



2012-2013 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)

The Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) program is designed to encourage excellence in graduate studies at the master's and doctoral levels.

An OGS is awarded for only one academic year, which can consist of two or three consecutive terms (one-term awards are not granted). The duration of the OGS affects the total amount. If you were to be awarded an OGS, your graduate unit would pay one-third of the total amount—normally, the current value of an OGS is \$5,000 each term.

The OGS program is jointly funded by the Province of Ontario and the postsecondary institution. The Province of Ontario contributes two-thirds of the value of the award and the university provides one-third. For 2012-2013, the Province of Ontario will provide about \$30 million towards these scholarships and eligible institutions will provide \$15 million.

A total of 3,000 scholarships will be awarded annually. Of these, 90 scholarships will be awarded to visa students.

Application deadline: Ask your graduate unit (each unit has its own internal application-deadline)

You are eligible to apply for an OGS if you:

- Are planning to start—or are continuing in—an approved graduate program at an Ontario University which will lead to a master's or doctoral degree **commencing either May/2012, Sept /2012 or Jan/2013**, and will be/are registered as a full-time student; and
- Are a Canadian citizen, Protected Person, or Permanent Resident or have received a temporary resident visa as a member of the student class (Student Visa) under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada).

Academic Eligibility

You must meet the following OGS academic requirements:

- If entering the first or second year of graduate studies at the time of application you must have an overall average of at least A-, or the equivalent, on the last 20 one-term/semester courses, or the equivalent, completed.
- If you are entering the third year of graduate studies at the time of application you must have an overall average of at least A-, or the equivalent, on all graduate courses completed.

If master's or doctoral degree marks used for calculating an applicant's grade point average (GPA) are not available (e.g., courses were graded on a pass-fail basis), then the ministry or universities Graduate Studies Office will use the most recently available undergraduate or graduate marks to calculate an student's GPA.

Note: Applicants must meet the academic criteria of A- 80% - there are no exceptions.

Eligibility Conditions

- **Master's level:** You can only receive 2 OGS awards maximum within the master's level (both OGS's must be held within the first two academic years of the master's degree program—no part of the third academic year will be funded with an OGS).
- **Doctoral level:** You can receive 4 OGS awards maximum within the doctoral level (all 4 must be held within the first five academic years of the doctoral program).
- ****There is a lifetime maximum of four years** of government-funded student awards. This restriction involves awards offered by OGS, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC. If you have already received 4 years total of any combination of any of these awards, you will not be able to receive a new OGS.**
- Students can't hold scholarships from NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR or a QEII-GSST at the same time as an OGS.

**GRADUATE AWARDS OFFICE,
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Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
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2012-2013 Ontario Graduate Scholarship Application Tips

General Application Information

- Students with a Social Insurance Number can LOG IN and apply online from the OSAP/OGS website, but the application form must still be printed off and submitted—along with all supporting documents—to your home unit before the unit deadline. Instructions for filling out the electronic version are on the Ministry website.
- Students who do not have a social insurance number must apply using the paper application, which is available from the Ministry website: <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRD1346626.html>
- Read the instructions carefully and follow the criteria regarding font type, font size, margins and page specifications!
- Do not exceed page limits or send more information than is required. Extra pages will not be read and will be removed!!!
- Proof-read your work for spelling and grammar.
- Triple-check that your application is complete and that you have signed all the appropriate sections before you submit it.
- Have someone else read over your application and provide you with feedback.
- Make sure all your application pages are current and have the 2012-2013 date at the top— old forms will not be accepted and the application will not be accepted by the Ministry.
- **Tip: Beware of deadlines—Consult your own unit regarding their own internal OGS-deadline!!**

Transcripts

- OGS requires official/original transcripts from studies completed in Canadian and American Universities. Certified photocopies and print-outs from ROSI are not acceptable.
- **The Ministry will only accept photocopies of transcripts from universities outside of North America if the transcripts have been signed by the student's UofT-unit.**
- **Tip: Order your transcripts ahead of time!**

Academic Assessment Report

- Provide your referees plenty of time to write and mail their forms.
- Referees may choose to submit their forms directly to you or to the unit that you are applying through.
- You may provide your referees with a paper copy of the 2012-2013 Academic Assessment Form (after you have already filled in your personal information) or you may provide them with your personal information separately and ask them to complete the entire form online. It is very important that they use the current year (2012-2013) form. The Ministry will not accept anything else for this competition.
- If the referee would like to elaborate further on their assessment (optional), the Ministry has provided a PDF-fillable form for this purpose (Academic Assessment Report Page 2). If they choose to further comment on their assessment, they must use the form provided.
- **Tip: Strong references are important. Be sure to ask those who know you well and who are able to attest to your academic performance in relation to the categories indicated on the form). Professional references may be provided in the event that you have been out of school for an extended period of time**

Statement of Interest (masters students) or Plan of Study (doctoral students)

- **Tip: This is one of the most important parts of your application. Take the time to write a clear and precise statement (or plan) and ask someone (ideally, a professor or senior graduate student) to review your submission and provide you with feedback.**

List of Scholarships or Awards

- Highlight scholarships and awards that are competitive and include their value.
- Include all awards that you have won, even if you later declined the offer.
- Do not include Secondary School awards unless they were graduating awards for use at University.