

# NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS-Master's)

## Information Package

### *The Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's*

The Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's (CGS-M) from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) provide financial support to high-calibre student scholars who are engaged in master's programs in the natural sciences or engineering. 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/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_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 Master's program, you can receive up to 18 months of work experience credit towards the professional engineering (P.Eng.) license;
- If you choose to work in industry after the Master's 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.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount in Year of Award (S)</b>
NSERC CGS-M	17,500
Possible Teaching Assistantship	7,000
Walter H. Johns Scholarship	5,500
Supervisor	varies
<b>Possible Minimum Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>

## ***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 GPA of 3.5) 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/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_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 Potential; 3) Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills.

NSERC places great emphasis on Academic Excellence for the CGS-M award, giving this criterion 50% of the overall weighting. The Research Potential and Personal Characteristics criteria receive 30% and 20%, respectively, of the overall rating.

Candidates are encouraged to participate in research programs during their training as undergraduate students and write strong proposals to increase their rating on the Research Potential section. 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 2 years; and

- Draft the proposal in close collaboration with the potential supervisor in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Alberta.

It is imperative that candidates highlight their professional (work) and extracurricular experiences to score well on the Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills criterion.