

Graduate Student Scholarship Program Application Guidelines

IMPORTANT DATES

Stage 1:

Release of Request for Application	December 1, 2025
Deadline for Applications (highlighted portions only)	February 17, 2026
Notification of Successful Stage 1 Applicants	April 30, 2026

Stage 2:

Complete remainder of Application for Mitacs - Deadline	TBD
Mitacs Approval	TBD
One year funding begins	TBD

Important Information for Universities:

- This is only a PSSO internal call for them to determine which projects they'd like to fund and proceed with the full Mitacs application.
- Once PSSO's adjudication team determines which projects will move forward, successful applicants will be contacted for next steps, i.e. start the full Mitacs application.
- The timeline for submission of these to Mitacs will be **May 2026** or after, i.e. these will not count towards your university's Accelerate allocation for this year. They will count towards the 2026-27 fiscal year, if successful.
 - Applying to the PSSO internal call does not use any Accelerate units from your current year's allocation (2025-26).

Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario (PSSO), in partnership with Mitacs, is excited to offer its Graduate Student Scholarship Program (herein the 'Program'), as a strategic initiative to encourage young scientists to enter the field of Parkinson's research; and to invest in research and training that offers promise for future work in the area of Parkinson's disease. PSSO provides awards in the amount of up to \$25,000 CDN to outstanding graduate students who meet the eligibility criteria of the Program and who have been approved by the Program's Adjudication Committee.

PSSO invites applications from graduate students committed to conducting Parkinson's research in areas relevant to the treatment of motor and/or non-motor symptoms. This initiative is consistent with, and reflects PSSO's commitment to support research in the Southwestern Ontario region and to foster leadership potential in this area.

PSSO will be the main funding partner, but we encourage students and professors to submit applications that include external community partners (e.g. industry, nonprofit, hospitals, or municipalities).

Projects with a research translation and community impact piece will be looked at favourably.

As always, projects with no additional external community partners (i.e. just PSSO) are still encouraged to apply!

FUNDS AVAILABLE

This Program offers awards up to a maximum of \$25,000 CDN to applicants who have been approved by the Program's Adjudication Committee

ELIGIBILITY

- Applications will be accepted from graduate students who are studying at the master's and/or doctoral levels at an approved university or college located in Southwestern Ontario (see list below).
- Applicants must be enrolled in their program full-time from June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027.

APPROVED UNIVERSITY & COLLEGES

University of Guelph
University of Waterloo
Western University
Wilfrid Laurier University
University of Windsor

Conestoga College
Fanshawe College
Georgian College
Lambton College
St. Clair College

LOCATION OF TRAINING & SUPERVISION

Awards granted under this Program shall be held in trust by the Approved Institution at which the approved supervisor of the successful applicant holds a faculty appointment.

Other training locations may be considered by the Program's Adjudication Committee, provided that the facility is an Approved Institution and the research activities fall within the mandate of the Program.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications must be completed and submitted to PSSO **no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 17, 2026.**

Your application will be considered complete once PSSO has received the following items:

1. Completed (highlighted areas only) and signed Accelerate Research Proposal and Accelerate Project and Participant Information forms
2. Official transcripts
3. Student's curriculum vitae
4. Two reference letters, including one from the student's current/proposed supervisor

Incomplete applications or applications received later than 4:00 p.m. EST on February 17, 2026 will not be considered under any circumstances.

Application materials (Items 1-3 above) are to be submitted electronically as a single pdf file to Shelley Rivard, CEO, Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario, research@pssso.ca. Receipt of application will be confirmed.

Applicants do not need to courier any documents to PSSO; however, we ask that you keep the original signed documents which may be requested in the event that your application is successful in the competition.

Reference Letters (Item 4 above) are to be completed by two sponsors. These sponsors should be current/proposed or recent supervisors from the program in which the applicant's training is/was taken. **Reference Letters are to be completed using the provided Referee Ranking Form and electronically submitted by the sponsor to Shelley Rivard, CEO, Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario, research@psso.ca.** Receipt of letters will be confirmed.

Decisions made by the Program's Adjudication Committee are final and not subject to appeal. Once approval is granted by PSSO, applicants will be notified to complete the remainder of the application (**Stage 2**) and submit to Mitacs for final approval. **Funding will only be awarded to those applications which are successfully adjudicated at both Stage 1 (PSSO) and Stage 2 (Mitacs).**

Scholarship Program Contact:

Shelley Rivard,
CEO
Parkinson Society Southwestern Ontario
4096 Blakie Rd, Suite 123
London, ON N6L 1G4
1-888-851-7376 or 519-652-9437 ext 201
shelley.rivard@psso.ca