

**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. There are also awards for International Differential Fee Scholarships to cover student's differential fees for up to 2 years at the Master's level and up to 3 years at the PhD level.

At Saint Mary's, 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 \$20,000/annum, and the upper limit for PhD-level recipients is \$30,000/annum, based on the academic year (excluding internal stipend funds from research grants). 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 the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships are intended to be primarily entrance awards, although they may also be awarded to continuing students.

New or continuing graduate students must be nominated by their graduate program coordinator using the FGSR Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship nomination form. Eligibility and selection criteria for Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships, and the criteria for retaining awarded scholarships, are given on the next page.

Students being nominated must submit their supporting documents to their Graduate Program Coordinator by **April 10**. Complete nominations from the Graduate Program Coordinators for new or continuing students must be submitted to the FGSR office by **May 1** each year.

Eligibility, Selection and Retention Criteria for Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship

Eligibility criteria:

1. The nominee must either be (1) **accepted for admission** at the time of nomination 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-to-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 and all Masters programs that **require** a thesis (programs with MRP's, practicum or internship options are excluded).
2. The nominee 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 if it is printed by the Graduate Program Coordinator.**
3. The nominee 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

4. Nominees must agree to submit an annual/final report on their research.

Selection criteria (in order of priority):

1. Explanation of how the research can advance the **economic and/or social wellbeing of Nova Scotians**.
2. Justification of how the thesis research aligns with one of the **provincial priority sectors**.
3. Merit of the research proposal.

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 research based-graduate student at Saint Mary's University** as defined in the Graduate Academic Calendar.
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).