



Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships

The Province of Nova Scotia created the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships (NSGS) program to help advance the economic and social well-being of Nova Scotians by investing in graduate thesis-based 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. Only those students who have been accepted into a thesis-based graduate program at StFX may be considered. The Government has provided sufficient funding to support several of these awards at StFX on an annual basis.

At St. Francis Xavier University, the Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships are intended to be primarily entrance awards, although they may also be awarded to continuing students. StFX currently has an allocation of \$80,000/year for Masters awards and \$15,000/year for PhD awards, which is used to fund both new and renewal awards.

The StFX Committee on Graduate Studies has decided that there should be a cap on the total funds an applicant can receive from other scholarships while also holding a Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarship. The upper limit for Canadian Master-level recipients is \$35,000/annum; the upper limit for International Master-level recipients is \$40,000/annum. If necessary, a sliding scale will be used to determine individual NS Graduate Scholarship amounts to the maximum award amount identified above. If students already hold funding from other scholarships, these must be outlined on the application or renewal form.

New or continuing graduate students must be nominated for these scholarships by their supervisor using the StFX Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships application form. Eligibility and selection criteria for Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships, and the criteria for retaining awarded scholarships, are given on the next page.

Nominations for new or continuing students must be submitted in digital form (via the ROMEO researcher portal applications) to the Office of the Associate Vice President, Research, Graduate and Professional Studies by February 15 each year.



Eligibility criteria:

Eligibility and selection criteria for Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships at St. Francis Xavier University:

The nominee must carry out thesis research in one of the following provincial priority sectors:

- Ocean/Marine Technology
- Life Sciences
- Information and Communication Technology
- Clean Technology
- Aerospace and Defence
- Financial Services
- Health and Wellness
- Resource Sector
- Social Innovation

Applications from Incoming Students:

- Has achieved first-class standing in final year courses prior to StFX admission.
- Will be enrolled full-time in a thesis-based graduate program at StFX.
- Is undertaking research that aligns with the research priority areas identified by the province.

Applications from Current Students & Renewals:

- Will be registered full-time thesis-based graduate program at StFX for the duration of the award.
 - Is undertaking research that aligns with the research priority areas identified by the province.
 - Be within their normal time to completion in September of the next academic year.
 - Has achieved first-class standing in graduate courses completed to date.
 - Has not previously received the NSGS award for 2-years (Masters) or 4-years (PhD).
 - Is recommended for renewal of funding their academic supervisor.
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- Nova Scotia Graduate Scholarships normally start on September 1. Deferral or advancement of this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and requires the approval of the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee.
 - The NS Graduate Scholarships are renewable, subject to an annual review. Nominees must agree to submit an annual report on their research to the Office of the Associate VP, Research, Graduate and Professional Studies by February 15th that will be reviewed by the Committee on Graduate Studies or a delegated review committee.



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- Students may apply for the NS Graduate Scholarships prior to being admitted to graduate studies at StFX. However, to accept an award the nominee must be accepted as a full-time, research-based graduate student at StFX by April 1st.
- NSGS award decisions will normally be made by the Committee on Graduate Studies in March of each year in order to coordinate with funding decisions related to other graduate research scholarships available through StFX.

Value of awards:

Award type	Value	Duration
Masters	Up to \$10,000	Up to 2 years
Doctoral	Up to \$15,000	Up to 4 years

Application Process:

Students should consult with their Faculty Supervisor and Departmental Graduate Studies Coordinator in order to prepare an application for the NS Graduate Scholarship.

Applications (in electronic format) must be submitted to the Office of the Associate Vice-President Research, Graduate and Professional Studies via the ROMEO researcher portal by the close of business on February 15th. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

All nominations received will be reviewed and ranked by the Graduate Studies Committee or a delegated review committee in order to determine final awards.

Ranking/Selection criteria:

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

Renewal Process:

If awarded a multi-year award, to maintain funding in subsequent years, awardees:

1. Must be in good academic standing as defined in Section 8 of the StFX Academic Calendar.



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2. Must be registered as a full-time student as defined in Section 8 of the StFX Academic Calendar.
3. Must submit an annual report and renewal application (deadline February 15th) identifying progress in the research program and how the research may ultimately advance the economic and/or social well-being of Nova Scotians within one or more of provincial priority sectors.
4. Be approved by the Committee on Graduate Studies for continuation of funding (based upon the evaluation of the annual progress report).