

Santé Sector - Doctoral Training Scholarships for Medical students (M.D. - Ph.D.) Program Rules

Competition year:

2025-2026

Amount:

\$25,000 per year

Deadline (application):

Thursday October 3, 2024, 16:00 (EST)

Announcement of results:

April 2025

Duration:

Up to 9 semesters



In the event of a discrepancy between the English and French versions of this program, the French version prevails.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to read the rules of this program and the [Common General Rules \(CGR\) of the Fonds de recherche du Québec \(FRQ\)](#). The program rules provide additional details and information that supplement the CGR. In the event of any discrepancy with the CGR, the program rules shall prevail.

Doctoral scholarship applications must be submitted via the [FRQnet electronic Portfolio \(ePortfolio\)](#), the transactional interface used by the FRQ for the submission of funding applications and the management of awards. To submit an application, the applicant must first create an FRQnet account. **At the competition deadline, i.e., Thursday October 3, 2024 at 16:00, the status of the application in the ePortfolio must be “Transmitted to the Fonds”. An application with any other status will be inadmissible.** It is impossible to submit an application, or add a document to the application, after the competition deadline.

Overview of the application evaluation process

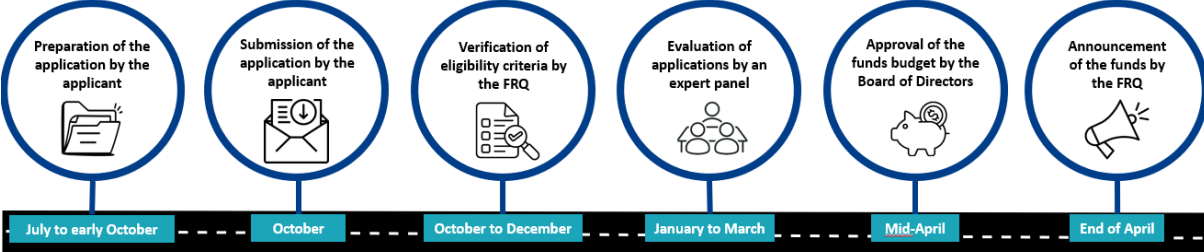


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1. Objectives

The objective of the training awards offered by the Fonds de recherche du Québec is to help support new generations of students in all sectors of research: natural sciences, mathematics and engineering (FRQNT), human health (FRQS), humanities, social sciences, art and letters (FRQSC).

More specifically, the Doctoral Research Scholarship aims to:

- Spark the interest of new generations of students in research;
- Support research excellence by providing financial assistance to the best students as they undertake or pursue a doctoral research program.

This program is designed to allow medical students to pursue research training at the doctoral level in parallel with their medical studies.

2. Features

2.1 Value and duration of the scholarship

The annual value of the Doctoral Research Scholarship is **\$25,000**.

The maximum amount that can be awarded is \$75,000, corresponding to 9 semesters of funding (9 payments).

Quota

One new award per year, per university.

There can exceptionally be two awards, if no application for the M.D.-M.Sc. program is submitted by the university.

2.2 Extension

The scholarship may be extended for 3 years during which time the student completes his/her research project or pursues research activities (seminars, thesis writing) in parallel with medical school.

The annual value of the award during this extension is \$10,000 for a maximum of 3 years.

3. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must comply with the following eligibility requirements. If the scholarship is awarded, awardees must meet the conditions described in Sections 3.1 and 3.6 throughout the duration of the scholarship.

3.1 Basic requirements

In accordance with Section 2.1 of the CGR, to be eligible to apply for a doctoral scholarship, an applicant must:

- be a Canadian citizen or Canadian permanent resident

AND

- have a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline, or proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline.

Applicants who do not meet one or both above conditions are still eligible to apply, provided they submit proof of admission to a program of study at a Québec university, or the electronic Supervisor Acceptance Form (see Section 4.1.1). In addition, they must carry out their studies in Québec (see Section 3.5).

3.2 Target group

This program is open to applicants who:

- have completed or intend to complete an undergraduate or a graduate (master's) university degree;

OR

- have completed a minimum of 90 credits in a university program;
- individuals who have not completed 90 credits in a university program must have their application validated in a letter of recommendation from the dean of the faculty of medicine;
- are enrolled in a regular undergraduate program in medicine in a Québec university;

AND

- are concurrently enrolled or intend to concurrently enroll (before January 15, 2026) in a regular doctoral research program (Ph. D.) as part of a structured M.D-Ph. D. program recognized by the FRQS at the same university. To be considered as a research program, a doctoral program must lead to the writing of a thesis (an essay, a research report, a dissertation or an article are not accepted). Professional-type doctoral programs are not eligible);
- submit a health research project with a direct bearing on human health, achievable within a maximum period of 3 years. The recipient must temporarily interrupt the regular course of his or her medical training for a maximum of 3 years;
- have completed no more than 14 sessions of their research doctorate by April 30, 2025. The number of registration sessions is calculated from the first date of enrolment in a doctoral research program in human health.

3.3 Eligibility period

To apply, applicants **must have been enrolled in a doctoral program for no more than 14 full-time semesters before May 1, 2025.**

In calculating the eligibility period, the following are considered:

- Any semesters already completed in a doctoral program (or equivalent) at the time the scholarship comes into effect will be subtracted from the eligibility period;
- Unregistered semesters and those completed on a part-time basis. Applicants can verify their eligibility for the competition by consulting the [Equivalency table for unregistered or part-time terms](#);
- The number of semesters during which applicants received financial support from a recognized Canadian or Québec government funding agency (e.g., NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, Fonds de recherche du Québec, CAC, CALQ, CORPAQ), to ensure that the total funding received does not exceed 12 semesters or the total value of the Fonds scholarship.

The following are not considered:

- Semesters completed in a professional doctoral degree program;
- Semesters completed in a doctoral research program in another discipline.

Applicants who obtained a first research doctoral degree and who wish to undertake a second one in another discipline may apply to the Fonds if their initial doctoral degree was not funded by one of the Fonds de recherche du Québec through their training award competitions.

The applicant must demonstrate that the doctoral project presented in the application is in a different discipline, i.e., that it will be evaluated by a different review committee than the one that evaluated the previous project. This demonstration must be attached in the “Other documents” section of the form. The list of review committees is available in the Toolbox. Should this demonstration not be provided, the Fonds reserves the right to refuse the application if it deems there are too many similarities between the two doctoral projects.

3.4 Exceptions

- *Extension.* Applicants who have interrupted or delayed their studies for parental leave, major family obligations or health reasons may be granted an eligibility period extension. The Fonds will determine the duration of the extension based on the supporting documents provided with the application;
- *Exemption.* Applicants who have interrupted or delayed their studies because of a handicap as defined in the *Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration* ([CQLR, c. E-20.1](#)) may be granted an eligibility period exemption. The maximum duration of funding remains six (6) semesters at the master’s level.

The exception request and supporting documents must be submitted with the application form (see Section 4.1.6). Applicants wishing to request such an exception are advised to verify the admissibility of the exception with the program manager before submitting their application. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse any exception request that is not adequately justified.

3.5 Restrictions

Students enrolled in certain psychology programs are not eligible (refer to the page [Eligibility of psychology programs](#) to verify eligibility).

Only one scholarship application (master’s, doctoral, postdoctoral or re-entering research) may be submitted per Fonds in any given year. In accordance with Section 3.1 of the CGR, an awardee may hold a training award from only one Fonds.

Applicants who have received or are currently receiving a research award from a Québec or Canadian granting agency (e.g., FRQNT, FRQS, FRQSC, CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC, CORPAQ, CAC, CALQ) for the program for which they are applying for funding, the total value of which is equal to or greater than the total value of the Fonds scholarship, are not eligible for this competition.

Applicants who apply for a scholarship for their preparatory studies are not eligible.

4. Application

The electronic Doctoral Research Scholarship application form is available in the [FRQnet ePortfolio](#) no later than one month before the competition deadline. A PDF version for information purposes is provided in the Toolbox. Applicants can also consult the [FRQnet ePortfolio technical users' guide](#).

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to select the right funding program and application form for the appropriate Fonds, by referring to the list of research areas for each Fonds ([FRQNT](#), [FRQS](#), [FRQSC](#)). In the event of an error, the Fonds will not transfer the application from one program to another, and the application will be ineligible.

Applicants must prepare their application sufficiently in advance to ensure that they are able to obtain all the required documents and submit the form within the required deadline. Applicants must also anticipate and consider the high volume of funding applications received by the Fonds near the competition deadline.

In accordance with Section 3.6 of the CGR, the application form must be completed in French.

Documents in PDF format are to be attached to the scholarship application form. These documents may be written in French or English and must respect the [presentation standards for PDF attachments](#).

Official documents submitted in a language other than French or English must include a certified professional translation. Any other documents submitted in a language other than French or English must include a basic translation.

The absence of any of the required documents will render the application ineligible. In addition, no documents received after the competition deadline will be considered. No document that was not requested will be sent to the review committee.

The submission of a funding application implies a commitment to read and abide by the standards of ethics and integrity, the [Open Access Dissemination Policy](#) and the [Policy for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#).



A checklist of documents to be attached with the application can be found in the Toolbox.

4.1 Documents required from the applicant

4.1.1 RAMQ card, proof of admission or supervisor form

Applicants who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada must provide:

- a Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) card that is valid at the competition deadline;

OR

- proof of application for a RAMQ card and that the card will be valid at the competition deadline.

In accordance with Section 3.5 of these rules, applicants who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents, or do not have either of the two documents listed above, are still eligible for this competition, but must carry out their studies at a Québec university. They must provide one of the following two documents:

- proof of admission to a program of study at a Québec university;
- OR**
- an electronic acceptance form from their research supervisor at a Québec university ("Supervisor Acceptance Form") as described in Section 4.2.

4.1.2 Letter of recommendation from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine

For applicants who have not accumulated 90 credits of courses in a university program, a letter of recommendation from the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine must be attached to the application.

4.1.3 Acknowledgement of receipt from publishers

Acknowledgements for all papers submitted to publishers and publisher notifications for papers accepted for publication (acknowledgements for previously published papers are not required).

4.1.4 List of part-time semesters

Applicants who have completed one or more part-time semesters since the date at which they first registered for a graduate program and applicants whose transcripts do not include all registered semesters must provide:

- An official notice from the registrar's office indicating all semesters.

4.1.5 Other documents to attach to the form

Applicants must also attach the following documents in the appropriate sections of the application form:

- **Honours** (maximum 1 page): list of any scholarships, prizes and distinctions received, and how they were awarded;
- **Integrated background presentation** (maximum 1 page): description of the links between the applicant's experiences and interests on the one hand, and education, training and career choices on the other. While there are no evaluation criteria for this, the integrated background presentation can help the review committee to better understand, contextualize and assess the applicant's academic record, background and contributions. Applicants are not expected to disclose any personal, sensitive or confidential information;
- **Relevant experience and achievements** (maximum 4 pages): presentation and description of the experiences and achievements that have contributed to the development of the applicant's research skills;
- **Research project** (maximum 2 pages): description of the research project demonstrating the originality of the project and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge; the clarity and coherence of the research problem; the appropriateness of the methodology; the feasibility of the project and the realism of the time frame;
- **Bibliography** (maximum 1 page): list of the full references of the works used in the description of the proposed research. In accordance with Section 3.2 of the CGR, links to web pages may be included as bibliographic references where relevant.

4.1.6 Documents for eligibility period exception

Applicants seeking an eligibility period exception (see Section 3.3) must provide:

- **Justification of request for an eligibility period extension or exemption** (1 page maximum): the applicant must justify the exception request and provide, in the case of a request for extension, the dates and duration of the interruptions. This document must be attached in the "Other documents" section of the form and will not be sent to the review committee;
- **Supporting documents**: documents supporting the exception request (e.g., medical certificate, disability certificate, child's birth certificate, caregiver tax credit application, official document or letter from employer, etc.) allowing the Fonds to determine the duration of the extension to be granted. These must be attached in the "Other documents" section of the form and will not be sent to the review committee.

4.1.7 Document for a doctorate in a different discipline

Applicants who obtained a first research doctoral degree in another discipline must demonstrate that the project presented in the application will be evaluated by a different review committee than the one that evaluated the previous project, in accordance with Section 3.3.1.

4.2 Documents required from the research supervisor

The applicant must identify the research supervisor in the “Program / Host environment” section of the form. **The supervisor must first create an FRQnet account.** An email will then be sent to the supervisor and an electronic Supervisor Acceptance Form will automatically be added to the supervisor’s FRQnet ePortfolio. A PDF version of the form is available in the Toolbox for information purposes.

The research supervisor must complete the **electronic Supervisor Acceptance Form** and **submit it before the applicant submits the scholarship application form.** If this is not done, the applicant will not be able to submit the form, and the application will be inadmissible. It is the applicant’s responsibility to provide the research supervisor with the necessary instructions for creating an FRQnet account, and to ensure that the form is submitted within the prescribed deadline.

Once the acceptance form has been submitted by the research supervisor, no further changes can be made.

4.3 Selection of the review committee

Applicants select the review committee that will evaluate their application according to research topic. To do so, applicants must consult the list of review committees for the appropriate Fonds ([FRQNT](#), [FRQS](#), [FRQSC](#)).

4.4 Eligibility notice

All applications received by the Fonds are assessed for eligibility. Applicants will receive an email notification no later than December following the competition deadline, informing them of the result of the eligibility assessment of their application and, where applicable, its transmission to the review committee. Applications sent to the review committee may nevertheless be declared ineligible at any time.

5. Evaluation

For more information on the rules regarding the evaluation process, refer to Section 4 of the CGR.

Applications are evaluated according to the following evaluation criteria and weighting:

Academic record and background (45 points)

- Transcripts
- Honours (awards, distinctions, scholarships)
- Achievements (scientific, professional, social, etc.) and relevant experience (related to the project or background)
- Capacity for engagement and leadership (in and out of academia)
- Ability to facilitate dialogue between science and society

Research project (55 points)

- Originality of the project and potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge
- Clarity and coherence of the research problem

- Appropriateness of the methodology
- Feasibility of the project and realism of the time frame

TOTAL (100 points)

6. Partnership scholarships

The scholarship may be offered in partnership. For this, applicants must select, in the Partnerships section of the application form, one or more partners whose research areas are in line with their research theme. If the scholarship is awarded, the Fonds sends the selected partners the information needed to assess the relevance of the partnership to their strategic and research priorities (project title, abstract, areas of research). If the applicant's research project is deemed relevant by one or more partners, the scholarship will be offered in partnership.

Pediatric Research Foundation **Early childhood diseases**

Training scholarships in the Pediatric research field, primarily in childhood diseases. Amount of the scholarship: \$29,000 per year



L'Unité de soutien au système de santé apprenant (SSA) Québec (l'Entité nationale de formation de la SRAP)

Research with and for patients in a learning health system approach

The Unité de soutien au système de santé apprenant (SSA) Québec is a provincial unit of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR).

The Unit works to continuously improve Quebec's healthcare system and make it a learning system. It mobilizes and equips the network to do things differently and achieve the quintuple objective by promoting partnership work, the integration of science and innovation, and the facilitation of change. Its pan-Quebec team deploys its expertise in training, consulting, tools, facilitation and networking:

- Building scientific and experiential knowledge
- It offers à la carte support to project leaders in the network
- It orchestrates continuous quality improvement

The National Training Entity (NTE), also part of CIHR's PRAS, is a pan-Canadian organization that aims to increase, support and sustain the capacity of a collaborative, interdisciplinarily research environment focused on partnering with and for patients. ENF provides answers to changing healthcare questions, helping to improve the patient experience.

The fellowships offered by the FRQ in partnership with the Unit and the National Training Entity enable award holders to hone their skills and gain experience in research with and for patients, to network and to work interdisciplinarily with people and organizations working in healthcare in a learning health system approach.

7. Announcement of results

The competition results are announced at the end of April. In accordance with Section 5.2 of the CGR, applicants who are offered funding are required to indicate their acceptance or refusal within 30 days after the notice is posted to their FRQnet ePortfolio. Once a funding offer has been refused by the applicant it cannot be reactivated.

8. Rules for using the scholarship

The rules presented in Section 8 apply to all scholarships awarded under this program. However, applicants are encouraged to read them when applying, and to keep them for future reference if they are awarded a scholarship. **Technical details are provided in the scholarship user guide**, which is common to the three Fonds.

To retain the scholarship, awardees must meet all eligibility requirements in effect at the time of application. In addition, the following conditions must be met throughout the funding period:

- Be enrolled in the program of study for which the scholarship is granted on a full-time basis, subject to the exceptions described in Section 8.2
- Comply with the rules pertaining to concurrent funding described in Section 8.3

Awardees must notify the Fonds as soon as one of these conditions is no longer met and of any change in their situation that could affect compliance with the conditions of the scholarship. Failure to meet these conditions (or failure to inform the Fonds of such a change) may result in the cancellation of the scholarship and the obligation to reimburse the sums received.

8.1 Scholarship start date

The scholarship must begin **between May 1 of the year of the offer and March 1 of the following year** (see Section 8.4 for further information).

8.2 Part-time enrolment

Part-time studies are permitted only in the cases listed below, on the condition that the research supervisor authorizes it and on presentation of supporting documents:

Family obligations or medical condition: family obligations (e.g., family caregiver, primary caregiver for a young child) or a medical condition that prevents the awardee from studying on a full-time basis. While enrolled part time, awardees may receive 50% of the value of the scholarship payments.

Disability: handicap as defined in the *Act to secure handicapped persons in the exercise of their rights with a view to achieving social, school and workplace integration* ([CQLR, c. E-20.1](#)) that prevents the awardee from studying on a full-time basis. The awardee may receive full scholarship payments.

In both cases, the total value of the scholarship is not affected.

8.3 Rules for concurrent funding (scholarships, employment and internships)

8.3.1 Concurrent scholarships

The following table details the rules for concurrent scholarships.

| Type of scholarship / Scholarship program | Rule |
|--|--|
| Training scholarships (master's, doctoral and postdoctoral) from federal granting agencies: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) | Partial concurrent funding* allowed |
| Training scholarships (master's, doctoral, postdoctoral, partnership) from Québec granting agencies such as the Fonds Nature et technologies (FRQNT), the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS), the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture (FRQSC), the Conseil de recherches en pêche et agroalimentaire du Québec (CORPAQ) | Concurrent funding prohibited |
| Scholarships from Canadian and Québec government departments and agencies other than those mentioned above | Concurrent funding allowed |
| Co-supervised international mobility scholarships and scholarships for internships in or outside Québec | Concurrent funding allowed |
| Scholarships from the Canada Council for the Arts (CCA) or Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec (CALQ) | No concurrent funding if the scholarships are for the same project |
| Scholarships from the private sector, internal scholarships from universities and affiliated centres and supplementary scholarships from the research supervisor | Concurrent funding allowed |

*Partial concurrent funding with a scholarship from a federal granting agency

Partial concurrent funding with a scholarship from a federal granting agency is possible when the Fonds scholarship is of a **higher annual value** or **longer duration** than the scholarship from the federal agency. In such cases, the awardee **must accept** the federal scholarship. However, the awardee may also accept the Fonds scholarship to take advantage of additional benefits that are not covered by the federal scholarship, as applicable:

- When the **annual value** of the Fonds scholarship is higher than that of the other scholarship, the amount will be adjusted to make up for the shortfall;

- When the **duration** of the Fonds scholarship is longer than that of the other scholarship, the Fonds will extend the term of the scholarship to make up for the shortfall when the other scholarship ends, unless the total value of the other scholarship is equal to or higher than the total value of the Fonds scholarship;
- All the financial benefits associated with the Fonds scholarship will also be available to the awardee.

It is not possible to defer a payment or the start of a scholarship to receive another scholarship with which concurrent funding is prohibited.

Awardees who receive payments in a situation in which concurrent funding is prohibited will be required to reimburse the sums paid.

8.3.2 Paid employment and internships

Paid employment or internships undertaken alongside the program of study and **that do not interfere with research activities** are permitted, without time restrictions, provided they are approved by the research supervisor or co-supervisor.

In addition, awardees may be paid a salary by their research supervisor or co-supervisor to work on the research project funded by the Fonds while holding the scholarship. Excellence awards paid by the Fonds do not constitute a salary.

8.4 Payments and management

8.4.1 Payment schedule

The annual scholarship amount is paid to the awardee in three instalments. Each instalment covers a four-month period.

The first payment must be claimed between May 1 of the year of the offer and March 1 of the following year, failing which the scholarship will be immediately cancelled (see Section 8.4.3).

For awardees whose program of study has not started when the award letter is issued, the first payment may be made as of:

- May 30 after the scholarship is awarded (summer semester)
- September 30 after the scholarship is awarded (fall semester)
- January 30 after the scholarship is awarded (winter semester)

For awardees whose program of study is already underway when the award letter is issued, the first payment will be made as of:

- May 30 after the scholarship is awarded (summer semester)

A detailed schedule of payments, including the periods for claiming them, can be found in the scholarship user guide. Once the scholarship has been awarded, awardees will be able to consult the payment schedule in their FRQnet ePortfolio.

8.4.2 Payment conditions

Awardees must comply with all the conditions associated with their payments. These conditions are described in the scholarship user guide and in the FRQnet ePortfolio.

8.4.3 Cancellation of a payment or scholarship

The first scholarship payment must be claimed no later than March 1 following the year in which it is awarded, failing which the scholarship will be immediately cancelled.

Starting with the second payment, a payment will be cancelled, after prior notice, if it is not claimed or deferred or if required documents are not received within two months of the scheduled date of the payment concerned.

The Fonds will cancel a scholarship, after prior notice, if the awardee has not taken any action in the FRQnet ePortfolio for two consecutive payment periods.

The Fonds will cancel a scholarship, after prior notice, if two consecutive payments must be cancelled due to non-compliance with the eligibility requirements or failure to submit required documents in the two months following the start of the periods concerned.

In addition, the Fonds reserves the right to cancel any payment or scholarship in accordance with the [Policy for the responsible conduct of research](#).

8.4.4 Mandatory basic research ethics training

Who must take this training?

Basic research ethics training is mandatory for all awardees whose research involves humans (direct participation or the use of human biological material or data concerning humans). The training consists of completing levels 1 and 3 of the [research ethics tutorial](#) developed by the *Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* within one year of receiving an FRQS award.

8.5 Deferral of payments

8.5.1 Gaining relevant experience

The Fonds may authorize the suspension of studies for the acquisition of relevant experience (experience within a research team, teaching experience related to the field of study, language stay, etc.), for a period of four months **for each full year of funding granted**. The scholarship payment for this period is then deferred until the end of the funding period. The Fonds reserves the right to deny any request that is insufficiently justified or inappropriate.

The deferral periods authorized for the entire duration of the scholarship may be taken consecutively if this is approved by the research supervisor.

Awardees cannot use this provision for their first payment, to accept another scholarship with which concurrent funding is prohibited, or to accept paid employment.

8.5.2 Sick leave or family obligations

In accordance with Section 6.14 of the CGR, awardees may obtain a deferment of payment if their studies are suspended due to illness or family obligations, for as long as the university permits.

8.5.3 Parental leave

In accordance with Section 6.13 of the CGR, awardees may obtain a deferment of payment for the birth or adoption of a child for a **maximum period of 12 months**.

8.6 Scholarship supplement for parental leave

In accordance with Section 6.13 of the CGR, during the authorized suspension of studies for parental leave (see Section 8.5.3), awardees may apply for a **scholarship supplement for a continuous period of eight months** (i.e., for a maximum of two payments).

To be eligible for this supplement, awardees must have already received their first scholarship payment and must not be enrolled in the program of study. In addition, they must not hold paid employment for the duration of the leave.

In the case of partial concurrent funding with an award received from a federal agency, the awardee must take the parental leave allowance offered by the federal program.

8.7 Changes during the funding period

8.7.1 Request for changes

Any change in the awardee's situation must be communicated to the Fonds. In accordance with Section 6.5 of the CGR, the Fonds will ensure the requested change does not impact the outcome of the application's initial evaluation and remains in compliance with the eligibility requirements and program rules. The Fonds will assess the requested change and may decide to continue, reduce, suspend or terminate the payments. The Fonds may also require that the awardee reimburse the sums paid.

The decision to accept or refuse the requested changes is sent by email.

8.7.2 Change in scholarship start date

The duration of funding is determined based on the date of full-time registration in the program of study. Two part-time semesters are equivalent to one full-time semester.

This type of change must be made before the first payment is made. It is strongly recommended that the change be requested at the time of accepting the scholarship. Increases in the duration of funding are not permitted.

8.7.3 Change in level of study

A master's Research Scholarship holder who plans to pursue a doctoral degree may use the remaining payments of the master's scholarship to begin a doctoral program, on the condition that the program begins in the next semester. The payments must occur during the term of the initial scholarship. In addition, the awardee must have received at least one payment of the master's scholarship for at least one full-time semester in the program for which the scholarship was granted, except in the case of direct or fast-tracked transfer to a doctoral program.

8.7.4 Change in program of study

Any change of program during the term of the scholarship must be in line with the research areas of the Fonds that granted the scholarship and the choice of review committee in the initial application.

However, if an awardee intends to change programs for administrative reasons and remains in the same field of study and research, the Fonds will assess the situation, and the scholarship may be maintained.

8.7.5 Change in study location and institution

A change of study and research location is permitted on the condition that the change is consistent with Section 2.1 (“Citizenship and Domicile”) of the CGR.

8.7.6 Change in research supervisor

An awardee who continues to study in the same training program and whose research project remains the same may change research supervisor. The request is automatically approved.

8.7.7 Change in research project

To change research project, the awardee must:

- demonstrate that the new project is in the same field of research, i.e., that it would be evaluated by the same review committee as the one that evaluated the initial project;
- demonstrate that the new project is of the same scientific quality as the initial project.

It must also be indicated whether the awardee intends to stay with the same research supervisor, at the same university and in the same department.

In addition, the research supervisor must agree to and justify the proposed change.

The Fonds will consider the evaluation criteria used to evaluate the initial project when analysing the request.

8.7.8 Withdrawal or part-time studies

An awardee who withdraws during the semester or who decides to study on a part-time basis, except for the cases described in Section 8.2, is no longer eligible for the scholarship and must notify the Fonds to terminate it. The awardee may be required to reimburse the last payment received.

8.7.9 Completion of studies and graduation

Awardees are eligible to receive payments until the final submission of their thesis. Enrolment is not required after the initial thesis submission.

8.8 Final report

In accordance with Section 7.2 of the CGR, a final report is required three months after the last payment. The final report allows the Fonds to document the impact of the scholarship. Future funding under a different program is contingent upon receipt of this final report.

9. Open access policy

Peer-reviewed publications and the doctoral thesis stemming from the research funded by the scholarship must be released as immediate open access (without embargo) under an open license in accordance with the FRQ’s [Open access policy for the dissemination of research](#).

10. Effective date

These rules apply to the 2025-2026 fiscal year.