



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans and Associate Deans of Graduate Studies
Vice-Presidents and Associate Vice-Presidents (Research)

C.C.: Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships Institution Contacts
University Scholarships Liaison Officers
Julie Conrad, Manager, Vanier-Banting Programs and CIHR Awards
Denis Godin, Director, Scholarships and Fellowships Programs, NSERC
Julia Dicum, Director, Research Training Portfolio, SSHRC

FROM: François Zegers, Lead, Vanier-Banting Secretariat and CIHR Awards

DATE: June 23, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021-2022 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS) launch and program update

Please distribute to all parties at your institution who would benefit from this information.

The 2021-2022 Vanier CGS competition has been launched. This memo is to inform you of program news for this competition.

I) 2021-2022 Vanier CGS competition timelines

Key dates are highlighted below:

	2021-2022 Vanier CGS competition timelines
Competition launch	June 23, 2021 - Posting of updated program literature on program website, including application guide and activation of ResearchNet (electronic application system)
List of Indigenous applicants for institutions	October 19, 2021

Application deadline	November 2, 2021 (8:00 pm EST)
Funding decision release	Early April 2022

II) Vanier CGS program news and updates

NEW – Indigenous applicants

Institutions may recommend applications from self-identified Indigenous applicants to the Vanier CGS competition above and beyond their institutional quota. Indigenous applicants must agree to their personal information being used for this purpose by making the appropriate selection in the application form by attaching the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Vanier CGS): Voluntary Self-Identification Form to their application in ResearchNet.

Applicants who wish to self-declare themselves as an Indigenous applicant have been instructed to complete the [Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship \(Vanier CGS\): Voluntary Self-Identification Form](#) for Indigenous Applicants and upload it within their application. This form may be used by Research Administrators to identify self-declared Indigenous applicants.

Should the institution wish to request a quota above and beyond the institutional quota, it is the responsibility of the Research Administrators to list which applicants will be included as self-identified Indigenous applicants and send it via email to the Vanier-Banting Secretariat (vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

Institutional deadlines

- **NEW:** (Optional) The deadline to submit the list identifying applications from Indigenous* applicants above and beyond the institutional quota is no later than **8:00 p.m. (ET) on October 19, 2021.**
 - To do so, create a list to identify applications from Indigenous* applicants above and beyond the institutional quota, and send via e-mail (Subject line: Nominations beyond institutional quota) to vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca
 - Institutions are permitted to recommend an unlimited number of self-identified Indigenous* applicants above their institutional quota. To be considered for this, Indigenous applicants must provide consent within the [Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship \(Vanier CGS\): Voluntary Self-Identification Form](#) to share this information with their institutions and the tri-agencies.
 - The Vanier CGS program will not accept a modified or updated list (identifying applications from Indigenous applicants) after the deadline.
 - Institutions cannot submit all their nominations (including those from self-identified Indigenous* applicants) until a confirmation has been received that the institutional quota has been increased.
- The competition deadline for institutions is no later than **8:00 p.m. (ET) on November 2, 2021** using the Electronic Approval Tool on ResearchNet.

- Submitting a nomination to the Vanier CGS program using the Electronic Approval Tool is final; this action cannot be undone.

Note: Substitutions for ineligible or rejected applications will not be permitted.

*“Indigenous Peoples” is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. “Aboriginal Peoples” is also sometimes used as a terminology. For the purposes of this program, the tri-agencies use the Canadian Constitution Act, 1982 definition of Aboriginal Peoples as including the First Nations, Inuk (Inuit) and Métis Peoples of Canada.

NEW (Optional) – International transcripts

(Optional) **If a nominee has international transcripts:** They may attach a 250-word summary to describe the variations in the grading system from the country of the transcript and the Canadian level equivalents, and/or explain international credentials and equivalencies. The summary should be a PDF document attached at the beginning of their transcripts.

UPDATE – Doctoral studies timeline form

The Doctoral Studies Timeline form is no longer required in a Vanier CGS application.

REMINDER (updated): Equity, diversity and inclusion

The Vanier CGS program encourages equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), as part of the [Tri-Agency’s broader commitment](#) to excellence in research and research training in Canada. EDI considerations must be taken into account throughout the Vanier CGS competition, including during the selection committee member recruitment process and during the selection, endorsement and review processes of an application.

The [EDI page](#) of the Vanier CGS website provides guidelines and resources geared towards applicants, host institutions, referees, and reviewers and readers, and addressing the following topics: research respectfully involving Indigenous communities; reducing unconscious bias, and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion.

An important component ensuring EDI is reflected in our selection process is the careful consideration to each applicant’s career interruptions and personal circumstances. The review of an applicant’s track record will take into consideration the availability of research and leadership opportunities. **Applicants are thus encouraged to identify any circumstances that may have delayed or interrupted their academic and/or career advancement (if applicable) in the [Personal Leadership Letter](#) attachment of their application.**

With the competitive nature of the program in mind, we would like to remind you to continue to be highly selective in your endorsement of nominations. In the way we can work together to ensure that, the program is indeed supporting world-class doctoral scholars who will become the research leaders of tomorrow and without adding undue strain on the review system.

Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council are committed to excellence in research and research training. [Read more](#) in the Statement from the Tri-Agency Presidents.

REMINDER – Sex- and Gender-based Analysis Plus (SGBA+)

In order to ensure the research we fund is impactful and relevant to the diversity of the population, we now require applicants to systematically examine how differences in identity factors (such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability) affect the outcomes of research and the impacts of research findings. Applicants are now encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see Application/nomination instruction-[Task 10](#)).

REMINDER (updated) – Research respectfully involving and engaging Indigenous communities

The proposed research must be in accordance with the policies and principles outlined in the following two main documents:

- [Tri-Council Policy Statement: Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)
- [SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)
- [CIHR's Research Involving First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada - Webinar](#)

Nominating institutions must describe how collaborations with Indigenous communities have been or will be developed and provide details corroborating information included in the research proposal.

In order to be funded, research involving and engaging with Indigenous communities must fulfill the pillars for respectful research engaging with Indigenous peoples.

REMINDER – International recruitment

In keeping with the aim of attracting doctoral students to Canada, we encourage you to continue to strengthen your efforts to recruit new foreign doctoral students to your respective institutions. Your collaboration is essential in achieving the goal of building strong brand recognition for the Vanier CGS program as Canada's most valuable, prestigious and sought-after doctoral scholarship. By attracting international candidates to Canadian institutions, we will enrich our campuses now and into the future.

REMINDER – Eligibility: Calculating months of doctoral studies

All prior doctoral-level studies, regardless of discipline, are considered in the evaluation of eligibility, and are considered to be continuous, full-time, and uninterrupted unless otherwise confirmed by the institution (including the summer months, unless on official leave). The Vanier-Banting Secretariat will count two months of part-time studies as one month of full-time studies.

Number of months of doctoral studies:

- 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.

REMINDER – Internal deadlines at institutions

Nominating institutions should adjust the internal deadline date in ResearchNet as soon as possible for the Vanier CGS competition. Remember to allow enough time for the internal review of nominations. Currently, the internal deadline date is the same as the final submission deadline for the Vanier CGS competition.

Instructions can be found in the *Electronic Approval for Research Institutions - Administrator's Guide*, available in the support section in ResearchNet, under the **Manage Internal Deadline task**.

Institutions are also reminded to **update** the ResearchNet Electronic Approval Tool Users to avoid any further delays to the submission of nominations. If the Access Administrator (AA) of the Vanier CGS program on ResearchNet has changed since the last competition (2020-2021), please send an email to vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca so that we can update our system with the new AA.

For more information on user roles and responsibilities, please refer to the updated Electronic Approval Guide.

REMINDER – Subject matter eligibility (research area)

The onus is on the applicant and their supervisor to carefully consider which selection committee should review the application. For more details, please consult the [Application/nomination Instruction – Task 6: Identify area of research.](#)

NOTE – Accessing updated webpage

If you have not cleared your cache since the last time you accessed the Vanier CGS webpage, your browser may display a cached version of the page. In order to see the updated webpage, simply hit the “refresh” logo in your browser (or hit the F5 key).

For any questions, please contact the VBS at Vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.