

## **Canada announces Prestigious Research Chairs and Scholarship Programs**

The Government of Canada has announced two new research and scholarship programs designed to attract world-class doctoral students and researchers to Canada's universities by offering significant financial awards. The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program, open to both international and Canadian candidates, will offer 500 scholarships per year in the areas of social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, engineering, and health. The second program, the Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) Program, will award 20 Chair holders and their research teams with up to Cdn \$10 million over seven years to establish ambitious research programs at Canadian universities.

The Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships are targeted towards the top domestic and international doctoral students. The scholarships are valued at Cdn \$50,000 per annum for three years. This level of funding will provide successful candidates with significant freedom to pursue doctoral studies. Students must be nominated by a recognized Canadian university to apply for a scholarship, which will be awarded after a competitive process based on academic excellence, research potential and leadership ability. Beginning in June 2009, 166 scholarships will be awarded annually. The application deadline for the first round of CGS is October 15, 2008. For more information on the CGS selection criteria, please visit: [www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca](http://www.vanier-cgs-bes.gc.ca)

The Canada Excellence Research Chairs (CERC) Program aims to attract world-class researchers and develop ambitious research programs in four priority research areas: environmental sciences and technologies, natural resources and energy, health and related life sciences, and information and communication technologies. CERCs will be awarded through a two-stage competitive process. After an initial competition by Canadian universities to establish Chairs in priority research areas, a short list of universities will be invited to nominate up to 40 world-class researchers to compete for the 20 Chairs funded under this program. For a detailed description of CERC, please visit [www.cerc.gc.ca](http://www.cerc.gc.ca).

These two new programs will be administered by Canada's three research granting councils: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Natural Science and Engineering Council (NSERC), and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

The Vanier Graduate Scholarship and CERC Program will offer opportunities for individuals and institutions in India to pursue research with Canadian counterparts in the quest for innovation and academic excellence. They constitute an important extension of Canada's Science and Technology Strategy. Canada and India formalized their science and technology cooperation with the signing of a Canada-India Science and Technology Agreement in 2005. Canada and India are providing funding for cooperative activities conducted under the Agreement. In June 2008, the first round of successful projects was announced with combined funding from Canada and India of

Cdn\$17 million. Canada's International Science and Technology Partnership Program provides seed funding, mobilizing additional funding and S&T expertise from public and private sector participants to the bilateral relationship.

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