
Frequently asked questions (FAQs)
for scholarship applicants
Exercice 2012-2013

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies (FRQNT)?

The Fonds's mission is to:

- promote research in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering and provide financial assistance for it;
- promote dissemination of knowledge in areas of research connected to the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering and provide financial assistance for it;
- promote training of researchers by awarding merit scholarships to university students at the Master's, doctoral, and post-doctoral levels and provide financial assistance for it by awarding re-entry scholarships to persons who wish to return to research work, and by awarding subsidies to college-level professors involved in research, enabling them to take leaves of absence from teaching work;
- establish any necessary partnerships, in particular with universities, colleges, and industry or with the public or private departments and bodies concerned.

1.2 Can I apply for a merit scholarship?

If you have already begun or expect to begin graduate studies at the Master's or doctoral levels, you may apply for a scholarship. The FRQNT awards merit scholarships through competitions. In other words, applicants are compared to one another and classified according to merit by each of the review committees.

2. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

2.1 What are the objectives of the scholarship programs?

Scholarship programs have two main objectives:

- help the best students start and continue their Master's, doctoral or postdoctoral research study programs;
- promote, through special programs, training of researchers in response to priority needs.

2.2 What are the citizenship requirements for eligibility for scholarship programs?

Scholarship programs are intended solely for Canadian citizens or for permanent residents of Canada.

2.3 What domicile and residence requirements do I have to meet by the deadline for submitting an application?

Applicants must have been domiciled in Québec for at least one year and be residents of Québec in accordance with the Act and Regulations governing Québec health insurance and Québec income tax. Residence and domicile conditions differ for the scholarship program for francophone Canadians.

2.4 Do I need to have an excellent university record to be eligible for a scholarship?

To be eligible for a Master's scholarship, you are required to have a grade point average of 3.55 or the equivalent for your undergraduate studies. A degree serving as a basis of admission to a Master's or doctoral program will be taken into account to establish the bachelor's final average. There is no minimum GPA requested at the doctoral and past doctoral level.

2.5 Why should I apply to both levels of government?

The chances of obtaining a scholarship depend on the quality of the application submitted and on the number of scholarships available annually through each body. Given the latter, nothing can ensure that a scholarship will be obtained. As a result, students should apply for the greatest number of available programs.

In addition to having a better chance of obtaining a scholarship, applicants who receive offers from two granting agencies can mention this double recognition in their curriculum vitae. Finally, by accepting a scholarship from the federal government, the student enables the FRQNT to offer a scholarship to another student.

3. NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS PERMITTED

3.1 How many times can students at the master's level submit an application?

Candidates can submit an application if, at the time the scholarship comes into effect, they have been registered for not more than six full-time sessions (or the equivalent) in the study and research program for which the scholarship is intended. Students may submit their application as long as they meet this rule regarding their eligibility period.

3.2 How many times can students at the doctoral level submit an application?

Students who, at the time the scholarship comes into effect, have completed fewer than nine full-time sessions (or the equivalent) may submit an application. . Students may submit their application as long as they meet this rule regarding their eligibility period.

3.3 How many times can students at the postdoctoral level submit an application?

Students should not have obtained their doctorate not more than ten years prior to the competition deadline. Students may submit their application as long as they meet this rule regarding their eligibility period.

3.4 Can I submit an application to more than one Québec research fund in the same year?

The research areas covered by each of the Québec research funds are different. Thus, candidates cannot submit applications for more than one Québec research fund. The FRQNT covers natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

3.5 I expect to complete my master's degree in summer or fall 2012 and to move on to doctoral studies in fall 2012 or winter 2013. Do I have to submit applications under both master's and doctoral programs?

Yes. It is necessary to submit one application to complete your Master's program and another application to start your doctoral program.

Please remember to verify your eligibility for the Master's and doctoral programs before submitting the application.

4. ELIGIBILITY PERIOD AND CALCULATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT

4.1 How is my eligibility period calculated?

The number of sessions you have completed into your Master's or doctoral program before the scholarship comes into effect will automatically be deducted from the maximum sessions that are eligible at the graduate level.

4.2 How is the value of my scholarship calculated?

If you wish to calculate the value of the scholarship awarded to you, do the following calculation: The maximum duration of the scholarship, minus the number of full-time sessions completed before Summer 2012, equals the number of full-time sessions that can be financed.

4.3 Can I be eligible for a second Master's program?

No, If you have already obtained your Master's degree, you must submit an application to the doctoral program.

4.4 I have done my Master's degree in fewer than six sessions. Can I submit an application under the Master's scholarship program to start my doctorate?

If at the time of starting your doctoral studies you have already obtained your Master's degree, you are required to submit your application for the doctoral scholarship competition (B2). If you are admitted to a doctoral program directly after studies at the Bachelor's level or before finishing your master level degree, you must still apply under the Master's scholarship program for the first two years of graduate studies (six sessions) and then under the doctoral scholarship program for the last three years (nine sessions).

4.5 If I am doing preparatory studies, do they count in calculating my eligibility period?

Your preparatory studies do not count in calculating your eligibility period.

5. SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

5.1 What is the deadline for submitting my application?

All research scholarship applications to the Fonds must be submitted by **October 5th 2011**. Applications received after this date will not be considered. You must mail the documents and they have to be postmarked before the deadline.

5.2 What is the acknowledgment of receipt?

The acknowledgment of receipt is a document affirming that an application sent electronically was received by the Fonds through the Internet. This acknowledgment can be obtained after you have completed and transmitted the form.

5.3 How can I obtain forms?

Forms are available only on-line at the Web site of the FRQNT at www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca. All requests must be completed and transmitted through the Fonds Web site.

5.4 Do I have to send a copy of the electronic form by regular mail?

No. You have access to your electronic form until 4 p.m. on the date of the deadline for applications. The Fonds will print your application from its database. The Fonds recommends that you print your completed form and keep a copy for your records, forwarding a copy to each of your referers.

5.5 What is a commissioner for oaths?

A commissioner for oaths is a person empowered to take oaths. The person is named by the Minister of Justice. Pursuant to their status, the following persons can take oaths: clerks of the court or their assistants, attorneys at law, notaries, the Secretary General, Assistant Secretaries General or Assistant Secretaries at the National Assembly, and justices of the peace. Mayors, municipal clerks and secretary-treasurers in all municipalities are empowered to take oaths within their municipality only.

5.6 What should I do if I am not certain about my choice of review committee?

If you are uncertain about your choice of review committee, choose the committee that is closest to your planned study program. You can then attach a letter to your application, asking the Fonds to check if your choice is appropriate. If the Fonds decides to make changes in your choice, you will be notified before December. Choice of a committee is based on your study or research program, your research goals and the field of research indicated in the application. On granted, the scholarship cannot be used for research on a subject on a field not covered by the committee that evaluated the application.

5.7 Do I have to inform the Fonds of a change of address or e-mail?

Yes. The Fonds may need to contact you quickly furthermore, since scholarships are expected to be awarded in April, you are required to inform the Fonds of any changes in your postal or e-mail addresses. Update your address or e-mail at bourses@fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca

5.8 Who should fill out the letter of recommendation?

The letter of recommendation must be completed by a university professor. If you cannot find a research professor as a sponsor, you must seek a person who is in a position to attest to all the qualities indicated in the letter. The respondent must be able to vouch for your ability to conduct research.

6. REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

6.1 How are scholarship applications reviewed?

In the first stage, applicants' eligibility is assessed with respect to the conditions for each program. Eligible applications are then forwarded to the review committees.

Scholarships are awarded according to the criteria established by the review committees and according to the budget of each program.

6.2 When are the scholarship awards announced?

Toward the end of April, an e-mail is sent to each candidate. The results are announced in writing in the applicant's electronic file.

7. THE CODE OF PRACTICE AT THE FRQNT

7.1 What are my obligations as a FRQNT scholarship recipient?

The FRQNT seeks to maintain ethical research practices and asks its recipients to abide by its Politique en matière d'éthique et d'intégrité en recherche (Policy on research ethics and integrity). This policy is available upon request and can be consulted on our Web site at www.fqrnt.gouv.qc.ca.