

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN STUDENT 2014-2015

All countries scholarships
Doctoral research scholarships(V1)
Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (V2)
Short-term research or professional development scholarships(V3)

Québec-Brazil scholarships
Québec-Brazil Doctoral research scholarships (1B)
Québec-Brazil Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (2B)
Québec-Brazil Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3B)

Québec-China scholarships
Québec-China Doctoral research scholarships (1C)
Québec-China Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (2C)
Québec-China Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3C)

Québec-India scholarships
Québec-India Doctoral research scholarships (1I)
Québec-India Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (2I)
Québec-India Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3I)

Québec-Mexico scholarships
Québec-Mexico Doctoral research scholarships (1M)
Québec-Mexico Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (2M)
Québec-Mexico Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3M)

Québec-Wallonia scholarships
Québec-Wallonia Doctoral research scholarships (1W)
Québec-Wallonia Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3W)

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Please, **READ THE PROGRAM RULES** first.
- Choose a Québec University establishment and a director (doctoral degree) or a research supervisor (fellowship) who accepts to supervise your research project and recommend your preselection
- Preselection of candidates by a Québec university establishment, Trans-Tech-network (CCTTs), TERI University, Mexican DER or CONACYT:
Consult the deadlines of the universities for preselection
(<http://www.frqnt.gouv.qc.ca/en/bourses/index.htm>)
- Deadline – preselection by a Québec university establishment, CCTT, TERI, Mexican SRE or CONACYT : September 30th, 2013
- Deadline – submitting e-form application and required documents for preselected candidates: November 1st, 2013 at Midnight (Quebec Time)
- Mailing Address :

Merit Scholarship Program for Foreign Students
Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies
Programmes de bourses d'excellence pour étudiants étrangers
140, Grande-Allée est
4^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5M8
CANADA
- Announcement of results : March 2014

1. In March 2004, the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies (FRQNT) was mandated by the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sports du Québec (MELS) to manage the Merit scholarship program for foreign students. In 2008-2009, the Program was enhanced with the addition of scholarships for students from promising Asian (China and India) and American (Mexico and Brazil) markets and then, in 2009-2010, with the addition of scholarships for students from Wallonia in Belgium

OBJECTIVES

2. The objective of the Merit scholarship program for foreign students is to support the internationalization of research activities in Québec's institutions of higher learning, to attract the best foreign researchers and students, and to promote Québec universities and Centres collégiaux de transfert de technologie ([CCTI](#)s), or college technology transfer centres, abroad.
3. The program covers higher education as a whole by giving Centres collégiaux de transfert de technologie ([CCTI](#)s) researchers and administrators the opportunity to be part of the program. The list of the [CCTI](#)s.
4. In a more generic way, the attribution of a Merit scholarship for foreign students aims at creating a cultural link and at allowing the setting up of possible common scientific research projects.
5. The program is also a way for MELS to support the Government of Québec's scientific policy.

CLIENTELE

6. These scholarships are intended for foreign students or researchers from all research sectors (health, humanities and social sciences, arts and letters, natural sciences, and engineering) preselected by a Québec university establishment, a [CCTT](#), the China Scholarship Council, TERI University, The Department of External Relations of Mexico (DER) or the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) to begin or continue studies or research activities in Québec. There is no privileged research sector.

FEATURES OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

7. The Merit scholarship program for foreign students has three components:
 - Doctoral research scholarships (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W);
 - Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M);
 - Short-term research or professional development scholarships (V3, 3B, 3C, 3I, 3M, 3W).

Value of scholarships

8. In addition to the scholarship, MELS offers all scholarship recipients an exemption from paying the higher tuition fees required of foreign students and the medical insurance

coverage offered by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec. (See [Study in Québec](#))

Value of scholarships for each component:

9. **Doctoral research scholarships (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W):** \$25,000 a year. The duration of the scholarship is three years, with a possible extension of up to 12 months (monthly allowance of \$1,000).
10. **Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M):** \$35,000 for one year (cannot be renewed).
11. **Short-term research or professional development scholarships (V3, 3B, 3C, 3I, 3M, 3W):** \$3,000 a month for a period of up to four months.

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND CITIZENSHIP

12. **Candidates:**

Must meet all eligibility conditions as at the date of the closing of the competition, namely, November 1st, 2013.

Must have been preselected by a university or the Trans-Tech network (for [CCTTs](#)), TERI University, the Mexican DER or CONACYT as at September 30th, 2013.

To the Québec-China program must be preselected by the China Scholarship Council as at March 31st, 2014.

Cannot have already received a merit scholarship for foreign students from Québec Education Department, Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies, Fonds de recherche du Québec – Société et culture..

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

Cannot have applied for permanent resident status under Canadian immigration law.

13. **Restriction for programs of study**

- Double doctoral degree programs are not admissible.
- Québec-Wallonie scholarship applicants must have studied in a French-language university institution in Belgium **AT THE TIME THEY ARE GRANTED THEIR SCHOLARSHIP.**

Doctoral research (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W) scholarship recipients must:

14. Have a Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ) issued by the ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles du Québec (MICC) (<http://www.micc.gouv.qc.ca/>) and a student visa issued by the Canadian Consulate valid for the entire duration of their scholarship.

Postdoctoral fellowship (V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M) or short-term research or professional development (V3, 3B, 3C, 3I, 3M, 3W) scholarship recipients must:

15. Have a work visa issued by the Canadian Consulate for the entire duration of their fellowship or scholarship.

Eligibility period

Doctoral research component (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W)

16. The doctoral research scholarships are intended for post-graduate students.
17. Candidates are eligible for doctoral merit program scholarships from MELS in the first nine sessions of their doctoral studies. All doctoral sessions, funded or unfunded, completed before the scholarship takes effect, are used in calculating the eligibility period.
18. 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 must apply to the PhD scholarships competition (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W) to obtain the scholarship during the 3rd, 4th, and 5th years of his/her graduate studies (sessions 7 to 15).
19. The maximum duration of the scholarship is three years (nine sessions), with a possible extension of up to 12 months.

Postdoctoral fellowship component (V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M)

20. Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships are intended for researchers who obtained their degree no more than two years before the deadline for the competition or who submitted their dissertation by January 2015 at the latest, the deadline for the beginning of scholarship use.
21. Postdoctoral research must be conducted in an institution other than the one that granted the Doctorate. The applicant's doctoral supervisors and co-supervisors may not act as his/her postdoctoral supervisor, even if they have changed institutions.
22. The duration of this scholarship is one year. This scholarship is not renewable.
23. A scholarship of lesser duration can be granted if the duration of the research is less than 12 months.

Short-term research or professional development component (V3, 3B, 3C, 3I, 3M, 3W)

24. Short-term research or professional development scholarships are intended for technical and university students (option A) or researchers who have completed a doctorate no more than five years before the deadline for the competition (option B).
25. The research or professional development must be conducted in an institution other than the one at which the student was enrolled when he or she applied.
26. The duration of this scholarship is four months. The scholarship is not renewable. A scholarship of lesser duration can be granted if the duration of the research is less than four months.

Exceptional measures concerning calculation of the eligibility period

27. The only exception to the rules governing the eligibility period concerns circumstances beyond the candidate's control.
28. Candidates who suspend their studies due to maternity or parental leave can request an extension of their eligibility period for a maximum of 12 months. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse any request that is not sufficiently justified.

PRESELECTION OF CANDIDATES

29. Only candidates preselected by a Québec university establishment, the Trans-Tech network (for CCTTs), TERI University, the Mexican DER or CONACYT as at September 30th, 2013, can be part of this competition. Candidates to the Québec-China program must be preselected by the the China Scholarship Council as at March 31st, 2014.
30. The universities, the Trans-Tech Network (for CCTTs), the China Scholarship Council, TERI University, the Mexican DER or CONACYT assume full responsibility for candidate preselection. You can consult the various dead lines of the preselection competition for each universities and Trans-Tech network in the Web site of the FRQNT.
31. Those in charge of candidate preselection must refer to the [Instructions for candidate preselection](#) in the Merit scholarship program for foreign students.
32. Those in charge of candidate [Preselection of a Québec university establishment or the Trans-Tech](#) network must complete the Form for nominating candidates for the Merit scholarship program for foreign students, available through the FRQNT EXTRANET site. It must be completed and transmitted electronically **by 4 p.m. on September 30th, 2013**.
33. [TERI University and the Mexican DER or CONACYT representatives in charge of candidate preselection](#) must fill out a nomination form (PDF format) for each preselected applicant. These forms must be sent to the Québec Education Department via e-mail by September 30th, 2013, at 4 p.m. to daic@mels.gouv.qc.ca

[The China Scholarship Council representative in charge of candidate preselection](#) has to send the same nomination form to the Québec Education Department via e-mail by March 31st, 2014, at 4 p.m. to daic@mels.gouv.qc.ca
34. Candidates must meet all program eligibility requirements. Candidates proposed by a Québec university establishment, the Trans-Tech network, the China Scholarship Council, TERI University, the Mexican DER or CONACYT may be declared ineligible by the Fonds if these criteria are not met.
35. Candidates preselected to the general programs (V1, V2, V3) can also be preselected to the Québec-Brazil-China-India-Mexico-Wallonia programs. If several demands of scholarships are addressed to the present competition, a single copy of letters and required pieces must be sent in the Fonds.

All countries scholarships (V1, V2, V3)

36. University institutions can recommend four candidates per year for each of the three components of this program.
37. The Trans-Tech Network can recommend four candidates for Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (V2) and Short-term research or professional development scholarships (V3).
38. There are no quotas per country.

Québec-Brazil scholarships (1B, 2B, 3B)

39. University institutions can recommend one candidate per year for each of the three components of this program.
40. The Trans-Tech Network can recommend one candidate for Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (2B) and Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3B).

Québec-China scholarships (1C, 2C, 3C)

41. The China Scholarship Council will recommend at least 10 applicants for each of the competition's three sections. The Council must therefore take Québec's linguistic specificities into account.

Québec-India scholarships (1I, 2I, 3I)

42. University institutions can recommend one candidate per year for each of the three components of this program.
43. The Trans-Tech Network can recommend one candidate for Postdoctoral fellowship scholarships (2I) and Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3I).
44. TERI University will select one doctoral and two short-term research grant holder.

Québec-Mexico scholarships (1M, 2M, 3M)

45. The Mexican DER or CONACYT will recommend at least 10 applicants for each of the competition's three sections. The Council must therefore take Québec's linguistic specificities into account.

Québec-Wallonia scholarships (1W, 3W)

46. University institutions can recommend one candidate per year for each of the two components of this program.
47. The Trans-Tech Network can recommend one candidate for Short-term research or professional development scholarships (3W).

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

48. Preselected candidates are assigned a personal identification number (PIN) and a password. They must then complete an e-form by following the [Instructions for completing an application](#).
49. Only the 2014-2015 competition e-form and the other required documents will be accepted. No appended documents or documents other than those requested are forwarded to the evaluation committee.
50. E-forms are available only in the secure zone of the FRQNT. They must be completed and sent electronically.
51. The deadline for sending scholarship applications is **November 1st, 2013, at midnight** (Quebec Time). Files cannot be updated after the closing date for applications.
52. Students are not required to enclose a printout of the application form with the documents to be forwarded to the Fonds. However, it is suggested that they keep a printed copy of the form for their files.
53. The form may be completed in French or English. Candidates who apply in English must provide a French title for their project.
54. **IMPORTANT: Files that do not contain the information required to determine eligibility or enable evaluation by the deadline for submitting applications are not receivable by the FRQNT.**

Letter of reference and letter of acceptance (lettre d'acceptation)

55. The forms for letters of reference are available at the Fonds web site.
 - Quebec referees are urged to use the letter that can be accessed in the researcher's personal e-file. This letter can be sent to the Fonds electronically.
 - Foreign referees can use letter in PDF format (dynamic) and give it to the candidate in a sealed envelope or mail it directly to the Fonds. Please note that the PDF letter can be printed, signed, scanned and then sent by e-mail.
56. Candidates for the postdoctoral fellowship and the short-term research and professional development scholarships must also provide a letter from their research supervisor. Note that the same supervisor cannot write both the letter of acceptance (lettre d'acceptation) and the letter of reference.

Supporting documents required:

57. Documents submitted in a language other than French or English must be accompanied by a translation of the original
58. **Supporting documents required for all components of the program (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W // V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M // V3, 3B, 3C, 3I, 3M, 3W)**

- A photocopy of the identification page of a valid passport from the candidate's country of origin or of any official document that enables the candidate's citizenship to be determined;
- Transcripts for all university studies, whether completed or not (certificates, diplomas, Bachelors, Master's, Ph.D. etc.). Transcripts for equivalences granted for courses taken at other institutions or for previous programs must be enclosed with the file. For transcripts from outside North America, candidates must enclose a letter explaining the grading system used by the institution concerned. The Fonds de recherche reserves the right to verify with institutions the authenticity of any information given by applicants.
- Two letters of reference completed by the referees;
- 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);
- Copies of the announcement or confirmation letters for all of the scholarships received;
- Submission notice (available in your WEB file after the electronic form has been sent).

59. **Additional documents: Doctoral research component (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W)**

- An attestation from the registrar's office identifying part-time or unregistered sessions;
- Official attestation of interrupted enrolment and, where applicable, a medical certificate indicating the duration of and the reason for the interruption

60. **Additional documents: Postdoctoral fellowship component (V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M)**

- A photocopy of the Ph. D. diploma (or attestation of the first reading of the dissertation). If these documents cannot be provided, a certified copy of the doctoral transcript is required;
- The letter of acceptance (lettre d'acceptation) from the research supervisor.

61. **Additional documents: Short-term research or professional development component (V3, 3B, 3C, 3I, 3M, 3W)**

- The letter of acceptance (lettre d'acceptation) from the research supervisor.

62. **Procedure for submitting the required supporting documents**

Candidates must send their complete file directly to the FRQNT by the deadline for applications, by regular mail postmarked **November 1st, 2013** or by email pbccc@frq.gouv.qc.ca.

63. Should it prove impossible for a candidate to submit all required documents by the prescribed deadline, in order to maintain the admissibility of the file, the candidate must

provide an explanation as to why a given document is missing. The Fonds reserves the right to refuse any requests for extensions that are not sufficiently justified.

Acknowledgement of receipt

64. Candidates will be e-mailed an acknowledgement of receipt in December.

EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Evaluation criteria

65. Applications are evaluated based on the following criteria and weighting:

Criteria	Doctorate	Postdoctorate	Short-term research
Excellence of university record	6 points	4 points	6 points
Aptitude for research and relevant research experience	8 points	6 points	6 points
Scientific quality and interest of the proposed research project and quality of the research environment	6 points	10 points	8 points
TOTAL	20 points	20 points	20 points

Excellence of university record

66. 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

67. The following indicators are used:

- Reason for the application;
- Candidate’s experience and achievements;
- Leadership skills;
- Referees’ letters of evaluation;
- General presentation of the file.

Scientific quality and interest of the research project and of the proposed research environment

68. The following indicators are used:

- Quality of the supervision provided by the environment;
- 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 (doctoral scholarships only).

Evaluation procedure

Role of the Fonds

69. Le Fonds de recherche du Québec – Nature et technologies manages the Merit scholarship program for foreign students for the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec.

Role of multidisciplinary evaluation committees

70. Admissible applications are submitted to evaluation committees composed of four members university professors from all research sector (health, humanities and social sciences, arts and letters, natural sciences, and engineering).

71. The evaluation committees compare the candidacies submitted according to the evaluation criteria in effect. Consequently, these committees are responsible for ranking all of the applications on merit.

Role of the program administrator

72. The Fonds program administrator will prepare the annual call for applications and appoint the evaluation committee. The program administrator will also follow up with applicants, scholarship holders and the people who oversee student scholarships in Québec universities. The administrator will ensure that committee members respect the program assessment criteria and ethical rules that are in effect.

Role of the ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec

73. The ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec determines policy directions and grants the subsidy required for program funding. It is the depository for the annual program report prepared by the FRQNT.

AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

Awarding of scholarships

74. Scholarships are offered on excellence basis.

75. The scholarship holders are selected by multidisciplinary committees formed by professors-researchers.
76. Scholarships are offered according to the available budget.

Announcement of results

77. Results are announced by e-mail at the end of March. Candidates can access the letter of announcement in their application e-file. Each candidate is then informed of his/her ranking and can print the letter of announcement.
78. Contacting members of the committees, who are subject to rules of confidentiality, is strictly prohibited.
79. **Decisions are final and cannot be appealed. There is no review process.**

RULES FOR USING SCHOLARSHIPS

80. The scholarship holders have to conform to all the rules described in detail in the scholarship holders guide.

WARNING: Please note that to be awarded the scholarship, the Fonds has to receive a copy of the student visa (for doctorate student) or a copy of the work permit (for fellowship and internship).

81. At the time candidates receive the scholarship instalments, they must be dedicated full-time to the program of study, research, or professional development for which they were awarded the scholarship.
82. Scholarships are awarded for the duration of the eligibility period, subject to presentation of progress reports deemed satisfactory for each full year of funding in the case of doctoral research (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W) scholarships, and at the midpoint of the funding period in the case of postdoctoral fellowship (V2, 2B, 2C, 2I, 2M).

Period for using scholarships

83. The scholarship period must begin between May 1st, 2014, and January 15th, 2015.
84. Scholarships cannot be carried over from one year. It is therefore not possible to delay the scholarship period to after January 15th, 2015.
85. Doctoral research (V1, 1B, 1C, 1I, 1M, 1W) scholarships are not retroactive and sessions completed before summer 2014 cannot be financed.

Place where scholarship is used

86. Scholarship recipients must attend the Quebec university or the Centre collégial de transfert de technologie (CCTT) at which they were preselected and study or conduct research in Québec.
87. Double doctoral degree programs are not admissible.

Rules regarding concurrent scholarships

Holding several scholarships concurrently is not permitted in the case of:

88. Scholarships granted by government departments or by Canadian or Québec government grant agencies.

Holding several scholarships concurrently is permitted in the case of :

89. Scholarships from the private sector, the government of the scholarship recipient's country of origin, and university scholarships.

Remuneration

90. Regardless of the exceptions relative to the paid work described in the scholarship holders guide, scholarship holders may accept a job that does not represent more than 150 hours per session, provided their supervisor is in agreement and that these activities do not hinder their research program.
91. The salary that students receive from their supervisor for working solely on their research project is considered a scholarship for which concurrency is permitted.

RESPONSABILITIES OF THE FONDS AND OF THE MELS

92. The Fonds is not liable for any direct or indirect injury arising from processing of scholarships, bursaries or other applications, and, without limiting the generality of the above, is not liable for any direct or indirect injury arising from unauthorized disclosure by the Fonds of the information contained in candidates' files. Despite all the precautions taken by the Fonds to protect information that must be kept confidential, certain countries to which information is transmitted may not have security procedures such as asymmetric cryptography or encryption.

Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information

93. The FRQNT is subject to the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information (R.S.Q., c. A-2.1). The data required are collected, used and preserved in accordance with the requirements of this law.
94. Applicants can obtain further information on access procedures, the protection of personal information and the recourse rights provided for in the Act by sending a duly signed letter to or appearing in person before the person responsible at the FRQNT for the Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information.

Responsable de l'accès aux documents et à la protection des renseignements personnels:

Me Mylène Deschênes, B.C.L., LL.B., LL.M.
Directrice, affaires éthiques et juridiques
responsableacces.nt@frq.gouv.qc.ca

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

95. The MELS reserves the right to change the value of scholarships and the program rules described in this document without notice.
96. The granting of scholarships and the respect for the financial commitments by the Fonds is conditional in the payment of the subsidy necessary to finance the program.

CONTACT

Programs administrator:	Michel Garceau
Phone:	418-643-3459, extension 3459
For candidates outside the Québec National Capital Region:	1 888 653-6512, extension 3459
Fax:	418-643-1451
E-mail:	pbее@frq.gouv.qc.ca

The offices of the Fonds are open from Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please note that the Fonds does not accept collect calls.

Applicants who contact the Fonds via e-mail must provide a telephone number at which they can be reached. Priority is given to e-mail enquiries.

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Fonds de recherche du Québec - Nature et technologies
140, Grande Allée Est
Bureau 450
Québec (Québec) G1R 5M8
CANADA