

# Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

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## Doctoral Awards

### Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships Program Doctoral Scholarships, and SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships

#### November 2017 Competition

Overview	
<b>Value</b>	Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships: \$35,000 per year SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships: \$20,000 per year
<b>Duration</b>	Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships: 36 months SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships: 12, 24, 36 or 48 months
<b>Application deadline *</b>	Direct applications: November 7, 2017 University applications: January 9, 2018
<b>Results announced</b>	April 2018
<b>Apply</b>	<a href="#">Application and instructions</a>

\* **Note:** If a deadline falls on a weekend or a Canadian public holiday, the deadline will be extended to the next business day.

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### Description

The Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships and SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships aim to develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in undergraduate and graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities. Applicants apply for both awards by completing **one application form**. If you are eligible for both awards, SSHRC will automatically consider you for both.

These funding opportunities, together with the [CGS Master's Scholarships](#), the [Vanier CGS](#), the [SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) and the [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships](#), help train Canada's researchers and leaders of tomorrow.

Most Canadian universities receive a [quota](#) indicating the number of students they can nominate for the national competition. Students registered in a degree program at a university that did not receive a quota must apply directly to SSHRC. If you are interested in a research experience outside of Canada and hold a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS master's or doctoral scholarship, or a Vanier CGS at the doctoral level, you may be eligible to apply for a [CGS Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement](#).

Some CGS recipients may be considered for the honour of having their scholarship named a "[Canada Graduate Scholarship to Honour Nelson Mandela](#)," should SSHRC deem their application to be aligned with at least one of five themes championed by Mandela: national unity; democracy, freedom and human rights; leadership; children's participation in society; and children's health.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving [Aboriginal research](#), as well as those involving [research-creation](#).

For a complete list of SSHRC funding opportunities that may be of interest to doctoral students, please use the [Funding](#) search tool and select "Graduate student" as the type of applicant.



### Future Challenge Areas

SSHRC invites all applicants to review [Imagining Canada's Future's](#) six [future challenge areas and subquestions](#), and to consider addressing one or more of these

areas in their research proposal. Summary reports related to the Knowledge Synthesis Grants for each future challenge area have identified possible gaps in current knowledge, which applicants may wish to further explore. While this is not an evaluation criterion for merit review, SSHRC monitors research capacity in these areas, and develops and implements strategies and knowledge mobilization activities, to enhance the contribution of humanities and social sciences research across the six challenge areas.



## Value and Duration

**Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships** are valued at \$35,000 per year for 36 months.

**SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships** are valued at \$20,000 per year for 12, 24, 36 or 48 months.

SSHRC determines the value and duration of an award based on the number of months of full-time study (or equivalent) the applicant will have completed by December 31 of the year of application.

In calculating the value and duration of awards, SSHRC includes all prior doctoral-level studies in the same discipline.

This applies whether or not the degree was completed and whether or not the current university recognizes the previous credits or years of study.

SSHRC assumes that all studies were full time and uninterrupted (e.g., that the beginning of September 2016 to the end of December 2017 means 16 months of study). Students who studied on a part-time basis, or who interrupted their studies with their university's official approval, must specify the dates of interruption or part-time study as documented in an official letter from their university, to be included with the application.

The following table shows the periods of support applicable to students at different stages of doctoral (or equivalent) study.

Number of months completed by December 31 of the year of application	Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
Applicants who will have completed between 0 and 4 months	36 months of funding	48 months of funding
Applicants who will have completed between 5 and 16 months	36 months of funding	36 months of funding
Applicants who will have completed between 17 and 28 months	Not eligible	24 months of funding
Applicants who will have completed between 29 and 40 months	Not eligible	12 months of funding
Applicants who will have completed 41 months or more	Not eligible	Not eligible

For both the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships and the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships, applicants successful in the current competition must take up their awards in May 2018, September 2018 or January 2019. The January start date is available only to award holders who cannot begin their degree program earlier, either because of an incomplete previous degree or because their chosen degree program is not available until January 2019.



## Eligibility

### Subject Matter

Most SSHRC funding is awarded through open competitions. Proposals may involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. Please see [Subject Matter Eligibility](#) for more information.

### Applicants

#### Eligibility to Apply

To qualify to apply to both the Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships and the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships funding opportunities, you must:

- be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- be applying for support to pursue your **first** PhD (or equivalent);
- be pursuing doctoral studies in the social sciences or humanities;
- not have already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC) or SSHRC to undertake or complete a doctoral degree; and
- not be applying in the 2017-18 academic year to NSERC or CIHR.

At the time of application, you need not be assured of admission to a degree program.

#### Combined MA/PhD, fast-track and direct-entry PhD programs

- If you are or will be registered in a combined MA/PhD, fast-track (accelerating from a master's program into a doctoral program without obtaining the master's degree) or direct-entry PhD program, you may be eligible to apply for a [CGS Master's Scholarship](#) provided you have completed between zero and 12 months of graduate-level study by December 31 of the year of application.
- If you are currently registered in a combined MA/PhD, fast-track or direct-entry PhD program, and have or will have completed more than 12 months of graduate-level study by December 31 of the year of application, you can only apply to the doctoral awards funding opportunity.

## Eligibility to Hold an Award

Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships are tenable **only** at [eligible universities](#) in Canada. There are **no** exceptions.

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships are tenable at any recognized university in Canada or abroad. For the fellowship to be held abroad, the award holder must have **completed** at least one previous degree at a Canadian university. For award holders who do not meet this requirement, the fellowships are tenable only at recognized Canadian postsecondary institutions.

On the proposed start date of the award, you must:

- be registered as a full-time student, undertaking or continuing a doctoral, combined MA/PhD, fast-track or direct-entry doctoral program in the social sciences or humanities; and
- not have exceeded the allowable number of months already spent in doctoral study, as set out in [Value and Duration](#) above.

### Notes:

Award holders may hold their awards part time for parental or medical reasons and/or because of family-related responsibilities.

Federal government employees require prior approval from SSHRC to be eligible to hold a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship. Supporting documentation from the employer may be required.

Qualifying or “make-up” years of study are not eligible.

### Eligibility of Degree Programs

Doctoral awards are tenable only in degree programs that include significant original, autonomous research that leads to the completion of a dissertation, major scholarly publication, performance, recital and/or exhibit that, as a requirement for completion of the program, is merit reviewed at the institutional level.



## Application Process

Candidates eligible for both a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship and a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship will be considered for both awards. All candidates will be assigned a rank order on the basis of the selection committees’ recommendations. Top-ranked candidates will receive an offer of award. Whether the offer is for a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship, a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship or a choice of either will depend upon the candidate’s overall ranking and the relevant eligibility criteria.

In order to apply, you must do the following:

1. Ensure that you meet the requirements specified in the [Eligibility](#) and [Value and Duration](#) sections (above).
2. Complete and submit **only one application form**, together with the required attachments. Application instructions can be found inside your online application.
3. Determine your current registration status from the table below, and submit your completed application to the appropriate institution.

**Note:** Applicants requiring assistance while preparing their doctoral award application are encouraged to communicate with SSHRC’s Research Training Portfolio well in advance of the application deadline.

Applicant Status	Where to Submit Application
In fall 2017, you are registered in a degree program at, or on an approved leave of absence from, a Canadian university with a <a href="#">quota</a> .	The university at which you are currently registered.
In fall 2017, you are registered in a degree program at a Canadian university without a <a href="#">quota</a> .	SSHRC.
In fall 2017, you are registered in a degree program at a foreign university.*	SSHRC
In fall 2017, you are not registered in a degree program at a university, but intend to undertake doctoral studies.	SSHRC.

\*Students registered concurrently at a Canadian and a foreign university must submit their application to the Canadian university, if that university has a quota.



## Evaluation and Adjudication

Applications are adjudicated, and available funds are awarded, through a [merit review](#) process. SSHRC makes funding decisions based on the recommendations of the adjudication committees and on the funds available.

SSHRC’s [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#) are relevant for researchers (applicants and project directors) and students preparing SSHRC applications related to [Aboriginal research](#). SSHRC provides these guidelines to merit reviewers to help build understanding of Aboriginal research and research-related activities, and to assist committee members in interpreting SSHRC’s specific evaluation criteria in the context of Aboriginal research. Concerted efforts will be made by SSHRC to include experts in Aboriginal research in the doctoral and postdoctoral adjudication committees. The guidelines may also be of use to external assessors, postsecondary institutions and partner organizations that support Aboriginal research.

## Evaluation Criteria

[Multidisciplinary selection committees](#) evaluate applicants solely on academic merit, measured by:

- past academic results, as demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;
- the program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge;
- relevant professional and academic experience, including research training, as demonstrated by conference presentations and scholarly publications;
- two written evaluations from referees; and
- the departmental appraisal (for those registered at Canadian universities).

## Competition Process

For applicants registered at a Canadian university with a <a href="#">quota</a>	For all other applicants
<b>Step 1:</b> The student submits his or her completed application to the relevant department head on or before the deadline set by the department.	<b>Step 1:</b> On or before November 7, 2017, the applicant submits to SSHRC his or her completed application.
<b>Step 2:</b> Members of the department appraise and rank all applications, then forward them, in their entirety, to the university's faculty of graduate studies. SSHRC recognizes that some universities may have to do a preliminary preselection at the department level because of the large number of applications involved.	<b>Step 2:</b> SSHRC staff reviews all applications and forwards those eligible to one of five <a href="#">multidisciplinary selection committees</a> .
<b>Step 3:</b> The faculty of graduate studies preselection committee evaluates all applications by dividing them into two categories: A-list applications, which are recommended; and B-list applications, which are not. The faculty of graduate studies informs all applicants in writing of the outcome of their applications.	<b>Step 3:</b> <a href="#">Multidisciplinary selection committees</a> evaluate all eligible applications by dividing them into two categories: A-list applications, which are recommended; and B-list applications, which are not. SSHRC informs all applicants in writing of the outcome of their applications.
<b>Step 4:</b> All A-list applications are entered into the national competition, where they are evaluated by one of five <a href="#">multidisciplinary selection committees</a> . SSHRC will announce the competition results in spring 2018. Competition results are not provided by telephone or email.	



## Regulations, Policies and Related Information

SSHRC reserves the right to determine the eligibility of applications based on the information therein. SSHRC also reserves the right to interpret the regulations governing its funding opportunities set out in its published materials.

All applicants and fellowship holders must comply with the [Regulations Governing Fellowship and Scholarship Applications](#) and with the regulations set out in the [Tri-Agency Research Training Award Holder's Guide](#).

### Guidelines and Related Support Material

All applicants for SSHRC funding should consult the following guidelines while preparing their applications:

- Applicants should consult the [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#). These guidelines may also be useful to reviewers and postsecondary institutions.
- SSHRC, in alignment with its [Aboriginal Research Statement of Principles](#), welcomes applications involving [Aboriginal research](#). It also provides [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#).
- For descriptions of SSHRC terms, see [Definitions of Terms](#).

### Aboriginal Applicants and Aboriginal Research

SSHRC has implemented several pilot measures intended to support research by and with Aboriginal Peoples. These are aimed at supporting graduate students or postdoctoral researchers applying for, respectively, Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships, SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships or SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships. The pilot measures include:

- an opportunity for applicants to self-identify as Aboriginal, allowing SSHRC to track and assess participation and success rates for First Nations, Métis, Inuit and other Indigenous doctoral and postdoctoral applicants (**Note:** this information is not used in the adjudication process);
- an opportunity to identify a proposed program of study as Aboriginal research, such that SSHRC's [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#) will apply; and
- an opportunity to identify and detail additional special circumstances that might impact the academic careers of some Aboriginal applicants.

To learn more, please consult [Aboriginal Talent Measures](#).

SSHRC welcomes [feedback and questions](#) on any or all of these pilot measures.

For more information about the Doctoral awards funding opportunity, please visit the [Resource Centre](#).



## Contact Information

### Doctoral Awards

Research Training Portfolio

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Date modified: 2017-06-14