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# Doctoral research scholarships program for foreign students (DE)

Do you  
have  
questions?

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## Summary

<b>Competition year :</b>	2017-2018
<b>Deadline (application) :</b>	November 15th, 2017, 4 PM
<b>Amount :</b>	\$21,000\$
<b>Duration :</b>	1 to 12 semesters
<b>Announcement of results :</b>	End of April 2018

## Program rules

### Important dates

Deadline – Presentation of proposals by the candidates to a university :  
**See the Toolbox.**

Deadline – Submission of the preselected applications by universities :  
**September 22, 2017.**

Deadline – Submitting application to the FRQNT for preselected candidates : **November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 4 PM** (coordinated universal time UTC-5 Est time zone)

Announcement of results : **End of April 2018**

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## 1. Objectives

The Doctoral Research Scholarships Program for Foreign Students (DE) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies (FRQNT) aims to stimulate international student's interest in beginning or pursuing doctoral studies in Québec and provide financial support to leading international Ph.D. candidates in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering fields.

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## 2. Applicants

The scholarships are aimed at foreign students who had been preselected by a Québec university and who wish to carry out their doctoral studies in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering fields. To be eligible, applicants must specialize in the following areas:

- Aerospace
  - Information and communication technologies
  - Health technologies
  - Genomics
  - Nanotechnologies
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## 3. Eligibility, citizenship and residence criteria

### **Applicants must:**

Meet all eligibility criteria by the competition deadline on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Have been preselected by a Québec university by September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

Not have obtained a Merit Scholarship for Foreign Students from the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur du Québec (MEES) or from one of the Fonds de recherche du Québec.

Not be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada.

Not have submitted an application for permanent residence under Canadian immigration laws.

**In addition to the aforementioned criteria, applicants should note the following restrictions and administrative prerequisites:**

**Study program restrictions:**

The scholarship cannot be used for qualifying studies.

## **Eligibility criteria**

Scholarship program eligibility rules account for all doctoral semesters (funded or not) completed prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

When calculating the eligibility period, the FRQNT will consider all of the unregistered or part-time semesters for which registrar attestations are provided in the application. The applicant must verify his/her eligibility by consulting the equivalents table for unregistered or part-time semesters in the Toolbox.

The FRQNT will also consider the number of master's and doctoral semesters for which the applicant received funding from a recognized funding agency (e.g. NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, the FRQNT, etc.) to ensure that the support does not exceed 18 semesters.

### **Eligibility period for applicants registered in direct-entry doctoral programs (bachelor's to doctorate) and fast-track master's/doctoral programs**

Applicants admitted to a doctoral program after completing their bachelor's degree and those who fast-tracked to a doctoral program without submitting a thesis may apply to the doctoral scholarships competition (DE) in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years of their graduate studies (between their 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> study semesters). Semesters that are completed when the scholarship comes into effect will be subtracted from the funding period. Under no circumstances will funding be granted before the 7<sup>th</sup> semester or after the 15<sup>th</sup> semester.

Applicants who hold a master's degree when beginning their doctoral studies must submit their applications to the doctoral scholarships competition.

### **Doctoral scholarship eligibility period**

Applicants are eligible for the doctoral research scholarships (DE) competition during twelve (12) consecutive semesters of their doctoral studies (or the equivalent) during their first fifteen (15) doctoral semesters. The eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) and twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) semesters of funding are conditional on the initial submission of the thesis before the end of the twelfth financed semester. Under no circumstances will funding be granted after an applicant's 15<sup>th</sup> doctoral program semester.

### **Eligibility period exceptions**

Scholarship eligibility period exceptions will only be made in circumstances that are beyond the applicant's control. In such cases, all supporting documents must be submitted along with the application.

Applicants who suspend their studies for a maternity or parental leave may ask to extend their eligibility for a maximum period of 12 months per leave. In such cases, all supporting documents must be submitted along with the application.

When the applicant is a person with a disability under the Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration (R.S.Q. c. E-20.1), the eligibility requirements do not apply. However, the doctoral scholarship period remains the same (three years). In such cases, all supporting documents must be submitted along with the application.

The FRQNT reserves the right to refuse any request that is not adequately justified.

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## 4. Applicant preselection

Only students who have been preselected by a Québec university may apply to the competition.

Universities may support two competition applications per year.

Applicant preselection is the sole responsibility of the university. Information on preselection deadlines is available in the Toolbox.

The university representatives who must preselect the applicants should consult the Instructions for preselecting applicants in the Toolbox.

University representatives who preselect applicants must fill out the applicant nomination form, which is available in the FRQnet website of the FRQNT. The form must be submitted electronically by **September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at 4 PM.**

Applicants must meet all program eligibility requirements. Applications submitted by a university may be deemed ineligible by the FRQNT if the applicants do not meet all program requirements.

Preselected applications may also be preselected for the Merit scholarships Program for Foreign Students awarded by the ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur (MEES).

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## 5. Submitting application

Preselected applicants will have to create an account in the FRQnet website. The FRQNT will then communicate with all of the preselected candidates so they can fill out an electronic form in the FRQnet system.

Applicants may consult the document: *Instructions for completing an application* in the Toolbox.

Only the 2018-2019 competition e-forms and other required documents will be accepted. Any appendices or documents other than those required will not be transmitted to the evaluation committee.

The e-forms are only available in the secure section of the FRQnet website of the Fonds. These forms must be filled out and submitted electronically by the competition deadline on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at 4 PM (coordinated universal time UTC-5, Est time zone). Applicants will not be able to update their applications after the competition deadline. It is recommended that applicants keep a hard copy of the e-form for their personal files.

The form may be written in French or English. Applicants who submit their applications in English must provide the French translation of the project title.

**Important : Applications that do not include all required information will be deemed ineligible by the FRQNT.**

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## 6. Required supporting documents

### Letters of reference (online)

Two letters of reference from referees should be transmitted to the program manager. To allow the referee to complete the reference letter, the candidate must enter the referee's account information in the FRQnet form. The referee will then have access to the letter through his Portfolio in the "As a referee" section.

### Documents to include in the electronic form (PDF)

The documents listed below must be attached to the electronic form in the section « Other documents » of the form. The student must ensure that the documents are not protected by a password. Documents submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a translation of the original.

A copy of transcripts for every year of the applicant's university studies, whether they were completed or not (certificate, diploma, bachelor's, master's, doctoral, etc.).

A copy of the identification page of the applicant's valid passport from his/her home country or any other official document that established the applicant's citizenship;

A copy of your diploma unless there is a grade in this document. The applicant must also provide the transcripts for any equivalencies that were granted for courses taken in other institutions or as part of other programs. Any transcripts from institutions located outside North America must include a note from the applicant explaining the marking system. The FRQNT reserves the right to verify with institutions the authenticity of any information given by applicants. The transcripts must be organized chronologically from newest to oldest;

Acknowledgements of receipt or letters from editors for articles that are submitted, accepted or in press (acknowledgements for published articles will not be given to the committee);

**Additional document for applicants who carried out part-time or unregistered semesters since first registering for their graduate studies**

If applicable, an attestation from the registrar listing any unregistered or part-time semesters.

**Additional document for applicants seeking an eligibility period exception**

An official attestation of interrupted enrolment and, where applicable, a medical certificate indicating the duration and the reasons for the interruption;

For the parental leave exception, a copy of the child's birth certificate or an official document demonstrating the adoption.

**The FRQNT reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any information or documents given by applicants with relevant bodies.**

## Submitting the required documents

The candidate must send the electronic form to the FRQNT before the competition deadline: November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that the documents attached to the electronic form (PDF) include all the required documents for the application to be considered acceptable. No document requested in the electronic form that would be sent by email or mail will be accepted.

The candidate must ensure that his referees send the letters of reference no later than the competition deadline.

## Acknowledgment of receipt

In December, applicants will be informed by email of the receipt of their application. The candidate who has not received this notice should contact the program manager before December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

# 7. Applications assessment

## Evaluation criteria

Applications are evaluated according the following criteria and weighting:

Criteria	Doctorate
Applicant's academic record	30 points

Applicant's research skills and relevant research experience	40 points
Quality and scientific interest of the project and socio-economic scope of the project, if applicable.	20 points
Social involvement, leadership and communication skills	10 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 points</b>

### **Applicant's academic record**

Criterion indicators:

- Grade point average;
- Academic progress;
- Duration of studies;
- Awards and prizes.

### **Research skills and relevant research experience**

Criterion indicators:

- Soundness of the application and research interests;
- Applicant's experience and accomplishments;
- Letters of recommendation from respondents.

### **Quality and scientific interest of the research project**

Criterion indicators:

- Clarity of the scientific objectives;
- Relevance of the methodology in light of the set objectives;
- Originality of the project;
- Project's contribution to advancing knowledge in the field;
- Project's relevance to the research director's field.

### **Social involvement, leadership and communication skills**

Criterion indicators:

- Applicant's leadership skills;
- Conference and meeting organization;
- Positions held;
- Volunteering;
- Mentoring;
- Experience in supervision;
- Experience in knowledge transfer;
- Project management;
- Committee chairmanship;
- Ability or potential to clearly and logically communicate scientific concepts;
- Overall presentation.

## Evaluation process

### Role of the evaluation committee

Eligible applications will be assessed by a four-member multidisciplinary committee. The committee will include university faculty members and may include representatives from the private and government sectors.

The evaluation committee will assess applications based on program criteria and rank the applications according to merit.

### Role of the board of directors

The board of directors will receive recommendations from the evaluation committee and make the final funding decisions. The board is accountable for its decisions to the government of Québec.

### Role of the program manager

The program manager is responsible for ensuring that the evaluators respect the evaluation criteria and rules in effect as well as the standard rules of ethics.

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## 8. Awarding of the scholarships and announcement of the results

### Awarding of the scholarships

The applications will be evaluated and ranked according to merit by the evaluation committee. Scholarships will be awarded based on available funds. The FRQNT reserved the right to adjust the offer based on the directions set out by the board of directors.

### Announcement of the results

The board of directors of the FRQNT will announce its decision electronically in late April 2018, advising applicants directly via their e-files. Each applicant will be informed of his/her ranking and may print his/her announcement letter.

It is strictly prohibited to contact committee members, who must abide by confidentiality rules.

The decisions of the board of directors of the FRQNT are final and without appeal. There is no review process.

The applicant must accept or refuse the scholarship in the ten (10) business days following the receipt of the offer by filling out the e-form in his/her Portfolio in the FRQnet website. Should an applicant fail to accept the award before the deadline, the Fonds will consider that he/she has refused it.



## 9. Terms of the scholarship

Scholarship holders must hold a Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (Québec Acceptance Certificate) issued by the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion du Québec (<http://www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca>) as well as a study permit issued by consular services that is valid for the entire study period in Québec.

**Warning : Please note that no scholarship payment will be done before receiving by email a copy of the study permit.**

Scholarship holders must respect all of the scholarship rules set out in the Scholarship Holder's Guide.

The scholarship period must begin between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, and January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Unless exceptional circumstances, the scholarship cannot be transferred from one year to the next. For applicants whose study program is already underway, the scholarship period will begin in May 2018.

The scholarship is not retroactive. Any semester carried out prior to summer 2018 will not be funded.

Except in special cases pertaining to part-time studies set out in the Scholarship Holder's Guide, the scholarship holder must be registered as a full-time student in the doctoral program for which the scholarship was awarded.

The scholarship is granted for the entire eligibility period, conditional upon the presentation of satisfactory progress reports.

Applicants who seek to change program, project or place of tenure must first request a written authorization from the FRQNT.

### Value of the scholarship

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.

The maximum annual value of the doctoral research scholarship for international students is 21 000 \$. Within the eligibility period of twelve semesters or 48 months, a scholarship holder may receive a maximum of twelve installments for a total of 84 000 \$. Each payment of up to 7 000 \$ covers a period of four months or one semester. The 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> installments are conditional on the initial deposit of the thesis before the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> financed semester.

### Place of tenure

Scholarship holders must attend the Québec university at which they were preselected and carry out their studies or research activities in Québec or abroad in the case of a double doctoral degree.

### Concurrent awards

#### Cumulation is prohibited with:

Awards granted by government departments and agencies and the funding agencies of the Canadian and Québec governments.

**Cumulation is allowed with:**

Awards granted by the private sector, the scholarship holder's home country and universities.

**Remuneration**

Except in special cases pertaining to paid work set out in the Scholarship Holder's Guide, the scholarship holder may accept employment that does not exceed the maximum hours per semester allowed by its institution, provided that his/her research supervisor does not object and that the employment does not interfere with the research activities.

The salary that the scholarship holder receives exclusively for his/her research project is considered to be a scholarship that may be held concurrently with a doctoral research scholarship for international students.

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## 10. 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.

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## 11. 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*.

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## 12. 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

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## 13. False or misleading information

The Fonds presume the good faith of the declaration provided in funding applications or in any other document submitted at any time during the funding cycle, from the initial funding application to the final report. Applicants and funding holders must be transparent and provide accurate and precise information. They must be conscientious about advising the Fonds of any changes in their situation, where applicable.

Under the *Act Respecting the Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche, de la Science et de la Technologie* (CQLR, c. M-15.1.0.1), any individual who submits an application containing false or misleading information to obtain or procure financial support is committing an offence, is liable to a fine and could be barred from receiving financial support for a period of up to five years. Where a legal person commits such an offence, every director or representative of that legal person who was aware of the offence may be liable to a fine. Furthermore, such a declaration constitutes a breach of responsible research conduct, as set forth in the Fonds de recherche du Québec Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research, and may be subject to sanctions in accordance with this policy.

The Fonds reserve the right to take immediate measures to stop the use of public funds obtained through false or misleading information, and to take legal action to recover fraudulently obtained funds and claim compensation for damages caused where appropriate.

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## 14. 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.

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## 15. General considerations

Researchers and institutions must meet the general eligibility requirements in effect at the time of submission of the funding application. All specific program rules set out in the Common General Rules must be followed throughout the period covered by the grant.

The FRQNT reserves the right to modify the value of the scholarships and the program rules detailed in this document without prior notice.

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## 16. Effectif date

These rules apply to the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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Latest update: May 2021



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