Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship

Regulations – To hold an award

The Nova Scotia Government stipulates that applicants nominated by non-professional programs with a thesis requirement for the Master’s level scholarship may hold the award for up to 2 years, PhD applicants can hold the Doctoral level award for up to 4 years and International students can hold the International level award for up to 3 years (as long as they are paying International Differential Fees), if successful. At Dalhousie, the maximum length of time any one student can hold Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship (NSGS) funding is 4 years. This includes funding at both levels (i.e. Master’s + PhD support = 4 years). FGS regulations restrict students from holding a Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship funding past the end of year 2 in a Master’s program and past the end of year 4 in a Doctoral program.

Master’s level:
- Students accepted in a Master’s program
- Students accepted in a Doctoral program directly after completion of their bachelor’s degree
- Valued at $10,000
- Support available for 2 years, pending successful renewal

Doctoral level:
- Students accepted in a Doctoral program
- Valued at $15,000
- Support available for up to 4 years, pending successful renewal

International:
- Students accepted in a Master’s or Doctoral program
- Valued at $10,000
- Cannot be held with a Master’s or Doctoral NSGS award
- Support available for up to 3 years, pending successful renewal

Transfer:
- Students planning on transferring from a Master’s to a Doctoral program must be nominated for the Doctoral scholarship before they begin the Doctoral program. If unsuccessful, they can continue to hold the Master’s award for the remainder of the Master’s level scholarship (based upon successful renewal)

Dalhousie awards Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships on a competitive basis to outstanding entering graduate students with a 1st class average (GPA ≥ 3.7) in thesis programs only (Master's and Doctoral level). Only students registered and studying in the following governmental research priority areas are eligible for the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship funding. The onus is on the departments to guarantee that the graduate students being nominated for an award are studying in one of the following priority areas of research:

Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholars are selected on the basis of nominations made by academic departments.

**Master’s and Doctoral Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships**

Master’s + Doctoral Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships support = Total of 4 years

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<tr>
<th>Last completed degree → Degree entered</th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>Doctoral</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelors → Master’s</td>
<td>Bachelors → Doctorate</td>
<td>Master’s → Doctorate</td>
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<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>24 months**</th>
<th>24 months**</th>
<th>24 - 48 months**</th>
<th>24 - 48 months**</th>
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<tr>
<th>Eligibility</th>
<th>Must apply for scholarship before start of program. The award is for 24 months. The award must begin at start of program.</th>
<th>Must apply for scholarship before start of program. The award is for 24 months*. The award must begin at start of program.</th>
<th>Must apply for scholarship before start of program. The award is for 24-48 months**. The award must begin at start of program.</th>
<th>Must apply for scholarship before start of program. The award is for 48 months. The award must begin at start of program.</th>
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<th>1st class average</th>
<th>GPA of 3.70 or higher</th>
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*Note that the Faculty of Graduate Studies does not fund students past the end of year 2 in a Master’s program and past the end of year 4 in a Doctoral program.

*To be considered in the Master’s pool with other students applying directly out of a bachelor’s program.

**Doctoral students, who held the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship for 24 months at the Masters level must apply before the end of the Master’s award to the Doctoral competition for the remaining 24 months of funding at the Doctoral level.

**All Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships are subject to a yearly review of progress.

**Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship $ Values**

Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships will be valued at $10,000 (Master’s), $15,000 (Doctoral) and $10,000 in the IDF (International) category for the 2014-2015 academic year. Please note that the International scholarships currently cannot be held with a Master’s or Doctoral NSGS award. A student who receives a named external award equal to or higher than the NSGS amount (e.g., NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, Killam, NSHRF, etc. as determined by FGS) in addition to a NSGS is designated as a Honourary Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholar and they will be able to hold the NSGS when their named scholarship ends (as long as it is within the eligible NSGS time-frame and priority area). If the named award is less than the NSGS, the NSGS will top up the named award to the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship value.
Please note that Master’s scholarship holders who transfer from a Master's degree into a Doctoral program without completing the Master’s degree requirements are not eligible to have their stipend increased for the balance of their Master’s scholarship. They can, however, continue to receive the Master's stipend while in a Doctoral program until the completion date of the Master’s scholarship. Students wishing to hold the Doctoral level NSGS must apply for a Doctoral scholarship before they officially transfer into the Doctoral program.

**Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarship Review Process**

Two sub committees are formed from FGS Faculty Council members; the Associate Dean, Scholarships and Programs, chairs both subcommittees. One subcommittee ranks nominees for the Master’s scholarships, while the other ranks nominees for the Doctoral scholarships. A ranked list of applicants is then forwarded to Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval. The selection criteria and their weightings are listed below. Average GPAs are calculated by the Faculty of Graduate Studies using the guidelines summarized in the tables at the end of this section. The number of awards offered in any given year depends on the availability of funds.

**Selection criteria**

The sub committees evaluate and select NSGS nominees based on:

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<th>Academic Excellence</th>
<th>As demonstrated by academic transcripts, awards and distinctions and duration of previous studies.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Research Potential</td>
<td>Quality of analytical skills, ability to think critically, ability to apply skills and knowledge, judgment, originality, initiative and autonomy, determination and ability to complete projects within an appropriate period of time - as demonstrated in the description of program of study and by work experience, research contributions, conference presentations and scholarly publications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills, Interpersonal and Leadership Abilities</td>
<td>As demonstrated in the description of the program of study and, if relevant, by work experience, community involvement and other extracurricular activities, and the quality of presentation of the application.</td>
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**Selection Criteria Weightings**

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<th>Master’s (%)</th>
<th>Doctoral (%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Academic excellence</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research ability or potential</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication skills, interpersonal and leadership abilities</td>
<td>20</td>
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Renewals

Renewal of Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Graduate Scholarships is subject to satisfactory progress based on the Scholars’ renewal application.

Interruption of Award (while still registered in program)

- Students may only interrupt active awards for the following reasons: Illness or Health-Related Family Responsibilities; Parental Leave; and Leave for Relevant Work Experience.
- Students must obtain approval from the Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to any interruption of awards.
- Interruption of less than 12 months:
  - submit the appropriate documentation, including support of the request from the student’s academic unit, to the Graduate Studies Office for evaluation and decision.
- Interruption of 12 months or more (only in truly exceptional circumstances):
  - submit the appropriate documentation, including support of the request from the student’s academic unit, to the Graduate Studies Office for evaluation and decision.
- For approved interruptions, Dalhousie University will suspend payment of the award for the duration of the interruption and will resume payment when all the conditions of the award are met, generally, on the student’s return to full-time studies. The interruption will not reduce the total amount of support available to the student.
- A student may not interrupt the award in order to take up another award or to pursue studies other than those for which the student received funding.
- During an interruption, students must be devoted full time to the activity for which the interruption was requested. Students may not accept employment other than relevant work experience approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see Leave for Relevant Work Experience below).

Unpaid Leave for Reasons of Maternity, Illness or Health-Related Family Responsibilities (not registered in program)

- Students are eligible for a leave of absence of up to three terms, in accordance with Dalhousie University’s policies, for reasons of parental leave, illness or health-related family responsibilities.
- Students must obtain approval from the Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to taking a LOA.
- Contact the Graduate Studies Office to find out what documentation it requires to approve the leave. This may include birth, adoption or medical certificates.

Vacation Entitlement (while registered in program)

Students are entitled to an unbroken vacation of up to 2 weeks per calendar year at a time agreed upon between student and supervisor.