

## CGS-M FAQ's

### Questions generated from October 26 CGS-M webinar

#### General Questions

**Which award is for international students?** International students should look at the Affiliated Fellowships - Master's: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/awards/affiliated-fellowships-masters-program>

**Is the grade point average (GPA) eligibility requirement cumulative first class over the last two years, or first class each year over the last two years?** First class each year over the last two years of full time studies.

**Do we need to apply to the institutions we wish to hold the CGS-M before we submit the CGS-M application?** No, but apply for admission before the internal deadline set by your prospective UBC graduate program.

**If we are already UBC Master's students, do we still put three "proposed host institutions" as options in the application?** No, if you plan to hold the CGSM at UBC, you can just put UBC as your only proposed host institution.

**Is the entire application submitted online?** Yes, entirely online.

**Would applications with a May 2021 start date still be considered for approval later in the summer for next-ranked applicants?** Yes. You can still have a May 2021 start date if you receive a CGSM offer later in the summer - the award funding would be assigned to you retroactively.

#### Eligibility

**I started my MSc last year (September 2019). Am I still eligible?** You must have no more than 12 months of Master's studies as of December 31, 2020 in the program for which you are requesting funding. If you have been registered full-time as a UBC Master's student each term since September 2019 (no leave of absence) you would have 16 months of study and would not be eligible.

**Can you receive the CGSM two years in a row?** No, it's a one year, one time award. If you already held a CGSM in Year 1, you are not eligible to hold it again.

**Does the 12 month limit include part-time students taking the program over 3-4 years? For example, if you started in September 2019, but have only completed 3 courses by the end of December 2020 (i.e. less than 1 year F/T equivalent), would you still be considered ineligible?** Please check with your grad program to confirm if you were part time status for that period. Part time status for graduate students is a specific classification at UBC that a student requests and is approved for; part time status it is not simply based on the number of courses taken over a period of time.

#### Application Procedures

**What is the difference between NSERC, CIHR, and SSHRC?**

These are the acronyms for the three federal funding agencies, which provide research funding and scholarships for the following research disciplines:

- CIHR: Canadian Institutes for Health Research,
- NSERC: National Sciences and Engineering Research Council,
- SSHRC: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

In your CGSM application, you must select only one research discipline that best fits your research, even if your research is interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary.

If you are unsure where your research fits, please see:

[http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h\\_FEE7261A.html](http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html). You can also check with your supervisor for their recommendation.

**Does UBC get similar numbers of applications for CIHR and NSERC? Why is there a disparity in number of awards between them?** The number of awards available per agency is determined by the grant funding agencies (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC). For more information: [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CGSAllocations-QuotasBESC\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/CGSAllocations-QuotasBESC_eng.asp).

**Does CIHR or NSERC get more applications?** NSERC usually receives more applications, but you should apply to the funding agency that best fits your research. For more information: [http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h\\_FEE7261A.html](http://www.science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html).

**Is there a difference between applying to SSHRC directly versus applying through UBC? I feel like I was told there was 2 ways to apply and I'm a bit confused.** In your CGSM application, you can select social sciences and humanities as your "proposed field of research". You will then be considered for a SSHRC CGSM. Additionally, you select up to 3 proposed host institutions. Those proposed host institutions would then review your CGSM application. If you selected The University of British Columbia (UBC) as one of your "proposed host institutions", UBC would be able to review your CGSM application. You do not apply directly to SSHRC (unlike the doctoral competitions).

**How many CGSM applications does UBC typically receive per year/competition?** Approximately 900 CGSM applications are submitted to UBC each year. Of those, approximately 240 each year are selected to receive a CGSM. There is no national stage of the competition; applications are submitted to institutions (not the federal funding agencies) and institutions select their CGSM recipients.

**Out of the 900 applications, how many tend to be for the NSERC application?** In 2019, UBC received 423 NSERC CGSM applications, 158 CIHR CGSM applications, and 340 SSHRC CGSM applications. However, keep in mind that you must select the funding agency (CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC) for your CGSM application that best fits your research. For example, if your research best fits NSERC, you cannot choose to submit your application to CIHR instead.

**Is there specific type of citation to use for NSERC?** There is no required citation style. You can use the citation style most relevant to your specific research discipline. Please check with your supervisor.

## References

**By academic references, do you mean from one of our professors?** Yes. CGSM advises “Assessments should be completed by individuals who are familiar enough with your research and other abilities that they can provide a meaningful commentary (for example, current or previous academic research supervisor, industrial supervisor, teacher or thesis advisor)”. For more information: [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/CGS\\_M-BESC\\_M\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/CGS_M-BESC_M_eng.asp).

**Can your supervisor be your reference?** Yes, if you have worked with them before and they can comment on your academic abilities. It is good to have references from individuals who know your research and academic abilities.

**How many references are needed?** 2 are required.

**Does the reference have specific margins?** The references are inputted into an online CGSM reference form (not a free form letter).

## CCV (Canadian Common CV)

**Any tips for most important features to highlight in the "employment", "mentoring" and "community and volunteer" activities?** Use the CCV to provide examples that address the selection criteria outlined here: [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp). If space is an issue, prioritize more recent and relevant experience.

**Can you re-use your CCV if you've already (unsuccessfully) applied for a SSHRC?** Yes.

**On the CCV there is a box for the title of your position for both academic and non-academic work experience but not for the description of the position. Since there is room in the title box, should you include a brief description of what you did in that job?** Yes.

**Do I need to include a description for the awards section, or is just the title required** Include a description if available.

**On the CCV, can you include employment/volunteer positions that you are confirmed to hold in January, but are not yet actively involved in?** The CCV is meant to list past and current activities, not future activities. But if CCV allows it, you can include the ones in the near future.

**For the CCV, should academic scholarships (i.e. entrance awards, named scholarships etc.) be included in the 'Recognition' section ?** Yes, you could put those items in the recognitions section of the CCV.

**Can I include a major scholarship I won, but had to decline because of transferring institutions?** Yes. If the CCV permits you to include that information, you can add that.

## Transcripts/ GPA

**I have an official transcript but it doesn't have a signature/watermark or a transcript key - do I need to request a new one with these items included?** If you're not sure if a transcript you have is official, ask your UBC graduate program to review the transcript to see if it would be considered official.

**To what extent can the criteria be weighted differently given an exceptional applicant? E.g. an applicant that has an average/poor GPA, but has demonstrated significant research potential?**

Please refer to the selection criteria for weighting on different parts of an application:

[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp)

The adjudicators at the university-level are required to score each application by CGSM's evaluation criteria.

**Would the weighting be flexible at all?** No, they are not flexible. But a very high assessment in "academic" criteria can pull up the overall score if another area is weaker.

**Some institutions are not offering printed official transcripts due to COVID. Is UBC/are other institutions accounting for the fact that some institutions are only offering unofficial PDFs right now?** CGSM does not currently have a COVID-19 exception to permit unofficial transcripts; official transcripts are still required. If you are unable to obtain official transcripts (ie. watermark on each page, registrar's stamp), consult with your UBC graduate program on potential alternatives.