Overview
Graduate Excellence Scholarships (GES) are awarded to (an) entering graduate student(s) who demonstrate outstanding academic performance and/or potential and leadership potential, either through their past achievements, or through their proposed research program and career aspirations. Preference is given to Black, Indigenous, or racialized students.

These guidelines are intended to assist the Graduate Program Coordinators and Assistants with managing the GES applications.

Academic units can award the following:
- Graduate Excellence Scholarship for Emerging Black Leaders; and
- Graduate Excellence Scholarship for Emerging Indigenous Leaders.

Value and Duration
Recipients will receive a one-time award. Award is stackable.

Awards are valued at $2,500 (CAD).

Important Dates
February 15:
- Student deadline to submit the application and letter of support to the Graduate Program Assistant in the department to which they will be applying

March 15:
- Academic unit deadline to forward names of successful nominees to the CSAHS Office of Research and Graduate Studies (csahsadr@uoguelph.ca)
  - Include student name, ID and semester in which the award is to be applied

Application Process
Eligible applicants are required to submit a complete application and provide one letter of support* (max. one page) from a reference who can speak to the applicant’s leadership potential, experience, and qualities. Applications must include a statement of declaration identifying one’s self as Black and/or Indigenous. Completed applications and letters of support are submitted to the applicant’s home department.

* Departmental awards committees will review academic reference letters submitted as part of students’ application packages. Applicants may submit an alternative letter of support should they choose.

Verifying Eligibility
Departments are responsible for ensuring the applicant meets the following eligibility criteria:
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- Be registered, or intend to register, part- or full-time in graduate program within CSAHS;
- Inclusion of statement of declaration;
- Academic excellence/potential; and
- Leadership potential.
Administration of the Award

- Departments may notify students of successful nomination
- Departments will forward successful nominations to the College’s Associate Dean Research and Graduate Studies (ADRGS) for endorsement
- ADRGS Office will inform Student Financial Services to apply award to student accounts
- If GES recipient declines an offer of admission the department may select another eligible applicant
- If there are no eligible applicants within the department to receive a GES, the department will notify the ADRGS Office to redistribute funds within the College

Questions and Support
Please contact the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (csahsadr@uoguelph.ca).