** will be awarded to **international applicants**, and they may only hold the award in Canada.
- **Up to 30% of all postdoctoral awards** would be eligible to be **held abroad**.
- This **award is not intended** for students (including health professionals) to complete a degree or related internship.

Additional Key Points

- The **Black Scholars initiative** will be eligible on the new CGRS M, CGRS D, CPRA as well as continue for the USRA funding opportunity.
- The **Canada Graduate Scholarships Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (CGS MSFSS)** will be launched one last time during the 2025-26 competition cycle. The program will be rebranded and redesigned as a supplement for the CRTAS.
- In anticipation of the launch of the **Tri-agency grants management solution (TGMS)**, the application materials for the new CRTAS program may be adjusted, but the overall submission process and key deadlines for the 2025/2026 competition cycle will generally remain consistent with those of previous years.

Resources

- [Canadian Institutes of Health Research \(CIHR\)](#)
 - CIHR: support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
- [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada \(NSERC\)](#)
 - NSERC: schol-slo@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
- [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#)
 - SSHRC: fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca
- News Release : [Launch of the new Harmonized Tri-agency Scholarship and Fellowship programs](#)