

NSERC
**Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate
Scholarships-Doctoral Program (CGS-Doctoral)
and Postgraduate Scholarships-Doctoral Program
(PGS-Doctoral)**

Information Package

The Canada and Post- Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral

The Canada and Post- Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS-D/PGS-D) from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) provide financial support to high-calibre student scholars who are engaged in doctoral programs in the natural sciences or engineering. The Canada Graduate Scholarships will be offered to the top-ranked applicants and the next tier of meritorious applicants will be offered an NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship. This support allows the student scholars to concentrate fully on their studies and to seek the best research mentors in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta. Additional information on the programs can be found at www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures_eng.asp.

Benefits to the applicant include the following:

- These are highly coveted and acclaimed awards. Securing an award will place you in a good position for future acknowledgement in your field;
- Opportunities for additional supplements from the home department, Faculty of Engineering, and supervisor;
- Without financial constraints, you will focus on conducting original research and developing practical engineering skills;
- Through completion of the doctoral program, you can receive up to 24 months of work experience credit towards the professional engineering (P.Eng.) license;

- If you choose to work in industry after the doctoral program, you will be able to hold out a solid and professional portfolio that outlines your abilities as being broad and diverse in scope.

Financial Gains:

The home departments and Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta are keen on supporting recipients of these NSERC scholarship awards. The table below shows all the potential sources of funding to these scholars.

Funding Source	Amount in Year 1 of Award (\$)
NSERC PGS-D, or NSERC CGS-D	21,000, or 35,000
Possible Teaching Assistantship	7,000
President’s Prize of Distinction	10,000
Supervisor	varies
Possible Minimum Total	38,000 – 52,000

This looks good – am I eligible?

Eligibility to apply for these scholarships includes the following:

- The applicant must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;
- hold, or expect to hold a degree in science or engineering (at the time that you expect to take up the award);
- intend to pursue full-time graduate studies and research at the Master’s level in an eligible science or engineering program in Canada; and
- have obtained at least a first-class average (a grade of “A-”) in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent).

How do I apply?

Step One:

Speak with a Faculty of Engineering professor at the University of Alberta today regarding potential projects. Information on all professors can be found at <http://research.engineering.ualberta.ca/en/research-database.aspx>

Step Two:

Complete the application by visiting the NSERC web site at www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures_eng.asp.

Step Three:

Completion of NSERC application will require that the candidate write a research proposal. This should be done in collaboration with the potential supervisor in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta. **The proposal should be 1 page in length.**

Step Four:

Submit the completed application and all supporting documents pursuant to the guidelines given by NSERC.

Preparing a winning application!!

There are three selection criteria for these scholarships: 1) Academic Excellence; 2) Research Ability or Potential; 3) Communication, Interpersonal, and Leadership Abilities.

NSERC places great emphasis on the Research Ability or Potential criterion for the PGS-D/CGS-D awards, giving this criterion 50% of the overall weighting. The Academic Excellence and Communication, Interpersonal, and Leadership Abilities criteria receive 30% and 20%, respectively, of the overall rating.

Candidates are encouraged to take time to prepare a strong proposal. A strong proposal **must** include the following section points:

- Brief description of the research problem and how it fits into the larger scope of the field;
- Your proposed solution to the research problem;
- The proposed solution methodology (experiments, numerical modelling, etc.);

- Description of results expected and potential contributions by the candidate to the solution of the problem;
- Ensure that you will be able to complete the project in 4 years; and
- Draft the proposal in close collaboration with the potential supervisor in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta.

The applicant may also wish to take note of the following general points:

- The candidate should ensure that the research methodology is well explained in the proposal. A proposal that does not include a research methodology may not be well received by the adjudication committee;
- While this next point may appear to be a cliché, the candidate should take great effort to publish their research work in journal revues (preferred) and at conferences. The greater the number of substantive publications, the greater the chances of having the application ranked highly by the adjudication committee;
- It is imperative that candidates highlight their professional (work) and extracurricular experiences to score well on the Communication, Interpersonal, and Leadership Abilities criterion;
- Extracurricular activities that include leadership responsibilities will attract the attention of the members of the adjudication committee more than many activities that do not include leadership roles.