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Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024

To: Students and Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

Re: **2025 Social Science and Humanities Research Council – Doctoral (SSHRC Fellowships) and Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral (CGS D) Competition**

GPS is pleased to announce the details of the 2025 SSHRC Doctoral competition, now available on [GPS's website](#). The University of Alberta's quota for the number of applications that can be forwarded to SSHRC for consideration in the 2025 competition is 57. There is a single application and review process for the [SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships](#) and the [CGS D](#) programs. The top-ranked applicants are awarded the CGS D (\$40,000 per year, tenable only in Canada) and highly-ranked applicants in the next tier are awarded the Fellowship (\$40,000 per year, tenable in Canada and abroad).

**This is a direct application, whereby students apply through SSHRC's [Online Services](#) portal.** There is no nomination, list, or ranking required by the Department. The Departments will be notified of students successfully forwarded to the national competition, and of any winners. To assist in the promotion of this doctoral scholarship, we request Departments disseminate information about this year's national competition to their students and potential applicants.

**After reviewing all applications, reviewers recommend the best applications, regardless of their status or proposed location of tenure. Institutions forward the best applications to SSHRC even if they are proposing to hold their award at a different institution.**

Institutions may recommend applications from self-identified Indigenous applicants to the doctoral awards competition beyond their application quota. Indigenous applicants must agree to their personal information being used for this purpose by making the appropriate selection in the application form. Note applicants are not automatically forwarded to the national level; they will be reviewed and recommended by GPS's Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) among the full pool of applicants. *"Indigenous peoples" is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. "Aboriginal peoples" is often used as a synonym. For the purposes of these programs, the tri-agency uses the Canadian Constitution act, 1982 definition as including the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.*

2024/25 recipients of the U of A Graduate Entrance Scholarship and the U of A Graduate Recruitment Scholarship are encouraged to apply for Tri-Agency funding if they are eligible (i.e. citizenship status is Canadian/Permanent Resident).

Applicants may apply in the same year to both the SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship program and the SSHRC Vanier CGS program. At the U of A, those applicants who have completed the 2025 SSHRC Vanier CGS application are

strongly encouraged to also complete an application for the SSHRC Doctoral competition if they are eligible. NOTE: Students cannot hold a SSHRC Doctoral scholarship and Vanier CGS scholarship simultaneously, but applying for both may increase a student's probability of obtaining a Tri-Council Scholarship.

### **Application Process and Timelines**

Refer to, and ensure applicants are directed to, [SSHRC's website](#) for clarification concerning the value, duration, and eligibility criteria. Applicants should consult SSHRC's website to determine registration status requirements at time of application submission, and for assistance in selecting the appropriate agency when applying for funding.

See GPS's [website](#) for the complete application process, timelines, and instructions for students leading up to the application submission deadline. Note that GPS will not provide copies of students' applications or reference letters to Departments. Should Departments want a copy of the student's application for advisement purposes, they may request this directly from the student. As referees are required to submit a confidential online form, letters are not available to students.

### **COVID-19 related measures pertaining to the eligibility window**

The calculation of the number of completed months takes into consideration leaves or part-time studies. Students are encouraged to use the Allowable Inclusions section of their application to explain COVID-related delays, especially if their progress was disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

### **Transcripts**

It is highly recommended students order transcripts as early as possible. Applicants are responsible for obtaining transcripts for all institutions attended and uploading them to their application. Applicants are to follow the *Transcripts* section of [SSHRC's Application Instructions – SSHRC Doctoral Awards](#), and the [U of A's transcript policy and requirements posted on GPS's website \(under Application Procedures\)](#). These instructions are crucial as non-compliance with transcript-related guidelines is the primary reason for the rejection of applications.

### **Official letters confirming part-time status or interruptions**

Applicants whose doctoral studies, as part of their doctoral studies, studied part-time, or interrupted their studies with the university's official approval, must upload an "Official letter to confirm part-time study and/or leave of absence" from GPS confirming the change of registration status in their doctoral program.

### **Application Deadline and Submission**

**Friday, September 20, 2024, 11:59 pm (MST):** Deadline for students to request an "Official letter to confirm part-time study and/or leave of absence" from GPS (if applicable).

**Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 11:59 PM (MST):** Deadline for students to submit their completed application via SSHRC's On-line Services portal. Note that there is no system shutoff in SSHRC's portal October 3, 11:59 pm; however, student's applications will be date and time stamped once submitted and this will be the copy used for university review and adjudication. **Applications submitted after this date will not be accepted and extension requests will not be granted.**



- The deadline above is for applications submitted through the University of Alberta only. Failure to submit an application through the correct channel may result in an application being removed from the competition. For more information, refer to the flow chart [“Where should I submit my application?”](#) of the [CGS D Scholarships descriptions](#). This flowchart details which option should be selected within the online application form. Note: all applicants registered in a degree program at the U of A (with a quota) at any time during the calendar year of application must apply through the U of A, even if they intend to pursue their studies at an institution other than the U of A.
- To complete a full application, students must follow [SSHRC’s Application Instructions](#). It is the student’s responsibility to read all instructions and be familiar with the application process before applying. This includes making sure to click “preview” and “verify” on each page in order to submit the application.
- Only completed applications will be reviewed. Changes cannot be made after the application has been submitted. Changes cannot be made after the application has been submitted. Edits or corrections such as spelling, grammar, formatting, attachments, etc. are the responsibility of the student and will not be checked by GPS. Students who do not follow SSHRC’s Application instructions may jeopardize their application.
- **Transcripts:** It is students’ responsibility to submit online through [SSHRC’S On-line Services portal](#) any and all required up-to-date transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies. For more information refer to [SSHRC’s Application Instructions](#) and [GPS’s website](#). For students currently registered, this includes U of A transcripts that must show Fall 2024 registration. GPS cannot provide copies of transcripts to students.
- Submission of an application does not mean it has been forwarded to the national SSHRC competition. All eligible applications will be shared with the GSC adjudicators for review.

#### **GPS Award Services Review**

October 4 – Mid October, 2024: GPS Award Services reviews applications for eligibility and completeness.

- Students will not be offered the opportunity to revise their applications.

#### **University Adjudication**

Mid October - Mid November, 2024: GPS’s GSC reviews applications and selects nominees to be forwarded to SSHRC for review at the national level.

#### **University Deadline**

November 21, 2024: deadline for GPS to forward university nominations to SSHRC for the national competition.

#### **University Results**

End of November, 2024: Results of the SSHRC competition at the University level will be released. Only those students who’ve been nominated to SSHRC will receive a notification email from GPS that they have been forwarded to the national competition level. Unsuccessful students will be notified through the SSHRC On-Line system.

**SSHRC National Results**

Final SSHRC doctoral results are expected to be announced in April 2025.

We wish all students success in the upcoming competitions!

Sincerely,

Award Services