

## 2024 FSS VANIER TIMELINE AND INFORMATION

**APRIL 17:** FSS nominees selected, notified, and matched to FSS Vanier mentors. FSS nominees begin working on their application materials with guidance from their research supervisors. FSS Vanier mentors are available to answer questions.

**JUNE 2:** All application components, *excluding leadership references*, are due to the FSS ADG office (please submit the components as a single pdf document to Ann Seabrook at [ann.seabrook@uwo.ca](mailto:ann.seabrook@uwo.ca)) for review and feedback from the FSS Vanier mentorship team. See the section entitled *Application Materials*, below.

**JUNE 28:** Leadership references are due to the FSS ADG office (please submit these as a single pdf document to Ann Seabrook at [ann.seabrook@uwo.ca](mailto:ann.seabrook@uwo.ca)).

**JUNE 30:** Vanier-Banting Secretariat opens application portal in ResearchNet. FSS candidates should begin working on their application online.

**AUGUST 1:** Application Submission Deadline in ResearchNet (hard deadline)

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER:** University Selection Committee convenes to review submitted applications and to select the applications that meet the competitive criteria and expectations of the Vanier-Banting Secretariat for the national competition.

## WHO ARE COMPETITIVE & ELIGIBLE NOMINEES?

### Competitive Candidates

Competitive candidates are international and domestic students who demonstrate an extraordinarily high level of excellence in the following three categories:

<https://vanier.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>

- *Leadership* – Have they been engaged in leadership positions outside of their academic life where they have fostered others, spearheaded change, overcome obstacles, gone above and beyond the expected norms of their position(s)? These are demonstrations of leadership that the Vanier-Banting Secretariat is looking for.
- *Research Potential* – Are they undertaking impactful world-class research that demonstrates their interest in discovery and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge in their field of study? Do they have an excellent record of research productivity (see DORA section below)? Are they involved with an international research community?
- *Academic Excellence* – Do their university academic transcripts demonstrate consistently high academic talent (or talent that consistently trends upward) supported by a record of merit-based scholarships and awards success? There should be no doubt in the minds of reviewers of their outstanding academic skill.

### Eligible Candidates

An eligible Vanier candidates must meet all of the condition listed on the Vanier website here:

<https://vanier.gc.ca/en/eligibility-admissibilite.html>

+ An eligible candidate cannot have spent more than 5 terms in the PhD by the first eligible scholarship start date. For the upcoming competition the first eligible start date is May 1, 2025. If you have any question about the eligibility of your candidate(s), please confirm with the agency at [vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:vanier@cihr-irsc.gc.ca).

+ Eligible candidates must have a minimum of 80% in each of their last two full-time years of study; however, competitive candidates will have averages of over 85% in those years and typically throughout their university career.

## APPLICATION MATERIALS

### Application Package

An application package (single PDF) must comprise of: (see Application Instructions for guidelines and format requirements [https://vanier.gc.ca/en/nomination\\_process-processus\\_de\\_mise\\_en\\_candidature.html](https://vanier.gc.ca/en/nomination_process-processus_de_mise_en_candidature.html))

- Cover page, that lists: (this is not required in the online application)
  - Candidate's name
  - Candidate's current degree and program, and proposed degree and program
  - Candidate's name of supervisor(s)
  - Research agency choice – CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC
- Lay Title of research project
- Lay Abstract of research proposal (350-400 words)
- Research Project Proposal (maximum 2 pages)
- Project References (normally 1 page, up to 5 for SSHRC projects)
- Research Contributions (maximum 1 page)
- TWO Academic Referee Assessments, each completed in 3 sections – academic excellence (0.5 page), research potential (0.5 page), and leadership experience and potential (1 page)
- Up-to-date official transcripts of all university studies (not required in the online application at this stage)
- Special Circumstances (maximum 1 page, optional)
- Personal Leadership Statement (maximum 2 pages)
- TWO Leadership Reference Letters (maximum 2 pages each)
- Canadian Common CV (limited entries; completed from the CCCV site)

## RESEARCH SECURITY MEASURES

Canadian research is at the forefront of discovery, and today's work is driving solutions to humanity's most pressing challenges. While Canadian-led research is defined by its excellence and collaborative nature, its openness can make it a target for foreign influence, increasing the potential risks for research and development efforts to be misappropriated to the detriment of national security. The Government of Canada has taken steps to protect Canada's world-class research by introducing a series of measures to safeguard it, which includes implementing the new Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern, and launching Canada's new Research Security Centre, as announced in Budget 2022.

Please ensure that any projects that advance a sensitive technology research area do not involve affiliations or partnerships with any of the named research organizations.

## DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment)

The agencies have signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), a global initiative whose purpose is to support the development and promotion of best practices in

the assessment of scholarly research. It aims to address the negative consequences of unintended overuse of journal publications as a primary quality indicator for research output. As signatories of DORA, the three federal granting councils recognize and value a broad range of contributions and emphasize their quality and impact.

Please assess research excellence broadly and avoid using journal-based metrics (such as Journal Impact Factors) as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research publications.

### **OTHER NOTES**

Vanier candidates are selected by their Faculties to potentially compete at the federal level because they demonstrate outstanding academic, research, and leadership skills. Domestic candidates may also apply to the CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC Tri-Agency Doctoral Scholarship competition in the same year (and should be encouraged to do so). This means that a domestic Vanier candidate selected by their Faculty who also applies in the Tri-Agency Doctoral Scholarship competition in the fall must be included in the Faculty's quota of applications for that specific agency's doctoral competition.

If the university Vanier committee selects either an international or domestic Vanier candidate's application for the federal competition quotas, that candidate will automatically receive a provincial Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS/QEII-GSST) if they are not successful in winning a Vanier. For international candidates, this is contingent on the availability of awards as there are only 8 OGS designated for international students at Western.