



Terms of Reference for the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship at Saint Mary's University

The Province of Nova Scotia has created a Graduate Scholarship Program to help advance the economic and social wellbeing of Nova Scotians by investing in graduate thesis research in the following defined priority sectors: Ocean/Marine Technology; Life Sciences; Information and Communication Technology; Clean Technology; Aerospace and Defence; Resource Sectors; Financial Services; Health and Wellness; and Social Innovation.

These graduate scholarships are valued at up to \$10,000 per year for up to 2 years at the Master's level, and up to \$15,000 per year for up to 4 years at the PhD level for Canadian and international students.

At Saint Mary's University, there are caps on the total funds an applicant can receive from other scholarships while also holding a Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship. The upper limit for Master-level recipients is \$25,000/annum, and the upper limit for PhD-level recipients is \$35,000/annum, based on the academic year (excluding internal stipend funds from research grants and MITACS funding). If necessary, a sliding scale will be used to determine individual NS Graduate Scholarship amounts to the maximum award amounts identified above.

At Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships are intended to be primarily admission awards, although they may also be awarded to continuing students.

New or continuing graduate students may apply for a Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship through the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR). Eligibility and selection criteria for Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships, and the criteria for retaining awarded scholarships, are given on the next page.

Students must submit their application and supporting documents (merged as one document) to FGSR (Heather.Gray@smu.ca) by April 10.



ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION AND RETENTION CRITERIA FOR NOVA SCOTIA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (in order of priority):

1. Applicants must carry out thesis research in one of the **following provincial priority sectors:**

Ocean/Marine Technology	Life Sciences	Information & Communication Technology
Clean Technology	Aerospace & Defence	Financial Services
Health & Wellness	Resource Sector	Social Innovation

2. Applicants must either be (1) **accepted for admission**, at the time of application, as a full-time research-based graduate student at SMU or (2) be a registered full-time research-based graduate student **within the minimum-time-for-completion** at SMU at the time of taking up the scholarship. For this scholarship program, research-based graduate programs at SMU include all PhD programs, all Master of Arts programs, and the Masters of Science programs in Applied Science, Applied Psychology, and Astronomy.
3. Applicants must have a **minimum GPA**, in the last two full years of study, of **3.7** (based on a 4.3 scale). **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS FROM ALL INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS APPLICATION. FGSR will accept an unofficial SMU transcript.**
4. Applicants must agree to submit an annual/final report on their research.

SELECTION CRITERIA (in order of priority):

1. Overall merit of the research proposal (including clarity of presentation, and appropriateness of proposed methodology): 40%
2. Explanation of how the research can advance the **economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians**: 40%
3. Justification of how the thesis research aligns with one of the **provincial priority sectors**: 20%

RETENTION CRITERIA:

If awarded a multi-year award, to maintain funding in subsequent years, awardees:

1. Must maintain **first class standing**
2. Must be registered as a **full-time student at Saint Mary's University**, as defined in the Graduate Academic Calendar, in one of the eligible graduate programs specified in the Eligibility Criteria.
3. Must submit an **annual/final report** identifying **progress in the research program** and how the research may ultimately advance the **economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians within one of the provincial priority sectors.**
4. Must be approved by the FGSR Awards Committee for continuation of funding (based upon the evaluation of the annual progress report).

4. Confirm the Following:

I am applying for the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship and confirm that my research addresses the priority sector identified in this application. If successful, I understand that I am required to complete, and submit to FGSR, an annual report by **APRIL 10** next year to confirm that my research continues to focus on the priority sector identified. I understand that funding in subsequent years depends on:

- completion of the annual / final report form
- registering with full time status
- maintaining first class standing
- approval by the FGSR Awards Committee

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Incoming students must have:

- GPA of 3.7 or above (on 4.3 scale) in last 60 credit hours (i.e., 20 one semester courses)
- applied for full time status

Current students must:

- have passed all graduate courses
- have registered full time and registered each semester
- be within their minimum time to completion in September of the next academic year
- have a GPA of 3.7 or above (on 4.3 scale) in last 60 credit hours (i.e., 20 one semester courses)

5. Acknowledgement of Supervisor:

As supervisor for the applicant I acknowledge that the proposed research fits within one of the provincial priority sectors and may ultimately advance the economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians.

Supervisor's Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Combine this form and the documents indicated below and submit as one attachment to FGSR (Heather.Gray@smu.ca):

- One page description of your research, how it fits into the Priority Sector identified in the application, and how it may ultimately advance the economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians.
- One page of references.
- **OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPTS FROM ALL UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED. FGSR will accept an unofficial SMU transcript if it is printed by the Applicant.**

Only submit the required documents. Additional documents will not be reviewed.

FGSR USE ONLY

Scholarship Awarded _____
Signature, Dean or Designate _____
Date _____