
VANIER CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

University of Manitoba information package¹

¹This package was reproduced from the Government of Canada Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships website (<http://www.vanier.gc.ca>) in compliance with the Terms and Conditions pertaining to non-commercial reproduction. Applicants and their advisors are encouraged to consider the Government of Canada Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships website as the primary resource to support application development.

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Canada launched the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS) program in 2008 to strengthen Canada's ability to attract and retain world-class doctoral students, and to establish Canada as a global centre of excellence in research and higher learning. Vanier Scholars demonstrate leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies in the social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and engineering and health.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Awards are valued at \$50,000 per year for three years during doctoral studies
- Adjudicators consider three equally weighted evaluation criteria: ***academic excellence***, ***research potential***, and ***leadership***

TIMELINE

Internal

May, 2017	Departments/Units identify prospective applicants
May - September, 2017	Preparation of individual applications
June, 2017	Vanier CGS workshop – all are welcome (students, advisors, graduate chairs, support staff, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fort Garry Campus Register! June 13th – 10:00 am; Senate Chambers (E3-262)• Bannatyne Campus Register! June 15th – 09:00 am; 164 Apotex Centre
September 15, 2017	Institutional Deadline – <i>supporting materials</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• transcripts• nomination letter from applicant's department head
September 29, 2017	Institutional Deadline – <i>application form</i> Applicants must apply online through ResearchNet by September 29, 2017 (link found at http://www.vanier.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html). Late submissions will not be considered.
October, 2017	Internal review of applications by selection committees coordinated by the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Federal

November - March, 2017	Review and evaluation of nominations
TBA	Results released
May 1, 2018 or September 1, 2018 or January 1, 2019	Award payments begin

ELIGIBILITY

Citizenship

Eligible nominees for a Vanier CGS include Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, **and** foreign citizens.

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, a student must:

- be nominated by a Canadian institution;
- be pursuing his/her first doctoral degree, including a joint undergraduate/graduate research program such as an MD/PhD, a DVM/PhD, or a JD/PhD provided it has a demonstrated and significant research component;
- be registered as doctoral students at the nominating Canadian university when they take up the Vanier CGS;
- not have completed more than 20 months of doctoral studies as of May 1, 2018 [[calculating months of doctoral studies](#)];
- have achieved a first-class average – defined as an average of 3.75 in each of the last two years of study – as determined by the nominating institution;
- must not hold, or have held, a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC to undertake or complete a doctoral degree

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Current and prospective students will complete their Vanier application through the [ResearchNet](#) online portal.

University of Manitoba applicants must submit their complete application package via ResearchNet by **11:59 PM ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2017**.

Applicants must also submit to the Awards Office in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (500 University Centre) by **16:00 PM ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2017**:

1. Official transcripts for **all post-secondary studies** completed up to August 31, 2017
 - a. Transcripts from Canada and the United States must be submitted as official documents in a sealed and endorsed envelope directly from the institution in which the courses were taken.
 - b. Certified copies of international transcripts are acceptable; these may be certified by the department based on official documents received via AY or Radius.
 - c. **Aurora printouts or web-based transcripts are not accepted by the Tri-Agencies.**
2. A [nomination letter](#) completed by the applicant's graduate program Head

SELECTION CRITERIA

Vanier Selection Committees evaluate submitted applications according to three equally weighted [criteria](#):

1. Academic excellence, as demonstrated by past academic results and by transcripts, awards and distinctions.

The candidate's research history and the impact of their activities in their area of expertise to date are important indicators of their potential as research leaders of tomorrow. Reviewers should consider the sphere of influence of candidates relative to others along the following continuum of expanding impact:

- Research program
- Canadian institution
- Research community
- International research community
- Society at large

In evaluating this criterion, both the prestige of the Vanier CGS and the stage and nature of the candidate's academic career should be considered. In the case of health professionals, consideration should be given to standards of research productivity, etc. for their level of experience/qualifications relative to a PhD student. For applicants who have relevant work experience, scientific productivity prior to graduate school should be considered.

Supporting evidence to be evaluated for this criterion:

- Academic record (institution transcripts)
- Choice of candidate (nomination letter)
- Scholarships/awards (CCV)
- Duration of previous studies (academic background, CCV, institution transcripts and special circumstances)

2. Research potential, as demonstrated by the candidate's research history, his/her interest in discovery, the proposed research and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field, and any anticipated outcomes.

In evaluating this criterion, both the nature/prestige of this award and the stage and nature of the applicant's career [will] be considered.

All indicators of excellence of the candidate must be factored in the evaluation to allow for individual workstyles, contributions and commitments. For example, collaboration, teamwork, mentoring are important and valid contributions to research and training of highly qualified personnel. Each contribution should be valued equally regardless of gender of the candidate. For example, single-authored vs multi-authored publications should be valued similarly regardless of gender.

Evaluate excellence/productivity commensurate with the career stage of the candidate, work-family balance and other special circumstances that can lead to delays in research and dissemination of the results (e.g. career interruptions for child bearing and raising impacting publication records). These personal circumstances must be considered on a case-by case basis; careful consideration must be given to these gender-based factors in the evaluation process.

Supporting evidence to be evaluated for this criterion:

- Scholarships/awards (CCV)
- Duration of previous studies – ability to complete project within an appropriate time period (academic background, CCV, institution transcripts, referee assessments and special circumstances)
- Academic training and relevant work experience (CCV, description of leadership and communication skills attachment and the referee assessments)
- Contribution to research and development – publications, patents, reports and posters (CCV, research contributions attachment and referee assessments)
- Research proposal – feasibility, merit and significance (research proposal)
- Critical thinking, application of knowledge, judgment, originality, initiative, autonomy and enthusiasm for research (description of leadership and communication skills attachment, referee assessments and nomination letter)
- Mobility: Students are instructed to include a strong and compelling justification as to why they have chosen the nominating institution to undertake their PhD, and are told that this will be assessed as part of the review process. In an effort to support students in broadening their research horizons and seeking new challenges, the Vanier CGS program strongly encourages candidates to pursue their studies beyond the institution that granted their undergraduate and/or previous graduate degrees.

3. Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability):

Given the prestige of the Vanier CGS program, this is an important criterion that has to be assessed in an indirect manner, since there is no opportunity for the selection committee to interview candidates.

Leadership could include the following:

- **Personal achievement:**
 - impactful involvement and achievement in professional programs/associations such as sports, arts, science, business etc.
 - entrepreneurial achievement (start-up company); and/or
 - foreign travel and study.
- **Involvement in academic life:**
 - mentoring/teaching;
 - supervisory experience;
 - involvement in student government and in the institution community, including committees, teams, senate, boards, ethics committees, etc.;

- project management;
- roles in academic/professional societies; and/or
- organization of conferences, meetings, courses etc.
- **Volunteerism/community outreach:**
 - community involvement in charity or not-for-profit organizations.
- **Civic engagement:**
 - parliamentary page positions and internships;
 - political activity; and/or
 - elected positions.
- **Other**

This list is not intended to include all possible categories and is provided for guidance only.

Assessment of leadership

Leadership could be assessed with the following personal and/or social skills:

- **Goal achievement:**
 - a clear vision of what they want to accomplish;
 - a developed personal vision for the future that defines a impactful/meaningful change for the community or a group, cause or organization; and
 - strategizes on how to achieve desired outcomes and has specific, realistic and timely goals.
- **Self-management:**
 - knows how to prioritize and complete tasks to reach the desired outcome and is confident of success;
 - establishes learning goals and tasks;
 - reaches goals in an efficient, organized and innovative way; and
 - is constantly working on self-improvement.
- **Integrity:**
 - acts consistently with core ethical and personal values and convictions; and
 - accepts personal accountability for the consequences of their actions/decisions.
- **Other characteristics:**
 - is creative and takes initiative;
 - is curious;
 - deals well with complexity;
 - has a strong sense of reality;
 - is courageous;
 - is strategic, a big-picture thinker;
 - focuses on solutions, not problems;
 - is capable of producing extraordinary results; and
 - is able to solve real problems and create real products.
- **Social skills:**
 - knows how to develop positive relationships with a diverse range of people;
 - cares about and listens to what others say and gives feedback;

- knows how to motivate individuals;
- is persuasive;
- is supportive of peers;
- is able to negotiate;
- is viewed as trustworthy, ethical and dependable;
- is well-respected; and
- displays mastery of presentation skills and public communications.

More information on leadership is available in the SSHRC-funded study, [Leadership at the Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Levels \[PDF \(260 KB\) \]](#).

Supporting evidence to be evaluated for this criterion:

- Leadership activities/accomplishments - impact (CCV, description of leadership and communication skills, leadership reference letter, nomination letter and referee assessments)
- Mobility: this award provides opportunities for research trainees to study, conduct research, and engage in knowledge mobilization in a national and international context. Candidates should explain the rationale behind their proposed research institution with this in mind. (nomination letter, research proposal)
- Participation in publication writing (CCV, research contributions attachment and referee assessments)
- Professional and extracurricular interactions and collaborations with supervisors, colleagues and peers (CCV, description of leadership and communication skills, leadership reference letter and referee assessments)
- Those who have volunteer/professional experience outside of their domain of study should provide context that demonstrates how their contribution went beyond the expectations of the work/volunteer position.
- Overall quality and presentation of the nominating institution.

INQUIRIES

Contact the Awards Office in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Faculty of Graduate Studies
 500 University Centre
 University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 Canada
 Phone: 204.474.9377 Fax: 204.474.7553
graduate_awards@umanitoba.ca