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Thematic scholarships (A4X- A7X)

Do you
have
questions?



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Summary

Competition year :	2019-2020
Deadline (application) :	October 3rd, 2018, 4 PM
Amount :	Variable
Duration :	6 sessions / 12 sessions
Announcement of results :	End of April 2019

Programs rules- ministère des Transports (A4X) and energy (A7X)

**Please read carefully these sections : « Eligibility conditions » and « Submitting applications » sections.
No reminder will be made and no pieces can be added after the application deadline.**

The FRQ's common general rules provide the basic rules applicable to all programming of the Fonds de recherche du Québec. These program rules provide those specifically applicable to these scholarship programs. It is necessary to consult these two documents to know all the applicable rules. The clarifications provided in these rules take precedence over the general common rules.

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1. Objectives of thematic scholarships

The purpose of these scholarships is to foster student interest in research and to financially assist the best candidates in undertaking or continuing a Master's or Doctoral research program or research doctorate in theme areas deemed priorities for Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et les technologies (FRQNT) partners.

Objective of ministère des Transports scholarships (A4)

The purpose of ministère des Transports (MTQ) scholarships is to foster the training of students in fields compatible with the Department's strategic goals:

- Enhance transportation competitiveness and efficiency in order to support the socio-economic development of Quebec;
- Adapt transportation services to future public needs;
- Improve transportation safety;
- Improve the balance between transportation and environmental imperatives;
- Improve the efficiency of road infrastructure-related activity;
- Develop intermodal and integrated transportation systems for passengers and goods;
- Test new transportation-related technology.

Objective of energy research scholarships (A7)

The purpose of ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune (MRNF), Energy and Mines sector scholarships is to increase Quebec's energy self-sufficiency and ensure economic and employment development.

The program makes it possible to support students whose research projects concern the technical, economic and social dimensions of conventional and unconventional energy systems, notably in the following areas:

- Biomass energy enhancement;
- Hydrogen production, storage and use;
- Alternative biomass-derived fuels, with priority given to ethanol from cellulose;
- Solar energy;

Wind energy;
Minihydraulics;
Electrotechnology;
Electrochemical technology;
Gas technology;
Energy efficiency;
Climate change.

The program also supports energy research projects that do not directly correspond with the areas described above but which meet Department objectives. Projects are judged on the basis of their relevance and compatibility with the latest technology and the changing energy environment.

Examples of such research projects are resource development, conversion to secondary energy, energy storage, transport, use and management, the effects of energy on climate change and regulatory factors.

2. Clientele

Master's and Doctoral thematic scholarships are intended for candidates who wish to complete a graduate university program in agri-food, transportation or energy.

FRQNT Master's and Doctoral scholarship holders (general programs) may not apply under thematic scholarship programs for a program for which they have already received funding.

3. Eligibility conditions

Candidates must meet eligibility conditions as of the deadline for submitting applications.

Citizenship and place of domicile

To receive a training award, the candidate must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (S.C. 2001, c. 27) and be resident in Québec within the meaning of the Health Insurance Act.

To use a training award for studies outside Québec, the candidate must meet the criteria listed in the paragraph above.

Candidates who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, or who are from a Canadian province other than Québec, are eligible if they provide proof, at the time of submitting their scholarship application, a) they have been domiciled in Québec on a regular and daily

basis with visas and appropriate authorizations for six months during the seven months preceding the competition deadline and b) they have been admitted to or are enrolled in a Québec university, or that they have applied for admission to a Québec university.

Candidates who become FRQNT scholarship holders must meet their requirements relative to citizenship and place of domicile for the duration of the scholarship.

Minimum grade point average

Candidates for a Master's program scholarship in transportation (A4X) or energy (A7X) must have a high grade point average (3.55) or the equivalent for their undergraduate degree. Candidates whose average is less than the required grade point average are not eligible. Candidates may consult the equivalency table for minimum grade point average **Tableau des équivalences pour la moyenne minimale requise** .

In the case of candidates who are changing careers, grades from degrees unrelated to the program of study for which the scholarship is being sought are not considered. However, a degree used as the basis for admission to a Master's or Doctoral program is deemed to be relevant. Transcripts for these grades must be enclosed with the file.

Restrictions

It should be noted that:

Candidates cannot ask the scholarship for preparatory studies.

Candidates with Ph.D.s are not eligible for a Master's scholarship.

Candidates who have already received financial assistance from a recognized funding agency, (e.g. SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, the Fonds de recherche du Québec, etc.) over a period totaling six years (18 sessions) cannot apply for the current competition for starting or continuing a Master's or Doctoral program;

Students may hold an award or scholarship from only one Fonds.

Eligibility period

The rules governing scholarship eligibility periods take into account the sessions (Master's and Doctoral level) completed before **May 1st, 2019**, whether funded or not.

The FRQNT also considers part-time or unregistered sessions in calculating the eligibility period, provided the registrar's attestations are enclosed with the candidate's file. Candidates must verify whether they are eligible for the competition by consulting the Equivalency table for terms taken on a non-registered or part-time basis **Tableau des équivalences pour les sessions sans inscription ou effectuées à temps partiel** .

To determine the funding period for the Master's and Doctoral levels the FRQNT takes into account the number of sessions during which the candidate received financial assistance from all recognized funding agencies so that total funding does not exceed 18 sessions.

Master's scholarship eligibility period

A candidate is eligible for the Master's research scholarships competition during the first six sessions of his/her Master's degree (or the equivalent). The sessions followed in a Master's program (or the equivalent) prior to the

effective date of the scholarship will be deducted from the duration of the funding. No funding will be granted after a student's sixth session in a Master's program.

Scholarship holders who go on to the Doctoral level without having used all the instalments of their Master's scholarship can use them to begin their Doctoral program. However they have to successfully complete in the Doctoral scholarship program in order to receive the subsequent scholarship instalments.

Qualifying period for students who proceed directly from a Bachelor's to a Doctoral program and for students who fast-track from a Master's into a Doctoral program

A candidate admitted into a Doctoral program from a bachelor's program and one who fast-tracks into a Doctoral program without writing a thesis is eligible for the Master's research scholarships during the first six sessions of his graduate studies program. As a result, these first six study sessions can only be funded by a master's scholarship. In this case, the value of the Master's scholarship will be increased to be of the same value as the Doctoral scholarship. A candidate must apply to the PhD scholarships competition to fund subsequent sessions. The sessions completed in a program prior to the effective date of the scholarship will be deducted from the duration of the funding. No funding will be granted after a candidate's sixth or fifteenth session.

The choice of scholarship (Master's and/or Doctorate) is the responsibility of the candidate. No changes can be made after the competition closing date.

A candidate who holds a Master's degree when beginning his / her Doctoral studies must apply to the Doctoral scholarships competition.

Doctoral scholarship eligibility period

A candidate is eligible for a Doctoral research scholarship for twelve (12) consecutive sessions of Doctoral studies (or the equivalent) during the first fifteen (15) sessions of the Doctoral program. However, the eleventh (11th) and twelfth (12th) sessions of funding are contingent on the submission of the Doctoral thesis before the end of the twelfth session of funding. In all cases, no funding will be granted after the student's fifteenth (15th) session in a Doctoral program.

A scholarship recipient beginning his/her post Doctoral research and who has not used his/her entire scholarship may transfer the payments in order to start his/her post Doctoral research. However, he/she has to successfully compete in the postdoctoral scholarship competition in order to receive subsequent scholarship instalments.

Exceptions in calculating the eligibility period

The only exception to the rules governing the eligibility period for scholarships concerns circumstances beyond the candidate's control, such as a serious illness that forces students to suspend their studies. Exceptions cannot be made for grade point averages below the minimum required for the Master's level competition.

Candidates who suspended their studies due to maternity or parental leave can request an extension of their eligibility period for a maximum of 12 months per leave. The request must be accompanied by supporting documents.

When the student is a person with a disability as stipulated in the *Act to secure the handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration* (L.R.Q. chapter. E-20.1), the rules pertaining to the eligibility period do not apply. The duration of the scholarship is two years at the Master's level and three years at the Doctoral level. Documents must be then passed on with the demand.

The FRQNT may refuse any request not adequately justified.

Place where scholarship is used

To use a training award for studies outside Québec, the candidate must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada and be domiciled in Québec within the meaning of the Health Insurance Act.

Paid leave

Candidates who are on a sabbatical or study leave with remuneration that exceeds 50% of their regular salary are not eligible. However, those receiving deferred remuneration are not subject to this restriction.

4. Submitting an application

Candidates may submit one application or more for thematic scholarship programs, but only one application per year per program is allowed. Candidates who apply for thematic programs A4, A7 and/or A8 may also apply for regular programs.

A candidate may submit simultaneous applications for a Master's scholarship and a Doctoral scholarship if, during the allotted period for beginning to use the scholarship (see Section 8), the Master's scholarship eligibility period ends and the Doctoral scholarship eligibility period begins.

Contents of a file

E-forms

The candidate must create a user account in order to complete the scholarship application form.

The application form you are required to complete and send electronically before the closing date is available only on the FRQNT Web site. Keep a printed copy of the form for your files.

Forms may be completed in English or French. Candidates who submit the form in English must provide a French title for their project.

Presentation standards

With the exception of the documents attached in the "Autres documents" section, all files attached to the application must meet the following presentation standards:

Pages must be 8½" x 11" (216 mm x 279 mm) and converted to PDF format. The file must not be password protected;

Pages must be single-spaced with no more than 6 lines per inch;

All text must be in 12 pt Times New Roman font for Microsoft Office or Open Office users, or 12 pt Nimbus Roman font for LaTeX users;

Narrow fonts are not permitted;

Margins must be set at a minimum of 1.9 cm (¾");

Identification of pages:

- Top right corner: candidate's last name and first name;
- Top left corner: TITLE OF THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT;
- Bottom centre: page numbers (1, 2, ... , 10);

The maximum number of pages varies according to document type and is specified in the form. No additional pages will be transmitted to the evaluation committee.

Required documents

Required documents must be submitted electronically in the "Autres documents" section of the application form. Any documents that are illegible or of a poor resolution will be rejected.

Candidates must ensure that their application includes all the required documents so that the application file is considered acceptable.

Candidates must supply the following documents:

A copy of official transcripts of marks (any non official electronic version will not be accepted) for all university studies, completed or not (certificate, degree, Bachelor's, Master's or Ph. D., etc). When equivalences are granted for courses taken at other institutions or in previous programs, transcripts for these grades must be enclosed with the file, including collegial transcripts. For transcripts from outside Canada or United States, candidates must enclose a letter explaining the grading system used by the institution in question. The Fonds de recherche reserves the right to verify with institutions the authenticity of any information given by applicants; FRQNT considers transcripts issued by the Registrar's Office to the applicants to be official transcripts. Opening the envelope to scan the transcripts will not render it unofficial for FRQNT purposes;

For permanent residents, a copy of their Canada landing papers or permanent resident card;

For Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who are domiciled in Québec within the meaning of the *Health Insurance Act.*, a photocopy of a valid Québec medical insurance card or other official document from the Régie de l'assurance maladie confirming resident status in Québec within the meaning of the *Health Insurance Act.* If this document is not available, the candidate must provide a letter addressed to the eligibility committee explaining the reasons, accompanied by proof that a replacement card has been requested from the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec or that another official document is provided;

For Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada who are not domiciled in Québec within the meaning of the *Health Insurance Act*, proof of enrolment, admission or application for admission in a Québec university;

Candidates who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada must provide:

a copy of their study permit or work permit issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada;

proof of enrolment, admission or application for admission in a Québec university.

Acknowledgements of receipt from the editor for all articles submitted and notices received from editors for articles accepted for publication (Acknowledgements of receipt for articles already published are not sent to the evaluation committee);

Additional document for candidates who studied part-time for at least one session since the date they first enrolled for graduate studies:

Official attestation of interrupted enrolment and, where applicable, a medical certificate indicating the duration of and the reason for the interruption.

Additional documents for candidates wishing to be considered for exemptions regarding the eligibility period:

Official attestation of interrupted enrolment and, where applicable, a medical certificate indicating the duration of and the reason for the interruption.

For the eligibility extension for parental leave, a copy of the child's birth certificate or adoption certificate.

Only the e-form for the 2019-2020 financial year and the other documents required are accepted. No attached material or documents other those required are forwarded to the evaluation committee. Files cannot be updated after the closing date for applications. You may, however, update any contact information by e-mail: **thematiques.nt@frq.gouv.qc.ca**.

The FRQNT reserves the right to verify with institutions concerned the authenticity of any documents and information provided with the application. Additional documents may be required.

Documents submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a certified translation.

Procedure for submitting required documents

Before the closing date for applications, candidates must submit all required documents in the "Autres documents" section of their application form. No reminder will be made, and no files can be added after the deadline for submitting applications.

Important : incomplete files will not be accepted

Eligibility of applications

The program administrator and members of the evaluation committees verify the eligibility of each application according to the requirements set out in the program rules.

Acknowledgement of receipt

You will receive a preliminary decision regarding the eligibility of your application by e-mail in December at the latest. Candidates who have not received this notification should contact the program administrator before December 15.

5. Evaluation of applications

Evaluation criteria

Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria and weighting:

Ministère des Transports scholarships (A4)

Excellence of university record	25 points
Aptitude for research and relevant research experience, where applicable	25 points
Quality of the research project and its compatibility with the strategic goals of the Ministère des Transports du Québec	50 points
TOTAL	100 points

Energy research scholarships (A7)

Excellence of university record	25 points
Aptitude for research and relevant research experience, where applicable	25 points
Quality and interest of the research project	25 points
Relevance of the research project	25 points
TOTAL	100 points

Excellence of university record

The following indicators are used:

Cumulative average obtained;
Progression of studies;
Duration of studies;
Prizes and distinctions

Aptitude for research and relevant research experience, where applicable

The following indicators are used:

Reason for the application and research interests;
Candidate's experience and achievements;
Leadership skills;
General presentation of the file.

Scientific quality and interest of the research project

The following indicators are used:

Clarity of the scientific objectives;
Relevance of the methodology for the objectives sought;
Originality of the project;
Contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the field concerned;
Compatibility of the proposed project with the supervisor's field of research.

Relevance of the research project (A7X)

The following indicator is used:

The relevance of the research project with regard to the objectives of the thematic scholarships aimed by the concerned ministries.

Evaluation procedure

Role of evaluation committees

Admissible applications are submitted to evaluation committees composed of four members, mostly university professionals, named by the Board of Directors of the FRQNT. Occasionally government and private enterprise representatives are asked to sit on the committees.

The evaluation committees compare the candidacies submitted according to the evaluation criteria in effect.

The evaluation committees are responsible for ranking all of the applications on merit.

Role of Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is advised by the evaluation committees and, being the only body with an overall view of the work of peer committees, makes funding decisions, thereby exercising its role as an administrator of public funds to the best of its knowledge. The Board is accountable for its decisions to the Government of Quebec.

Role of program administrators

The program administrator of the FRQNT prepares the annual call for applicants and appoints the evaluation committee. The program administrator follows up on all correspondence with the applicants,

scholarship recipients and scholarship coordinators in Québec universities. The program administrator must also see that committee members respect the evaluation criteria and rules of ethics that are in effect.

6. Awarding of scholarships and announcement of results

Awarding of scholarships

Candidates are evaluated and ranked on merit by the evaluation committees. For each evaluation committee, scholarships are offered according to the available budget for each program.

Ministère des Transports scholarships (A4X)

The ministère des Transports du Québec offers a minimum of \$170,000 in Master's or Doctoral scholarships.

Energy research scholarships (A7X)

The Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune, Energy Division, offers a minimum of \$98,000 in Master's or Doctoral scholarships.

Announcement of results

At the end of April, the FRQNT or his partners transmits its decision to candidates through their e-file. Candidates are informed of the classification of their file and may then print the letter of decision.

Contacting members of the committees, who are subject to rules of confidentiality, is strictly prohibited.

The decisions of the Board of Directors of the FRQNT and his partners are final and cannot be appealed. There is no appeal process.

After receiving your grant letter, you have 30 calendar days to signify your acceptance or rejection by completing the "Gérer mon financement" form.

7. Rules for using scholarships

The scholarship holders have to conform to all the rules described in detail in the Scholarship Holder's Guide.

To use a training award for studies outside Québec, the candidate must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada and be domiciled in Québec within the meaning of the Health Insurance Act as stated in Section 3 of these program rules.

The scholarship period must begin between May 1st, 2019, and January 15th, 2020. Unless exceptional circumstances exist, the scholarship cannot be carried over from one year to the next. For candidates who have begun the program of study, the period of use begins in May 2019.

The scholarship is not retroactive and sessions prior to Summer 2019 cannot be financed.

Excluding the exceptional cases relating to part-time studies as outlined in the scholarship holder's guide (disabled persons, family caregivers and parents), at the time the scholarship is received, scholarship holder must be registered full time in the Master's or Doctoral program for which a scholarship granted.

Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the eligibility period, subject to presentation of progress reports deemed satisfactory by the program administrator. The period of use cannot be longer than the eligibility period.

Note that for all changes to the program, project of place of study, future scholarship recipients must place a request as prescribed in the Scholarship Holder's Guide.

Value of scholarships

The FRQNT Board of Directors reserves the right to modify the value of scholarships at any time, without notice, notably in accordance with the credits annually allocated by the Assemblée nationale du Québec, its strategic priorities and budgetary process.

Ministère des Transports (A4X) and Energy research program scholarships (A7X)

Master's scholarship

The maximum value of Master's scholarships or for the first two years of graduate studies is \$17,500. The scholarship holder may receive a maximum of six instalments totalling \$35,000 within the eligibility period (six sessions or 24 months). Each instalment of a maximum of \$5,833 covers a period of four months, or one session.

Doctoral scholarship

The maximum value of Doctoral scholarships is \$21,000 for a period of 12 months. The scholarship holder may receive a maximum of 12 instalments totalling \$84,000 within the eligibility period (12 sessions or 48 months). Each instalment of a maximum of \$7,000 covers a period of four months, or one session. The 11th and 12th instalments are contingent on submission of the Doctoral thesis before the end of the 12th funded session.

Concurrent scholarships

According to rules presented in a way more detailed in the Scholarship Holder's Guide.

Concurrent scholarships A7X:

When the FRQNT offers a scholarship of equal or higher value or duration than a federal granting agency, the student may receive a complementary scholarship to make up for the difference in value and/or duration between the two scholarships. In this case, the scholarships must be coordinated. If

the duration/value of the scholarship from the Fonds is longer/higher, you must accept the NSERC, CIHR or SSHRC scholarship and the FRQNT scholarship.

Candidates who receive a scholarship from a private source, including universities, research chairs, consortiums, private international and foreign foundations, governments of other Canadian provinces and of foreign governments, may combine this support source with a FRQNT scholarship if allowed under these instances' rules governing combined scholarships. When a combination limit is imposed by a private funder, the FRQNT then reduces the value of its scholarship to enable the scholarship recipient to qualify for the full value of the external scholarship.

Concurrent scholarships A4X:

In the case of a scholarship awarded through the program implemented by the Ministère des Transports (A4), 50% of the annual value of the scholarship from the federal funding agencies will be subtracted from the annual value of the scholarship from the FRQNT. The balance will then be paid out to the scholarship recipient, if applicable. In all cases, the scholarships must be coordinated.

Concurrent scholarships A4X et A7X

Cumulation is permitted with scholarships from federal and provincial granting agencies if, when the Fonds scholarship comes into effect, the scholarship holder is attending a teaching establishment outside Québec and his/her annual tuition fees are equal to or greater than the annual value of the award offered by the Fonds. In evaluating annual tuition fees, the Fonds does not include enrolment fees, membership fees for student associations, etc. The tuition fees must not be reimbursed by any other organization.

Remuneration

Regardless of the exceptions relative to the paid work described in the Scholarship Holder's Guide, scholarship holders may accept a job that does not exceed the maximum hours per semester allowed by your institution, provided their supervisor is in agreement and that these activities do not hinder their research program.

The salary that students receive from their supervisor for working solely on their research project is considered a scholarship for which cumulation is permitted.

Parental leave

If you interrupt your studies for the birth or adoption of a child, you may request parental leave. Parental leave may not exceed twelve months, or the equivalent of three academic terms. It may begin during the term the birth or adoption is expected and end no later than one year after the child's birth. Notwithstanding Article 6.13 of the Common General Rules, paid parental leave is available for a period of eight months. However, you must have already started at least one session as a holder of the FRQNT Grant to receive paid parental leave. It is important to note that only one parental leave is granted per birth or adoption.

8. Research ethics and Conformity

Any individual or institution that receives funding must demonstrate the highest standards of research ethics and scientific integrity. See the Common General Rules for further details.

9. Integrity of the evaluation process

At no time may applicants or their institutional authorities make contact with evaluation committee members, unless such contact is specified as part of the evaluation process. Similarly, evaluation committee members must not make contact with applicants, unless such contact is specifically indicated in the evaluation process. The identities of evaluation committee members are kept confidential to avoid any attempt at collusion. The Fonds reserve the right to withdraw an application from competition if there is any inappropriate intervention, lobby, undue influence or collusion during the evaluation process, as stipulated in the *Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research*.

10. Liability of the Fonds

The Fonds make all reasonable efforts to ensure optimal service. However, they cannot be held liable for any direct or indirect damage resulting from their handling of applications for funding. Furthermore, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Fonds are not liable for any direct or indirect damage resulting from the disclosure of personal or confidential information that was not authorized by the Fonds

11. False or misleading information

In accordance with the Act Respecting the Ministère du Développement Économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (R.S.Q., c. M-30.01), applicants who give false or misleading information in view of obtaining or procuring financial support is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine. If found guilty, he cannot obtain financial support for a period of five years.

Where a legal person commits an offence, every director or representative of that legal person who was aware of the offence is deemed to be a party to the offence and is liable to a fine, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the court that he did not acquiesce to the commission of the offence.

The Fonds de recherche reserves the right to impose any sanction or supplementary measure deemed useful, and initiate legal proceedings to obtain reimbursement of fraudulently obtained amounts and a compensation for suffered damages.

12. Other aspects

Please refer to the Common General Rules for any questions regarding the responsible conduct of research, confidentiality and the protection of personal information, intellectual property and the protection of academic freedom.

13. General considérations

The FRQNT and his partners reserves the right to change the value of scholarships and the program rules described in this document without notice.

14. Coming into effect

The provisions of this document apply to the 2019-2020 financial year.

15. For information

Candidates who contact us by email must provide a phone number where they can be reached. Priority is given to emailed information requests. Please note that the Fonds does not accept collect calls.

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