

# Internal and external scholarships for Dalhousie University Department of Earth Sciences Graduate Students and Post-docs

1. NSERC-PGS
2. NSERC-CGS-M
3. Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship (NSGS)
4. Killam scholarships

## Important:

(i) Applicants should note that there may be multiple websites for each scholarship, and that there is often a lot of information regarding eligibility, terms of the scholarship, application procedure, nomination and rank procedure, and other requirements. **It is up to the applicant to read and follow ALL of the instructions** for the award, and to communicate with the potential supervisor as early as possible.

(ii) Transcripts often need to be official versions. It may take **more than 10 days to receive an official transcript** from some university that you have obtained even just one course credit for.

(iii) Some applications require you to complete you CV in a specific online form, referred to as the **CANADIAN COMMON CV**. Compiling and entering the data may take several hours, possibly more.

(iv) While the actual dates provided are suitable for the 2016-2017 competitions, these may change in future years. **Please make sure you confirm the competition deadlines for future years.** In general, the department will expect to receive a completed application two weeks before the deadline if the department has to make a decision or submit a nomination of the applicants for a particular scholarship.

## **1. NSERC-PGS (Canadian, PhD applicants)**

**1.1 Instructions:** Go to the NSERC-PGS website for details, and check the FGS website for any other information. Follow the instructions carefully.

**1.2 Application procedures:** You must submit an application online to NSERC and a scanned version to the Department. This includes the application form and the research proposal, and transcripts.

**1.3 References:** Two references are required. Make sure these are instructors or professors who know you sufficiently well. They need to give evidence for their characterizations of “outstanding”, “extremely creative”, and “future leader in their field”.

**1.4 Transcripts:** You will require original official transcripts from all previous universities and colleges. Order two copies. They will arrive in sealed envelopes. One copy must be provided to the department in the unopened, sealed envelope for your application to Dalhousie Graduate School. You will open the second envelope so you can scan the transcripts and upload them to the NSERC website.

**1.5 Proposal:** Make sure you understand and clearly communicate: (i) the problem, (ii) why the problem is interesting and important, (iii) the hypothesis you wish to test or question you wish to address regarding the problem, (iv) justification that this is a useful hypothesis or question that is based on observation, (v) a proposed approach, without jargon, but with as much detail and justification of the methods as space allows, (vi) some indication that the approach is feasible, (vii) why your research will be significant in your field, to other fields, to industry, etc., and (viii) which parts of your work will be novel, innovative, original or lead to significant discovery.

**1.6 Application for Graduate School:** You are also required to apply to graduate school at Dalhousie. Go to the FGS website and follow instructions for an online application. This needs to be completed by the Department deadline.

### **1.7 Deadlines:**

**August 15:** (Recommended date) By now you should have discussed your application with a potential supervisor at Dalhousie who has a position available, with some research funding.

**September 1:** (Recommended date) By now you should have requested official transcripts from all universities. Some will take more than 10 business days, and then there is the time for mailing. Not all universities will courier the transcripts.

**September 1:** (Recommended date) By now you should request a letter of reference from your two referees.

**September 1:** (Recommended date) By now you should have shared a rough draft of your proposal with your potential supervisor

**September 1:** (Recommended date) By now you should have applied to Dalhousie University for a Ph.D. program in Earth Sciences.

**September 15: (DEADLINE).** By this date:

(i) you should have uploaded your application, and provided a digital copy (print as pdf) of the application, proposal, and scanned transcripts to Norma Keeping, Graduate Secretary for Earth Sciences. You also need to provide her with the unopened original transcripts, which will accompany your application for graduate school. The letters for your Dalhousie application may be from the same referees for your NSERC application, but there are different forms.

(ii) your referees should have provided their letters of reference by completing the online form by the September 15 Deadline. Norma Keeping can access these online. Make sure that Norma has received them.

**September 23:** (Recommended date) The department has ranked all completed NSERC applications and submitted the ranking to FGS. Late proposals will only be accepted by the Department in special circumstances, and may be ranked lower.

**September 23:** (Recommended date) You should make sure that everything is in order by verifying online or emailing Norma Keeping.

**September 23:** (Recommended date) You should verify that your Graduate School application to Dalhousie has been received and that it is complete, and that you have provided Norma Keeping with the sealed envelopes of your original transcripts.

**September 23:** (Recommended date) If you have not already done so, you should submit the final version of your online application to NSERC.

**October 1: (DEADLINE).** Deadline for everything to have been submitted to NSERC.

## **2. NSERC-CGS-M (Canadian, MSc applicants)**

**2.1 Instructions:** Go to the NSERC-CGS-M website for details. Follow the instructions carefully.

**2.2 Application procedures:** You must submit an application online to NSERC and a scanned version to the Department. This includes the application form and the research proposal.

**2.3 References:** Two references are required. Make sure these are instructors or professors who know you. They need to give evidence for their characterizations of “outstanding”, “extremely creative”, and “future leader in their field”.

**2.4 Transcripts:** You will require original official transcripts from all previous universities and colleges. Order two copies. They will arrive in sealed envelopes. One copy must be provided to the department in the unopened, sealed envelope. You will open the second envelope so you can scan the transcripts.

**2.5 Proposal:** Make sure you understand and clearly communicate: (i) the problem, (ii) why the problem is interesting and important, (iii) the hypothesis you wish to test or question you wish to address regarding the problem, (iv) justification that this is a useful hypothesis or question that is based on observation, (v) a proposed approach, without jargon, but with as much detail and justification of the methods as space allows, (vi) some indication that the approach is feasible, (vii) why your research will be significant in your field, to other fields, to industry, etc., and (viii) which parts of your work will be novel, innovative, original or lead to significant discovery.

**2.6 Application for Graduate School:** You are also required to apply to graduate school at Dalhousie. Go to the FGS website and follow instructions for an online application. This needs to be completed by the Department deadline.

### **2.7 Deadlines:**

**November 1:** (Recommended date) By now you should have discussed your application with a potential supervisor at Dalhousie who has a position available, with some research funding.

**November 5:** (Recommended date) By now you should have requested official transcripts from all universities. Some will take more than 10 business days, and then there is the time for mailing. Not all universities will courier the transcripts.

**November 5:** (Recommended date) By now you should request a letter of reference from your two referees.

**November 5:** (Recommended date) By now you should have shared a rough draft of your proposal with your potential supervisor

**November 5:** (Recommended date) By now you should have applied to Dalhousie University for a MSc program in Earth Sciences.

**November 18: (DEADLINE).** By this date:

(i) you should have uploaded your application, and provided a digital copy (print as pdf) of the application, proposal, and scanned transcripts to Norma Keeping, Graduate Secretary for Earth Sciences. You also need to provide her with the unopened original transcripts, which will accompany your application for graduate school. The letters for your Dalhousie application may be from the same referees for your NSERC application, but there are different forms.

(ii) your referees should have provided their letters of reference by completing the online form by the November 18 Deadline. Norma Keeping can access these online. Make sure that Norma has received them.

**November 22:** (Recommended date) You should make sure that everything is in order by verifying online or emailing Norma Keeping.

**November 23:** (Recommended date) You should verify that your Graduate School application to Dalhousie has been received and that it is complete, and that you have provided Norma Keeping with the sealed envelopes of your original transcripts.

**November 23:** (Recommended date) If you have not already done so, you should submit the final version of your online application to NSERC.

**November 24:** (Recommended date) The department has ranked all completed NSERC applications and submitted the ranking to FGS. Late proposals will only be accepted by the Department in special circumstances, and may be ranked lower.

**December 1: (DEADLINE).**

### **3. Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships (Canadian or International, MSc or PhD)**

*These are for students who are not currently enrolled at Dal. Students cannot already have started their proposed program. \$10k is available for the first two years of a MSc, and \$15k (\$10k for international) for up to four years of a PhD. Note, international students should check the international box on the form. Students intending to transfer from MSc to PhD program should not transfer until after the deadline.*

#### ***There are two Deadlines:***

***December 1*** for students starting in May or September; and

***February 15*** for students starting in September or January

*Additionally, if funding permits, there may be a summer competition for 1 year funding for students who in September or January will begin the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the MSc or 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> year of their PhD program.*

**3.1 Instructions:** Go to the FGS website for Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships. Read the regulations and follow the instructions carefully.

**3.2 Application procedures:** Download and complete the form digitally. Submit the form to our Graduate Secretary, Norma Keeping. Complete the C.V. and proposal as indicated. **Your supervisor should recommend a statement regarding Justification and Lay Summary of the project**, and how the proposed research supports Nova Scotia's priority areas: *Ocean Science and Technology, Information and Communications Technology, Clean Technology (including Materials Research), Financial Services Research, Life Sciences, Aerospace & Defense, Health & Wellness, Resource Sectors or Social Innovation*. The department has the option to modify the statement of Justification.

**3.3 Transcripts:** You will require original official transcripts from all previous universities and colleges. Order two copies. They will arrive in sealed envelopes. One copy must be provided to the department in the unopened, sealed envelope. You will open the second envelope so you can scan the transcripts and attached the scans in pdf to the rest of the application which should be in pdf format.

**3.4 Proposal:** Make sure you understand and clearly communicate: (i) the problem, (ii) why the problem is interesting and important, (iii) the hypothesis you wish to test regarding the problem, (iv) justification that this is a useful hypothesis that is based on observation, (v) a proposed approach, without jargon, but with as much detail and justification of the methods as space allows, (vi) some indication that the approach is feasible, (vii) why your research will be significant in your field, to other fields, to industry, etc., (viii) which parts of your work will be novel, innovative, original. Make sure that the study will make a direct, or at least an indirect contribution to Nova Scotia's priority areas.

**3.5 Application for Graduate School:** You are also required to apply to graduate school at Dalhousie. While the deadline for this can be later, we strongly recommend that you apply to the Faculty of Graduate Studies at Dalhousie when you apply for the NSGS. Go to the FGS website and follow instructions for an online application. This should to be completed by the Department deadline.

#### **3.6 Deadlines:**

**November 1 or January 15:** (Recommended date) By now you should have discussed your application with a potential supervisor at Dalhousie who has a position available, with some research funding.

**November 5 or January 20:** (Recommended date) By now you should have requested official transcripts from all universities. Some will take more than 10 business days, and then there is the time for mailing. Not all universities will courier the transcripts.

**November 5 or January 20:** (Recommended date) By now you should have shared a rough draft of your proposal with your potential supervisor

**November 5 or January 20:** (Recommended date) By now you should have applied to Dalhousie University.

**November 15 or January 30: (DEADLINE).** By this date you should have provided a digital copy (print as pdf) of the completed application and scanned transcripts, **to Norma Keeping**, Graduate Secretary for Earth Sciences. You also need to provide her with the unopened envelopes with the original official transcripts, which will accompany your application for graduate school. Late proposals will only be accepted by the Department in special circumstances, and may be ranked lower. The department scholarship committee will rank the applicants and submit the ranking and calculated GPAs before December 1 or February 15.

## 4. Killam Scholarships

The department will nominate and forward your application to FGS. However it is your responsibility to notify a potential supervisor who will recommend the nomination to the Department of Earth Sciences Chair and Graduate Secretary.

Canadian and International.

Canadian applicants must have already applied for a national scholarship such as NSERC.

**MSc:** up to 24 months, must apply before you begin your MSc

**PhD:** up to 36 months, must apply before, or in your 1<sup>st</sup> year of your PhD

**Postdoc:** up to 2 years, plus travel and research grant

**Read all of the instructions and application materials carefully:**

**<https://www.dal.ca/dept/killam-laureates/how-to-apply.html>**

### MSc and PhD applications

**December 10.** By this date you should have notified the Department of Earth Sciences Graduate Secretary that you intend to apply for a Killam Scholarship.

**December 15.** By now you should have begun the application, requested original official transcripts to be sent to the Department of Earth Sciences.

**January 1.** By now you should have your application materials together, your supervisor should have reviewed your proposal.

**January 15. DEADLINE.** Department deadline to receive complete applications (4 pm) in hard copy to Norma Keeping (Graduate Secretary).

**February 1. DEADLINE.** FGS deadline to receive the applications and rankings from the department.

### Post-doctoral applications

**December 15. DEADLINE.** Department Deadline for a complete application from the applicant

**January 9. DEADLINE.** FGS deadline to receive up to two applications from the Department, and a ranking of the candidates.