Tri-Agency Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS)

Please leave your microphone on mute and your camera off to save bandwidth during this session.

The session will begin shortly – see you soon!

Sara Sealey
Awards Officer
Faculty of Graduate Studies

University of Manitoba
Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships


• “The Vanier CGS program aims to attract and retain world-class doctoral students by supporting students who **demonstrate both leadership skills and a high standard of scholarly achievement in graduate studies** in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and/or engineering and health.”

• We know what a high standard of scholarly academic achievement is but…

• What is leadership? What defines a leader?

• “Leadership is the process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, towards the achievement of a goal.” – Forbes, “What is Leadership?”

• Is volunteering leadership? Is being a “manager” the same as being a leader? Depends…

• Note – they do not say that the leadership has to be related to your research or even to your academics

• Vanier says: “Students can initiate the application process by informing the faculty of graduate studies at the selected institution of their intent to apply for the Vanier CGS”

• To seek a Vanier nomination by the University of Manitoba, a student must complete and submit the Vanier application form/package online by the University of Manitoba internal deadline of Friday, September 10th, 2021
How does the Vanier competition work?

• Tri-Agencies announce competition – institutions are required to run an internal competition at the institution level to determine which applicants will be selected for nomination to Vanier.

• This is because of the quotas provided by the Agencies – the quotas dictate to each institution how many students can be nominated to Vanier for each Agency.


• Vanier Fall 2021 Quotas for University of Manitoba:
  - SSHRC: 3
  - NSERC: 4
  - CIHR: 5

• NEW IN 2021: Indigenous applicants can be nominated above and beyond the quotas!!!!

• Each institution sets an internal deadline of their own choosing, for submission of the applications online from students who wish to be considered for nomination by that institution – note: only one institution may nominate an applicant, multiple nominations are not considered per the eligibility requirements.

• Institutions are req’d to upload scanned official transcripts to the application – separate deadline is set for submission of official transcripts to the Faculty of Graduate Studies in advance of the application deadline.
How does the Vanier competition work? – cont’d…

• Once internal deadline passes – applications prepped for internal selection committees – we have a committee for each Agency to review applications specific to that Agency – comprised of faculty members who have held grants from these Agencies; some have served on Tri-Agency national scholarship selection committees, and the Dean FGS serves as Chair; the committee will review the applications and have a virtual committee meeting to discuss the final rankings and determine the final nominees that will go forward to Vanier for further consideration at the national level – this process takes approximately 1.5-ish months after the deadline passes.

• This means that if you are selected for nomination to Vanier in the internal competition, it does not guarantee an award – it simply means your application will be forwarded to Vanier at the national level to be considered further for funding in the national competition as part of that quota – ie: to be considered against all the other students nominated based on the internal competitions in other institutions – it becomes a national competition.

• If you are selected for nomination, you will be informed prior to November 2nd, 2021 – and your application returned to you to make any final edits or updates – which will be required to be completed very quickly – so watch for emails from me around that time if you submitted an application; students not selected for nomination will be informed usually around early November each year – and you will be updated either way, even if you are not selected for nomination.

• If nominated, your application will be forwarded to Vanier by my office, and the Vanier national selection committees for each Agency will review the applications nominated by all institutions, and they will be the ones to inform you of the final result of your nomination – results usually come out early April each year – no specific date for release.
Vanier 2021 Competition Deadlines

• THERE ARE TWO DEADLINES YOU HAVE TO MEET TO APPLY FOR THIS COMPETITION:

• University of Manitoba Internal Deadline for submission of official transcripts to the Faculty of Graduate Studies: Friday, September 3rd, 2021

• University of Manitoba Internal Deadline for submission of completed online application via the ResearchNet application system: Friday, September 10th, 2021 at 11:59 pm

• Students who wish to be considered for nomination must submit their complete application for the Vanier competition online, via the ResearchNet application system by that internal deadline – the deadline is set within the app system so no further applications can be submitted after that day/time

• Note: ResearchNet is in EASTERN time – i.e.: Toronto time – 1 hour ahead of Winnipeg time

• ResearchNet shows you the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Current Global Internal Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships 2021-11-02</td>
<td>Application</td>
<td>2021-09-11 00:59 EDT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 12:59 am on Sept 11, 2021 Eastern time = 11:59 pm on Sept 10, 2021 Central/Wpg Time
Vanier CGS – Eligibility:


Citizenship

Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada and foreign citizens are eligible to be nominated for a Vanier CGS.

To be considered for a Vanier CGS, you must:

- be nominated by only one Canadian institution, which must have received a Vanier CGS quota;
- be pursuing your first doctoral degree (including joint graduate research program such as: MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD - if it has a demonstrated and significant research component). Note that only the PhD portion of a joint degree is eligible for funding;
- intend to pursue, in the summer semester or the academic year following the announcement of results, full-time doctoral (or a joint graduate research program such as: MD/PhD, DVM/PhD, JD/PhD) studies and research at the nominating Institution; For joint graduate research program, only the PhD portion of a joint graduate research program is eligible for funding.
- have completed no more than 20 months of full-time study in their doctoral program as of May 1, 2022:
  - The doctoral program would begin after the completion of a Master’s degree. The months of study completed are calculated from the doctoral enrolment date.
- have completed no more than 32 months of full-time study in their doctoral program (i.e. joint graduate research program, fast-track, accelerated), by May 1, 2022 if:
  - enrolled in a joint graduate research program, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD, DVM/PhD. Applicants in this category have access to the 32-month window whether or not they were previously enrolled in a Master’s program:
    - The months of study are calculated starting from the date on which an applicant is officially registered in the joint program (including the Master’s portion of the program).
    - accelerated directly from a Bachelor’s to a PhD (not previously enrolled in a Master’s program);
      - The months of study completed are calculated from the doctoral enrolment date.
    - accelerated (Fast-track) from a Master’s degree into a Doctoral program without obtaining the Master’s degree.
      - The months of study completed are calculated from the original Master’s enrolment date.
- have achieved a first-class average, as determined by your institution, in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent. Candidates are encouraged to contact the institution for its definition of a first-class average; and
- must not hold, or have held, a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC to undertake or complete a doctoral program.
How to calculate the months of study?

• Students admitted directly to a PhD program, who have previously completed a Master’s and have been continuously registered since admission – must have completed no more than 20 months study as of May 1st, 2022 – this means you have to have been admitted to a PhD program as of Fall 2020 – ie: September 1st, 2020 – or AFTER that date to be eligible;

• Students who transferred from a Master’s to a PhD, or were admitted to a PhD program directly from a Bachelor’s degree – have completed no more than 32 months study as of May 1st, 2022 – this means you have to have been admitted to a PhD program as of Fall 2019 – ie: September 1st, 2019 – or AFTER that date to be eligible
  • If admitted to a PhD, without having completed or being enrolled in a Master’s program, the counting starts at the PhD admission date
  • If transferred from a Master’s program to a PhD, without having completed the Master’s, the counting starts at the original Master’s enrolment date

• Students admitted prior to these dates have passed the eligibility window for the Vanier competition
What is a first class average?

• Each institution is required to set a first class average – the University of Manitoba first class average is 3.75 (out of 4.5) in each of the last two full years of study

• This means a student has to achieve a 3.75 in the last year of study, AND also in the 2nd last year of study to be eligible

• If one of the last two full years doesn’t meet the 3.75, the applicant is unfortunately ineligible

• A full year is usually a summer term, a fall term, and a winter term – if no summer courses, just fall and winter – in years when there are grades available

• Transcript requirements – coming up in a future slide!
Vanier – Selection Criteria:


Nominations are evaluated and selected based on the following three criteria, weighted equally:

1. Academic Excellence
2. Research Potential
3. Leadership (Potential and Demonstrated Ability)

Link above breaks down what they are looking for in terms of each criterion
Vanier – The Application:

Two main pieces to the Vanier application:

1. **CCV – Canadian Common CV** – may be familiar from the CGS-M application or CIHR CGS-D application – this is the CV portion of the application
   - Use your academic CV and plug into CCV online

2. **Vanier application form in ResearchNet** – Agency specific form, ensure you use correct Agency
   - Some parts are straight information to be filled in, also attachments to upload are all added in the ResearchNet portion of the application….Let’s look at the details of what is involved in the ResearchNet portion of the application…. 
Vanier – The Application – cont’d:

A complete Vanier CGS application package includes:

- **A CCV** (limited entries; please see [Completing the Common CV (CCV)](https://example.com) for complete information) – ideally start working on this piece first as you will need # for

- **A ResearchNet application form** (includes two letters of reference, each with three sections)

- **Research Contributions** (maximum one page) – *upload to ResearchNet*

- **A Personal Leadership Statement** (maximum 2 pages) - *upload to ResearchNet*

- **Special Circumstances** (max 0.5 page, optional) - *upload to ResearchNet*

- **Two Leadership letters of reference** (maximum 2 pages) – *upload to ResearchNet*

- **A Research Proposal** (maximum 2 pages) - *upload to ResearchNet*

- **Project References** (maximum 5 pages)- *upload to ResearchNet*

- Official Transcripts – *sent to Sara Sealey to upload to ResearchNet*

- Department Head Nomination Letter – *sent to Sara Sealey to upload to ResearchNet*
Vanier – The Application – cont’d:


• Personal Leadership Statement – maximum 2 pages – Upload – NOTE: All information about interruptions to your academic career and choice of nominating institution should be included either in the Personal Leadership Statement or in the Research Proposal - NOT in the Special Circumstances upload section - *There is no extra space permitted so need to incorporate this into the allowable pages for the personal leadership statement or research proposal respectively

• Two (2) Leadership Reference Letters – maximum 2 pages EACH - Upload x 2 - ideally written by individuals who know you in a non-academic capacity – you may want to share leadership statement with the writers – should NOT be written by close family or friends – you must obtain these and upload to your application in ResearchNet – should be provided on letterhead when available and MUST contain a signature

• Research Contributions – maximum 1 page – upload – choose up to 5 that are most significant or relevant to your proposal – note: do not have to be directly related but you will need to demonstrate connections as relevant to your proposed research and goals

• Special Circumstances – maximum ½ page – upload - ***V. Important if you were PT or you are registered in a combined MD/PhD program – note: students admitted directly to PhD or transfer from M to PhD without completing a Master’s degree are not required to do this; also dual reg in MD/PhD is not the same as combined MD/PhD.
Vanier – The Application – cont’d:


• Two (2) “Academic” Letters of Reference – referees selected by applicant will respond to request for reference sent by email from ResearchNet application system – “Academic references” – Prioritize asking for one letter of reference from your advisor/supervisor – should come from individuals under whom the applicant has trained and/or who have had a good opportunity to assess their academic excellence – IE: should be academic in nature! – NOT recommended to have an individual submit both a leadership reference and one of these academic references – should all be different people - you will NOT be able to submit the application until these referees have submitted – see ResearchNet for info on how to set deadline for referees to submit – you will not see these letters in the application but will be able to see when they are successfully submitted – send referees this link:


• Research Proposal – maximum 2 pages including graphs and images – upload – Note specifications for human subjects if applicable – “Citation style: As you write your research proposal, employ the citation style common to your field of research. Do not use more than one citation style. Footnotes or endnotes should be employed for citation purposes only, and should not elaborate on the information contained in the 2-page research proposal. For guidance on how to best present your Research Proposal to the selection committee, we recommend consulting with your supervisor, mentor, department, or faculty.”
Vanier – The Application – cont’d:


• Project References – maximum 5 pages – upload – “bibliography” – “this is your opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with the literature to relevant to your Research Proposal upload.”

• ***OPTIONAL – Indigenous applicants may self-declare as Indigenous to be considered above and beyond the quotas – but to do so, Indigenous applicants are required to complete the following form and upload it to the ResearchNet application where indicated:


*Complete and upload form in section called “OTHER – task 11 – attach other application materials” on application instructions

ENSURE CCV and ResearchNet forms are completed and submitted online prior to the September 10th, 2021 11:59 pm Deadline!!!!

Awards Officer Pro-tip: BE PROACTIVE 😊 - the ResearchNet system is NOT a U of M system, therefore if you have technical issues, you will have to contact the Help Desk, as I am not equipped to offer technical support for the application system

• For technical help, call 1-888-603-4178 or 613-954-1968 or email support-soutien@cihr-irsc.gc.ca from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

• For program-related help, contact vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.
Vanier – The Application – cont’d:


TWO APPLICATION ITEMS TO BE SENT TO SARA SEALLEY NO LATER THAN FRI, SEPT 3RD, 2021:

• Official transcripts – for all post-secondary institutions attended – ORDER ASAP!!!! – send to Sara Sealey in Graduate Studies via mail or email – see last page of slides for email and postal address for sending transcripts

• Department Head Nomination Letter – maximum 2 pages - ***Send link at top of this page to Department Head – scroll down to details that should be included in this letter – indicate to the Dept Head that these are the items they are looking for to be included in this letter AND note to them the maximum 2 page limit – this letter should be on University letterhead, with a signature, and should come directly from the Department Head (or Department Administrative Staff on behalf of the Department Head) and arrive to Sara Sealey directly via email without passing through the hands of the student
Vanier – Transcript Requirements:

• Vanier requires that you request copies of your official transcripts from all Universities and post-secondary institutions attended

• ***Many institutions are experiencing delays in producing transcripts due to the pandemic – order these NOW to avoid delays and panic

• If you are a current student at the University of Manitoba, or if you were admitted Summer 2021 term or Fall 2021 term – and you will be registered in the Fall 2021 term, please ensure your registration for Fall 2021 is showing on your Aurora Student record BEFORE you order the transcript – DO NOT OMIT THIS EVEN IF YOU HAVE NO GRADES SHOWING

• If the institution is located in Canada or the USA – official transcripts are required

• If institution is located outside of Canada or the USA – let me know and I will create a certified copy from your admission file as we can use a certified copy per Vanier for these types of transcripts ONLY

• TL;DR – if the institution is in Canada or the USA – just order the official transcript and pay for it; ensure you are not omitting anything, even if you think something is not important (ie: somewhere you just took one course but didn’t get a degree)

• ENSURE all institutions listed on your CCV match up with the official transcripts submitted – ie: if you wrote down the institution on your CCV, then there should be a corresponding transcript
Vanier – Important Links to Review:

Vanier Eligibility:

Vanier Selection Committee Guide and Selection Criteria:

Vanier Application Instructions – Takes you through task by task on how to complete the application:

Information for Academic Referees for Completing Referee Assessments:

Information for Leadership Referees for Completing Leadership Letters of Reference:

Information for Department Heads on Completing a Department Head Nomination Letter – note they need to scroll down to the section titled “Nomination Letters”:

Vanier CGS Voluntary Self-Identification Form for Indigenous Applicants:
Vanier – Contact for Competition Administration:

Sara Sealey, Awards Officer, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Working remotely – kindly send inquiries via email: sara.sealey@umanitoba.ca

Mailing address for sending official transcripts:

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