

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Master's (CGRS M)

*Graduate Scholarships and Awards Services (GSAS) team,
CGPS*



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Graduate
and Postdoctoral Studies
CGPS.USASK.CA

gradstudies.awards@usask.ca

CGRS M

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- Academic References
- Special Circumstances
- Timelines and Processes



CGRS M

Why apply?

- Experience in applying for funding & scholarly writing (especially proposals)
- Tri-Agency success is a broad metric across Canada
- Tri-Agency scholarships are prestigious!
- "Success begets success"



CGRS M - Background

Agency deadline = Tuesday, December 1st, 2026 at 8pmEST

Where to apply? Research Portal

Amount = \$27,000 + 6,000 from CGPS

Applicants can apply to up to 3 institutions.

Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)



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CGRS M - Background

USask allocations

CIHR

13

NSERC

21

SSHRC

24

Awards for self-identified Indigenous applicants can be 'over and above' institutional allocations.



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CGRS M - Background

Indigenous Scholars Awards & Supplements (ISAS) Initiative

- Provide financial support to meritorious Indigenous students who have applied to the CGRS M program.
- Self-identify at the time of application.
- If offered a CGRS M from institution, then eligible for a supplement by the agencies.
- If not offered by institution but kept as 'alternative, then applicant is eligible for an award and supplement directly from the agencies, based on available funding.



CGRS M - Eligibility

Set by the Tri Agencies

- Must be Canadian, a PR, or Protected Person as of the deadline.
- Must be enrolled in, have applied for, or will apply for full admission to a graduate program. The program must be predominantly research-oriented and lead to a thesis or major research project.
- As of December 31st, must have completed 0 to 12 months of full studies.
- Must hold first-class average is required, defined as 80% or higher.
- Must not have held or currently holding a Master's level from Tri Agencies, including the Indigenous Scholars Award and/or Supplement.



CGRS M - Application Components

- Brief summary of proposal (maximum of 1,800 characters (including spaces))
 - Outline of proposed research (max 1 page)
 - Bibliography/citations (max 1 page)
- Up-to-date undergraduate and graduate transcripts, transcript keys and transfer credits
 - The CGRS-M Canadian Common CV (CCV) — complete separately then connect to application through Research Portal
 - Two reference assessments — Uploaded through Research Portal
 - Special circumstances letter (if applicable)



CGRS M - Selection Criteria

Academic excellence - 50%

As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions.

Indicators of academic excellence:

- Academic record (first class average)
- Scholarships and awards held
- Type of program and courses pursued
- Course load —Relative standing (if available)



CGRS M - Selection Criteria

Research potential - 30%

As demonstrated by research history, interest in discovery, proposed research, its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field and any anticipated outcomes.

Indicators of research potential:

- quality and originality of contributions to research and development
- relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research
- significance, feasibility and merit of proposed research
- sound judgment and ability to think critically
- ability to apply skills and knowledge
- initiative and autonomy
- research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with your academic experience



CGRS M - Selection Criteria

Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills - 20%

As demonstrated by your past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations.

Indicators of personal characteristics, interpersonal skills:

- work experience
- leadership experience
- project management, including organizing conferences and meetings
- ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats
- involvement in academic life
- volunteerism/community outreach



CGRS M - Proposal

Maximum 1 page for the proposal + 1 page for the bibliography

Originality and importance

What is new and important about your research?

Research question and approach

What key question does your research address, and how will you answer it?

Alignment with priorities

How does your research fit with institutional and/or funding agency priorities?



CGRS M - Proposal

Milestones and success

What are the estimated milestones, and what does success look like?

Impact

What is the impact of your research?

Feasibility and resources

Demonstrate feasibility. What resources are available?



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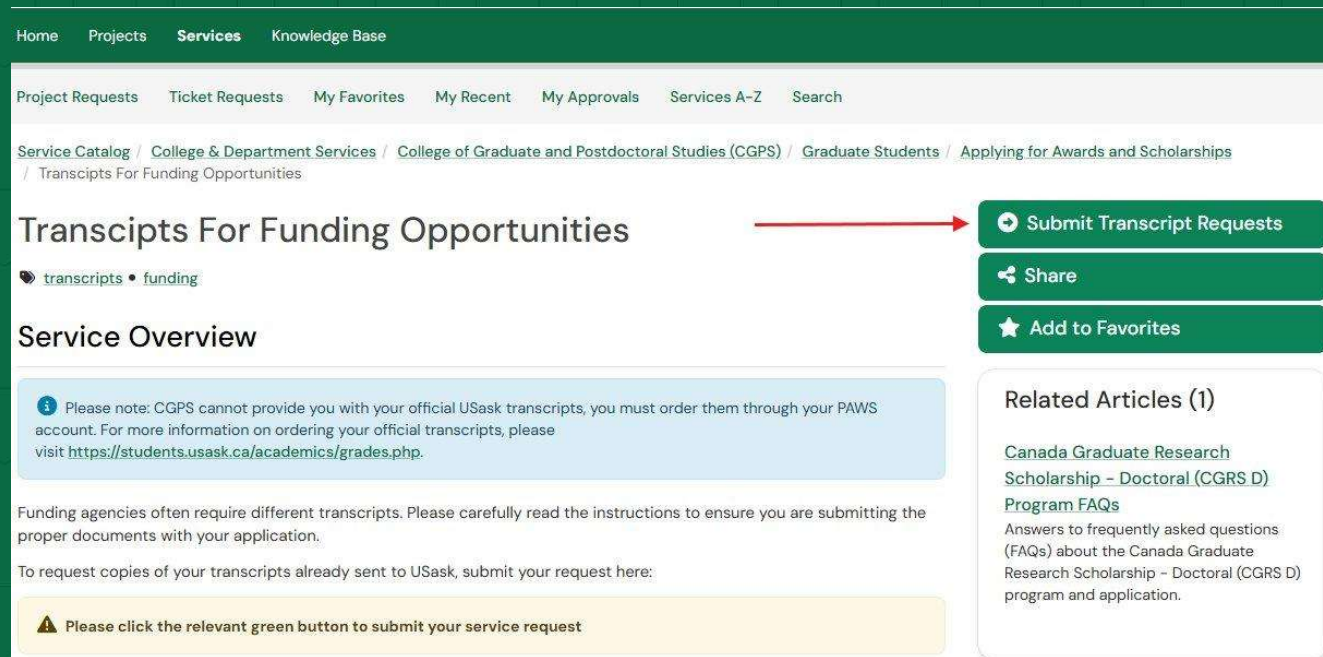
CGRS M - Proposal

- Consider your audience
- Avoid jargon, limit abbreviations, explain technical terms
- Do not exceed the 1 page limit
- Don't cram as much as possible into the document
- Consider using the following:
 - spaces between paragraphs
 - Indentation
 - headings



CGRS M - Transcripts

- If we have a copy of your transcript on file from when you applied for admission to USask, you can submit a request through this form to obtain a copy, and CGPS will email it to you.
<https://teamdynamix.usask.ca/TDClient/33/Portal/Requests/Service/337/Transcripts-For-Funding-Opportunities>



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Service Overview

Please note: CGPS cannot provide you with your official USask transcripts, you must order them through your PAWS account. For more information on ordering your official transcripts, please visit <https://students.usask.ca/academics/grades.php>.

Funding agencies often require different transcripts. Please carefully read the instructions to ensure you are submitting the proper documents with your application.

To request copies of your transcripts already sent to USask, submit your request here:

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Related Articles (1)

[Canada Graduate Research Scholarship - Doctoral \(CGRS D\) Program FAQs](#)

Answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Canada Graduate Research Scholarship - Doctoral (CGRS D) program and application.



CGRS M - Canadian Common CV

- Separate website from the Research Portal
- Select the CGRS-Master's CCV template.
- Once your CV is submitted, a confirmation number is assigned. THIS IS HOW YOU CONNECT YOUR CV TO YOUR CGRS M APPLICATION.
- Start early! It can be tedious and time-consuming.
- Keep the criteria from each section in mind when you complete your CCV.
- Demonstrate you are well-rounded.
- No limit on number of entries per contribution.



CGRS M - References

- Ask early and choose wisely.
- Provide the selection criteria, guide references on which points to speak to. Make sure all criteria are addressed between the two references.
- One reference should be someone who is very familiar with your research and abilities (i.e. current or previous research supervisor) and the other should be sufficiently familiar with your research and abilities to provide a meaningful commentary.



CGRS M - Selection Criteria

Selection criterion	Weight	Key indicators
Academic excellence	50%	Academic record and first-class average, scholarships and awards, program and courses, course load and relative standing.
Research potential	30%	Research quality and originality, relevant training and experience, proposal significance and feasibility. Critical thinking, applied skills, initiative and achievements relative to academic experience.
Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills	20%	Work and leadership experience, project management, clear written and oral communication , participation in academic life, volunteering and community outreach.



CGRS M - Special Circumstances

Optional , max 1 page

This can be used for circumstances such as:

- health problems
- family responsibilities



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CGRS M – Summary of Proposal

Lay Abstract

Provide a brief summary (1800 characters max, including spaces) of your outline of proposed research in language the the public can understand. Citations are not expected in this section.

This plain-language summary may be made available to the public if your application is successful.



CGRS M - Timelines and Processes



Students submit in online portal by December 1st deadline

CGPS Awards team reviews applications, compiles packages for reviewers



CGRS M - Timelines and Processes

Awards Committee adjudicates, ranks, selects award recipients, as per agency allocations.

Offers to selected recipients made in Research Portal on **April 1st**
(conditional on application/offer to USask program)

Other applicants received updated status in Research Portal (reserve, not offered, etc)



CGRS M - Timelines and Processes

- Notification on Research Portal by April 1st.
- All universities will send out results on same day by email: Successful, Unsuccessful, or Alternate List.
- As applicants have applied to multiple institutions, there is a tumble down of offers as awards are declined.
- Offers to alternate candidates may be made up until January 31 of the next calendar year. It is the responsibility of the applicant to regularly verify the Research Portal between April 1 and January 31 for results of the competition.
- An offer of a scholarship from a university does not mean acceptance to a program.



CGRS M - Tips

- Remember that your application cannot be returned in Research Portal once submitted.
- Make sure you clearly describe what you intend to do, show it is feasible, describe the outcomes and impacts.
- Cite pertinent literature throughout.
- Have someone outside your field of research read your application quickly to make sure they can understand it.
- Clearly identify a few take aways /things you want reviewers to remember.
- Follow ALL instructions.
- Take advantage of AI tools for light editing, use it in accordance to Tri Agency guidelines on AI usage.



Questions?

Leah Johnson
Clarence Mararagan
Sola Ogundana

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