



## **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 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).

**Deadline:** Students must submit their annual/final report and supporting documents to FGSR ([Heather.Gray@smu.ca](mailto:Heather.Gray@smu.ca)) by April 10.

**Student: Please fill out sections 1 to 5**

**1. Provide your name and contact information**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Student Number A \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Provide information about your program and status**

Program \_\_\_\_\_  Masters  PhD  
Status  International Student  Canadian/Permanent Resident Student

**3. Identify the priority sector that aligns with your research - (PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE)**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ocean/Marine Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information and Communication Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Technology        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Innovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Aerospace and Defence                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Wellness     | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Sector   | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Services                       |

Title of Research Project: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Attach a one-page description of your research, the progress you have made in the past year, how it fits into the Priority Sector identified above, and how the research will ultimately advance the economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians. You may also attach 1 page of references.**

**5. Confirm the following and provide a signature**

I understand that funding in subsequent years depends on:

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

Select one:

- I am not eligible / not requesting renewal of the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship  
 I am requesting that I be considered for renewal of my Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor: Fill out section 6**

**6. Sign the following declaration**

I support the student's request for ongoing funding from the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship.

I confirm that the student's research falls into the priority sector identified and that they have made satisfactory progress in the past academic year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FGSR to Complete the Checklist Below – Section 7**

**7. Complete the checklist to confirm ongoing eligibility**

- Student has been registered in all terms since admission
- Student has a GPA of 3.7 or above (on 4.3 scale)
- Student has achieved a passing grade in all courses
- Student is registered full time
- Student is recommended for renewed funding

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FGSR USE ONLY**

Scholarship Awarded \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Dean or Designate \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**With this form, submit the following to FGSR ([Heather.Gray@smu.ca](mailto:Heather.Gray@smu.ca)):**

- One page description of your research progress to date, how it fits into the Priority Sector identified, and how the research may ultimately advance the economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians.
- One page of references.
- An up-to-date unofficial SMU transcript.