



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 research areas: Aerospace and Defense; Construction and Transportation; Financial Services; Information, Computer Science and Technology; Life Sciences and Health Sciences; Natural Resources, Climate Change and Clean Energy; Ocean Science and Technology; 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 Doctoral level for Canadian and international students (pending availability of funding).

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 Doctoral-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 **May 20**.

Priority Research Area Descriptions

Aerospace and Defense: Research broadly related to defense or aerospace, including but not limited to control systems and material development for transportation systems and unmanned vehicles, performance testing, shockwave analysis, secure communications, system integrity analysis, policy analysis, and broader activities generally linked to aerospace or defense.

Construction and Transportation: Research related to sustainable and resilient construction technology, materials science, cellular and internet networks, innovative building materials, and urban and rural transportation solutions.

Financial Services: Research related to financial modeling, management, security systems, predictive analysis and artificial intelligence, financial policy analysis and resource management, and broader fields exploring innovation within the broader financial services field.

Information, Computer Science and Technology: Research related to the management, analysis or manipulation of information, artificial intelligence, big data, communications, and the broad fields of computer science, engineering and information technology development.

Life Sciences and Health Sciences: Research related to human health and well-being, medical technology, animal and plant health and innovation, biomaterials and bioproducts, artificial intelligence in health-care settings, oceans technology and food security and self-sufficiency.

Natural Resources, Climate Change and Clean Energy: Research related to resilient and efficient supply chains; sustainable mining practices and resource management; exploration, extraction, processing and recycling of critical minerals, including lithium and uranium; renewable energy technologies; carbon capture and storage; environmental science; oceans technology; and electrification and energy storage.

Ocean Science and Technology: Research related to the science, management, health, or resources of oceans and other marine bodies. This might include activities ranging from policy development to technology creation, to impact analysis and ocean health at the provincial or global level.

Social Innovation: Research broadly related to social innovation, including but not limited to international and domestic development, legal and political systems, public policy, sociocultural constructs and institutional frameworks, and the collection of social information. Activities may also include the study of languages, cultures, and history in local, national, and global social contexts, understanding that such knowledge and advanced analysis can often support the exploration or discovery phases, as well as the implementation, of social innovation.

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 research areas**:

Aerospace & Defence	Information, Computer Science and Technology	Ocean Science and Technology
Construction and Transportation	Life Sciences and Health Sciences	Social Innovation
Financial Services	Natural Resources, Climate Change and Clean Energy	

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 Doctoral programs, Master of Applied Health Services Research - Thesis Program, all Master of Arts programs, and the Master of Science programs in Applied Science, Applied Psychology, and Astronomy.
3. Applicants must have a minimum GPA, over the last 60 credit hours of study, of 3.7 (based on a 4.3 scale). **Official transcripts, from all institutions attended, showing all grades received prior to the application deadline must be submitted with this application. Official transcripts must include winter grades for the year of application (if applicable). FGSR will accept an unofficial SMU transcript printed in May of the year of application.**
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 **priority research areas**: 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 graduate 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 research areas**.
4. Must be approved by the FGSR Awards Committee for continuation of funding (based upon the evaluation of the annual progress report and availability of funding).

Deadline: Students must submit their application and supporting documents to The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) by May 20 via email to Heather.Gray@smu.ca.

Graduate Students may apply for the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship through FGSR. The Awards Committee of FGSR will review applications and decide on the distribution of awards.

Student: Please complete sections 1 to 5 and submit to FGSR (Heather.Gray@smu.ca) by May 20.

1. Provide your name and contact information

Last _____ First Name _____
Email _____ Student Number _____
Mailing _____ A _____

2. Provide information about your program and status

Program _____ Masters Doctoral
Status International Student Canadian/Permanent Resident Student

3. Identify the Priority Research Area that aligns with your research - (PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerospace and Defence	<input type="checkbox"/> Information, Computer Science and Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Science and Technology
<input type="checkbox"/> Construction and Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences and Health Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Innovation
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources, Climate Change and Clean Energy	

Title of Research Project: _____

4. Provide a description of your research, explaining how it fits into the Priority Research Area identified above, and how the research will ultimately advance the economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians. You may also attach an extra page and citations, if required.

5. Confirm the Following:

I am applying for the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship and confirm that my research addresses the priority research area identified in this application. If successful, I understand that I am required to complete, and submit to FGSR, an annual report by May 20 next year to confirm that my research continues to focus on the priority research area identified. I understand that funding in subsequent years depends on:

- completion of the annual / final report form
- maintaining first class standing
- availability of funding
- registering with full time status
- 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)

6. Acknowledgement of Supervisor:

As supervisor for the applicant, I acknowledge that the proposed research fits within one of the provincial priority research areas 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

[\(Heather.Gray@smu.ca\):](mailto:Heather.Gray@smu.ca)

- One page description of your research, how it fits into the Priority Research Area identified in the application, and how it may ultimately advance the economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians.
- One page of citations.
- 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
