



## THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY(QEII-GSST)

### Competition Guide for Applicants

#### Purpose of the Scholarship

In 1998, the Ontario government introduced the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST), a merit-based scholarship program targeted specifically toward graduate students in science and technology. The QEII-GSST program is designed to encourage excellence in graduate studies in science and technology. The program is supported through funds provided by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and by funds raised by the University of Toronto from the private sector. The province allocates QEII-GSST awards to universities by specifying the number of awards that each university may offer its students annually.

#### Funding of the Scholarships

- Each QEII-GSST has a maximum value of \$15,000 per year, which will be given to a student over 3 sessions. The provincial government provides \$10,000 and private sector donations provide \$5,000.
- To raise the required private sector funds, prospective donors were solicited in a university-wide fundraising campaign for a gift of \$50,000 per award, which is matched by the university; this total amount is enough to generate sufficient annual income from the established endowment.
- In recognition of their contribution, the donor was co-named in the QEII-GSST award. Moreover, the donors were given an opportunity to indicate their preference for the recipients (e.g., recipients must be pursuing a degree in a certain graduate unit or field of study). Therefore, many QEII-GSST's are assigned to a graduate unit.

#### Value and duration

- Up to \$15,000 per year (\$5,000 per session for 2 or 3 consecutive sessions).
- The scholarship is awarded for one academic year, which may consist of two or three consecutive terms. It is not automatically renewed; students must apply annually.
- The award may begin in September 2024 or January 2025.

#### Maximum Support

- Students are limited in the number of years that they may hold a QEII-GSST, as outline below
  - Master's students may receive the scholarship for a maximum of two years - OGS/QEII-GSST awards
  - Doctoral students may receive the scholarship for a maximum of four years - OGS/QEII-GSST awards
  - Both master's and doctoral students are subject to a lifetime maximum of six years per student.
- In addition, QEII-GSST guidelines restrict students to a lifetime maximum of six years of government-funded awards and prohibit students from holding a QEII-GSST and another government-funded award concurrently.
- Awards under the following programs below are included in these restrictions:
  - Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS)
  - Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST, formerly OGSST)
  - Ontario Trillium Scholarships (OTS)
  - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
  - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

- Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)
- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS)

### Eligibility to Apply

- Applicants must be a Canadian citizen, Permanent Resident, or Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) by the student deadline as determined by each graduate unit (e.g., March 31, 2024).
- Applicants must be registered or intend to register in a full-time<sup>1</sup> research thesis-based MSc or PhD program in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto; students pursuing a professional or course-based Master's program (e.g., MHSc) and Clinician/surgical scientist trainees are NOT eligible for the awards offered through this competition.
- Applicants entering the **1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of graduate studies** at the time of application must have achieved an overall average of at least A- (or equivalent) in each of the last two completed years of study (full-time equivalent).
- Applicants entering the **3<sup>rd</sup> year or beyond of graduate studies** at the time of application must have an overall average of at least A-, or the equivalent, on all graduate courses completed.  
*Note: If marks used for calculating an applicant's grade point average (GPA) are not available (for example, courses were graded on a pass-fail basis), then the next most recent available undergraduate or graduate marks should be used to determine eligibility.*
- Applicants must exhibit overall academic excellence. Applicants should also exhibit research ability or potential, excellent communication skills, and interpersonal and leadership abilities.
- Applicants must be in good standing with the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). Applicants who have defaulted on a Canada or Ontario Student Loan or have failed to make satisfactory repayment on a loan overpayment, are ineligible to receive the award. Students who have never applied for OSAP are in good standing. Those with an OSAP restriction may still apply for the QEII. However, if awarded, they must have the restriction cleared within 30 days of notification to accept the award
- **NEW:** At the graduate unit's discretion, exceptions may be made for highly meritorious applicants who are below the required GPA minimum. Examples of cases in which a unit may consider granting an exception include (but are not limited to): applicants with documented medical issues or family care responsibilities, applicants who have pursued alternative career paths, or mature students with professional experience.
- **NEW:** The SGS Special Statement form for OGS/QEII-GSST must be completed by graduate units electing to award highly meritorious candidates who do not meet the minimum A- average requirement. These forms must be submitted with the submission form by the graduate unit deadline to SGS.

### To be eligible to hold the QEII-GSST

- Recipients must be registered and remain enrolled as a full-time student in a graduate program in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto for the complete duration of the award.
- Recipients who withdraw, transfer to part-time status, complete degree requirements prior to the end of their award, or fail to complete the full term, will be required to repay any funds received for the incomplete term.
- Recipients cannot hold a QEII-GSST award at the same time (or during any session) as a scholarship from SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, OTS, OGS, or another QEII-GSST.

- Recipients may accept research assistantships, part-time teaching positions, or other paid employment that does not affect their status as a full-time graduate student and is commensurate with the graduate unit policies. Students holding full-time paid employment are not eligible to receive a QEII-GSST from UofT.

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<sup>1</sup> A full-time student is registered in at least a 60% full course load (40% for students with a permanent disability)

## Application Procedures

For QEII-GSST awards administered in the Office of the Vice Dean, Research and Health Science Education (RHSE) the **following 3 steps must be completed by April 5, 2024 (5:00 pm)**:

- 1) Applicants must submit an OGS application using the U of T School of Graduate Studies centralized online OGS application by [clicking here](#).  
*Please note the same application is used for both the 2024-25 OGS and QEII-GSST.*
- 2) Applicants must also complete an [online Temerty Medicine QEII-GSST Cover Page by clicking here](#). The QEII-GSST award name(s) must be identified on this Cover Page. For Temerty Faculty of Medicine QEII-GSST award names, please [click here for the 2024-25 GLSE QEII-GSST Awards List](#)

If the applicant wishes to submit a different Plan of Study for his/her QEII-GSST application than what is outlined in his/her OGS application, it should be emailed to [rhse.awards@utoronto.ca](mailto:rhse.awards@utoronto.ca)

The online OGS application requires:

- List of Academic Achievements (scholarships and academic awards received), if applicable.
- List of Research Contributions, including publications, presentations posters, or other significant work that was submitted to an external organization (e.g., a consulting report).
- Plan of Study/Research Description/Statement of Intent (in easily understandable terms, including hypothesis, methods, and expected outcomes).
- Two academic references. For currently registered students, one of the academic references should be completed by the current graduate supervisor. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure their academic references are submitted online before deadline of April 5, 2024.** The UofT OGS online application can only be submitted after both references are complete. Contact your referees well in advance.
- Transcripts (all university transcripts including current program). Detailed online application instructions are available on the SGS website by [clicking here](#).

For additional information, contact by email at [rhse.awards@utoronto.ca](mailto:rhse.awards@utoronto.ca)