Queen's University School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs (SGSPA)
2025-2026 Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST)
Terms and Conditions

This program is funded in part by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

General Information: Since 1998, the Ontario government, in partnership with Ontario universities through private sector matching funds, has rewarded excellence in graduate studies in science and technology through the Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST)(formerly the OGSST program). The QEII-GSST program is administered centrally within universities, with each university selecting recipient graduate students exhibiting overall academic excellence and research potential and abilities.

The QEII-GSST program is in addition to and distinct from the Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS).

The QEII-GSST program supports only graduate students enrolled in research masters and doctoral programs in science and technology disciplines. At Queen's QEII-GSST holders are in graduate programs in the applied, health, life and physical sciences in the SGSPA. See Appendix A for a list of eligible science and technologies disciplines).

International graduate students are ineligible for QEII-GSST awards.

Value and Tenure: The QEII-GSST value is $15,000, paid in installments of $5,000 per term for one year. QEII-GSST awards are not renewable. The QEII-GSST must be held for at least two sequential academic terms. If a student cannot hold his or her QEII-GSST for at least two sequential terms, repayment in full will be required.

Eligible Students: In order to be considered eligible to be nominated for and to hold a QEII-GSST, a student must be:

- A Canadian citizen, Permanent Resident or Protected Person (under subsection 95(2) of *the Immigration and Refugee Protections Act [Canada])* at the time of the 2025-2026 QEII-GSST application deadline date.
- Enrolled in an eligible postsecondary institution in Ontario (one offering graduate programs).
- Enrolled full time in an eligible full time graduate program.
- Enrolled in a research master's or doctoral program in a science and technology discipline (See Appendix A for a list of eligible science and technology disciplines).

Terms and Conditions:

1. QEII-GSST recipients must remain enrolled as full-time students. QEII-GSST recipients who withdraw, transfer to part-time studies, or fail to complete the term in which a QEII-GSST installment has been issued, are required to repay the installment. A withdrawal in a subsequent

term will not require repayment of any installment of the award for any completed terms. A recipient who graduates during a term in which they hold an award is permitted to keep the installment for that term.

2. Master's students can receive QEII-GSST for a maximum of two years (one year in 1 year programs) and doctoral students for a maximum of four years, subject to a lifetime maximum of six years of QEII-GSST funding per student.

3. A university may opt to not provide an award to a master's student who has been enrolled for more than two academic years or a doctoral student who has been enrolled for more than four academic years.

4. Students cannot exceed a lifetime maximum of six (6) years of government-funded graduate awards. Awards under the following programs are counted toward this lifetime maximum:
    i. Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS)
    ii. Queen's Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Sciences and Technology (QEII-GSST)
    iii. Ontario Trillium Scholarship (OTS)
    iv. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
    v. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
    vi. Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)
    vii. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS)

5. Students cannot hold a QEII-GSST award and an award from any of the following programs, concurrently:
    i. Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program (OGS)
    ii. Ontario Trillium Scholarship (OTS)
    iii. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)
    iv. Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
    v. Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR)
    vi. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS)
    vii. Ontario Women's Health Scholars Award/Autism Scholars Award

6. Students may NOT hold the QEII-GSST at the same time as any Other Named Fellowship or Award administered by the SGSPA valued at $10,000 or more.

7. Recipients of the Queen's University Indigenous and Black Engineering/Technology (IBET) Fellowship who hold or are subsequently awarded a major scholarship may have the value of their IBET Fellowship reduced. The Departmental/Supervisor portion of the IBET Fellowship may be partially or fully reduced while receiving this additional funding. Major scholarships have a value of more than $10,000, with examples including: Vanier, Tri-Agency Doctoral CGS and PGS, Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), and Queen Elizabeth II Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology (QEII-GSST). The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science will advise the student(s) of any adjustments to their funding accordingly.

8. Recipients enrolled in a postgraduate MD training program and simultaneously registered in a full-time doctoral graduate program may hold other awards that, together with the QEII-GSST award, do not exceed the current level of funding for clinical training provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

9. Recipients must not have exceeded the maximum number of awards for their level of study. A student can hold one year of QEII-GSST funding in a 1 year Master's program. A student can hold up to two years of QEII-GSST funding for a 2 year Master's program. The QEII-GSST can be awarded for one or both of the first two academic years, but not after the second year. A student can hold up to four years of QEII-GSST funding for a program at the doctoral level. The QEII-GSST can be awarded in any of the first four years. In 2025-2026, consideration will be given for QEII-GSST recipients in the fifth year of their doctoral program.

10. QEII-GSST awards are *not transferable* and must be taken up at the university that grants them to the recipient. If a Queen's University QEII-GSST recipient transfers to another institution, any and all unused portion of the award remains with Queen's University, not with the recipient.

11. A QEII-GSST recipient may be granted a leave of absence, not to exceed, on any one occasion, more than 18 consecutive months, for any Queen's University SGSPA- approved leave of absence. Queen's University SGSPA's policy concerning length of allowable leaves of absence from a program shall apply, where the allowable leave is 18 months or less. Queen's University SGSPA's policy concerning how the award is disbursed when the leave ends, shall apply.

12. Prior to release of QEII-GSST funds to the recipient, Queen's University is responsible for checking the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) restricted list status of all recipients through the Queen's University Student Awards Office, and for ensuring that restricted students receive clearance from the Student Financial Assistance Branch and/or the Canada Student Loans Plan. If clearance is not received, the student cannot receive the QEII-GSST. QEII-GSST installments will not be released to any student with any OSAP restrictions, and the QEII-GSST award will be revoked if the student cannot resolve their OSAP restrictions by the deadline that the SGSPA sets. Along with other OSAP restrictions, QEII-GSST recipients will not be able to hold their award if their provincial bursary overpayment is in collections

13. If a QEII-GSST installment is issued to a student who is subsequently determined to be ineligible to receive that installment, that installment must be refunded. It is the student's responsibility to return the installment as soon as possible. Students should be aware that to reclaim the installment, the SGSPA will cancel or reverse any direct deposit transaction through the student's fees account. If the SGSPA cancels or reverses a direct deposit transaction, the SGSPA shall inform the student that this action has been taken. If the transaction cannot be cancelled or reversed, it is the student's responsibility to repay the award or award instalment as soon as possible.

14. All awards (awards, scholarships, fellowships, prizes, etc.) have to be reported appropriately to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). In most cases, scholarships, fellowships, and/or bursaries are

not taxable, if the recipient was enrolled as a student in a program that entitles the person to claim the education amount on tax information, as defined by CRA. More information on this topic may be found at CRA's website, https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/forms-publications/publications/p105/p105-students-income-tax.html. In some rare circumstances (outlined on CRA's website), this award or portions of it may be taxed. Tax is not deducted from the award by the SGSPA or Queen's University.

15. QEII-GSST awards usually start in September of the academic year. However, the QEII-GSST award start date may be commensurate with the start date of a degree program within that academic year, i.e. in the subsequent January, or May.

16. QEII-GSST holders are restricted to ten hours per week for Teaching Assistantships, on average for the academic year. QEII-GSST recipients may also accept research assistantships or other employment that does not affect their status as a full-time graduate student.

17. QEII-GSST recipients cannot be enrolled in a qualifying or make-up year or be on a paid educational leave or sabbatical.

18. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO NOTIFY THE SGSPA IF THEY RECEIVE AN EXTERNAL AWARD EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN THE VALUE OF THE QEII-GSST. ACCEPTANCE OF ANY SUCH EXTERNAL FUNDING MAY RESULT IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE 2025-2026 QEII-GSST, AND RE-EVALUATION OF ALL 2025-2026 FUNDING.

19. QEII-GSST awards are *not renewable* but are awarded annually based on eligibility, availability, and departmental recommendation.

20. The QEII-GSST award may constitute a portion of guaranteed financial support within a department/program.

21. See Appendix B for the compliance policies Queen's University must follow in the administering of this program, under the **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).**

APPENDIX A: ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES FOR THE QEII-GSST PROGRAM

The QEII-GSST program supports graduate students enrolled in research masters and doctoral programs in science and technology disciplines. Collaboration, inter-disciplinary study, and innovation are encouraged. The following are the eligible disciplines:

Applied Sciences:

- Aerospace (may include Aeronautical Engineering)
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering and Architecture (may include Landscape Architecture)
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering Science (may include Engineering, Engineering Physics, and Nuclear Engineering)
- Mechanical Engineering
- Mining, Metallurgy, and Material Science (may include Metallurgical Engineering)
- Systems and Industrial Engineering (may include Systems/Design Engineering and Operational Research)

Biological and Life Sciences:

- Biochemistry and Biophysics (may include Medical Biophysics)
- Environmental Sciences (may include Agriculture, Ecology, Forestry, and Toxicology)
- General Biological Sciences (may include Biology, Botany, Entomology, Microbiology, Mycology, Plant and Animal Biology, and Zoology)
- Genetics, Cell, and Molecular Biology
- General Health Science (may include research-oriented programs in Epidemiology, Human Kinetics, Hygiene, Nutrition, and Rehabilitation disciplines such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Audiology, and Speech Pathology)
- Human Biology (may include Anatomy, Biomedical Sciences, Food Science, Immunology, Neuroscience, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Physiology)
- Medical and Veterinary Sciences (may include research-oriented programs in Dentistry, Medical Sciences, Nursing, Optometry, and Pharmacy)

Physical Sciences:

- Chemistry
- Computer Science (may include Information/Systems Science)
- Earth Sciences (may include Geology and Geophysics)
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Physics (may include Astronomy, Meteorology, and Space Science)

APPENDIX B: Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements and the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Reporting

The Ministry of Colleges and Universities (the Ministry) has provided Queen's University with funding to administer the QEII-GSST Program. As a condition of this funding, Queen's University is required to make reports to the Ministry of your contact information, the amount of QEII-GSST you receive, and information related to your program of study. This personal information will be used by the Ministry to administer and finance the QEII-GSST Program. If you apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), this personal information will be used to update your OSAP application or award, including your declared income.

Administration includes: public reporting on the administration and financing of the QEII-GSST program; monitoring and auditing Queen's University or its authorized agents to ensure that they are administering the QEII-GSST Program appropriately; conducting risk management, error management, audit and quality assessment activities; and conducting policy analysis, evaluation and research related to all aspects of student assistance. Financing includes: planning, arranging or providing funding for the QEII-GSST Program.

The Ministry administers the QEII-GSST Program under the authority of the *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.19*, as amended. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, contact the Director, Student Financial Assistance Branch, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, P.O. Box 4500, 189 Red River Road, 4th Floor, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6G9.

Recordkeeping

Institutions are required to retain students' application records including transcripts, notifications of outcome, letters of recommendation, departmental ranking forms, competition assessments and acceptance forms submitted by the student, for a minimum of four (4) years per the Ministry's recordkeeping schedule. Following this four (4) year retention requirement, institutions should have the application records archived.