Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship 2019-2020

UPDATE – Personal Leadership Statement Document

The goal of this document was to eliminate systemic barriers to applying for the Vanier CGS, encourage the committee to understand career interruptions as potentially beneficial to a nominee's career path, and better align the Vanier CGS with other prestigious international scholarships.

For documents submitted that do not properly follow the instructions below, staff will return those back to the institution.

Based on the feedback and suggestions provided by selection committee members, the language that will be used for the nomination package has been updated (see below):

This document should present to the committee a clear statement of what challenges and opportunities have shaped your doctoral research.

Before crafting your Personal Leadership Statement, take a moment to review the instructions for the selection committee on evaluating this criterion.

When writing your Personal Leadership Statement, consider the following:

- *Leadership can take many forms. Be sure to outline not just your accomplishments, but how those accomplishments required you to leverage your leadership skills to achieve your goals.*
- *When outlining leadership in volunteerism, excellence in sports or the arts, employment in Leadership positions, and other areas, be sure to* ***outline how you have gone above and beyond the expected norms*** *in order to overcome obstacles, foster others, spearhead change, or otherwise demonstrate leadership.*
    - *The selection committee does not consider volunteerism, excellence in sports or the arts, and employment in leadership positions as demonstrating Leadership in and of themselves.*
- *Define your career goals and trajectory, and outline for the committee the ways in which you have created opportunities for yourself and others, how you have overcome obstacles to your vision, and how your PhD research, knowledge dissemination and mentorship activities will help accomplish those goals.*
- *How have you fostered your ability to lead others, and how have you leveraged that skill?*
- *What led you to doctoral research? How have your life experiences and personal circumstances (which may include administrative responsibilities, maternity/parental leave, childrearing, illness, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma and loss, or health-related family responsibilities) shaped your academic, research, and leadership choices, challenges, and successes?*
    - *In order to assist the committee evaluate the relative merits of your accomplishments, be sure to include in this document information on any hurdles you may have overcome in your life and career. Committee members are entrusted with the responsibility to assess research productivity while taking into account the impacts of career interruptions as well as interpersonal, community, and career responsibilities.*
    - *The VBS asks its adjudication committees to take into consideration circumstances that may have affected the record of research achievement of candidates. In doing so*

selection committee members will be able to more accurately evaluate the productivity of each nominee.

- *How has your life trajectory driven you to share and disseminate your research?*
- *How does your nominating institution provide an environment that nurtures your leadership skills?*

Your academic transcript, your CCV, and your reference letters will provide details of your commitments and accomplishments, but this essay gives you the opportunity to present the overarching narrative about your life, leadership accomplishments, and research goals.