2024 CAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award

Call for Nominations

Purpose

The CAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award recognizes Canadian doctoral dissertations that make unusually significant and original contributions to their academic field. They were established in 1994 and are presented annually by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS), with sponsorship support provided by ProQuest. Winners of this award will be granted a $1,500 cash prize, a certificate of recognition, and an opportunity to attend the 62nd Annual CAGS Conference, to be held in Toronto, Ontario, in November 2024.

We invite submissions of dissertations in both official languages.

This year, a first-place winner will be selected from each of the following categories:

1. Engineering, Medical Sciences, and Natural Sciences
2. Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Eligibility

Eligible Dissertations include:

1. A dissertation in any discipline in engineering, medical sciences, and natural sciences completed and accepted by the Graduate School between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.
2. A dissertation in any discipline in the fine arts, humanities, and social sciences completed and accepted by the Graduate School between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.

Note: In interdisciplinary domains or in fields that overlap the two broad areas in which the prizes are given, the Dean of Graduate Studies must decide for which prize it is appropriate to submit the dissertation.

Note: To be eligible, dissertations must be disseminated in full text format via the ProQuest Dissertation & Thesis Global database (PQDT Global), prior to jury selection.

Nomination Procedure

Member institutions may submit two nominations – one for each category of award.

Each nomination must include:

1. A letter of support from the Dean of Graduate Studies, which also includes the following information:
   - A description of the process used to select the nominee;
   - The name and departmental affiliation of the nominee's research supervisor;
   - The name and affiliation of the external examiner;
   - The date of the defence and the date of final acceptance of the dissertation by the Graduate School (the date at which the final copy of the thesis, including all required corrections, is submitted to the graduate school).
   - Note: all applications must be submitted by the Dean of Graduate Studies (or equivalent) or by a representative of their office.
2. A letter from the student's supervisor or program director describing the reasons for the nomination, and why the dissertation constitutes a significant piece of original work.
3. A copy of the external examiner's pre-defence report. The examiner's report must be dated and signed or otherwise authenticated by the Dean of Graduate Studies.
4. An abstract of the dissertation, not exceeding 350 words, written by the candidate in non-technical language (the candidate should also be aware of their nomination for the award and provide the information in items 4 and 5; should this not be possible the reasons must be given in the letter from the dean).
5. An up-to-date c.v. of the nominee.
6. The name and coordinates of the person to contact for questions relating to the nomination.

Submission Period

CAGS is accepting nomination packages for the 2024 CAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award during the period 1 February – 29 March 2024. Complete nomination packages should be submitted electronically in a single file (PDF) to info@cags.ca no later than 4:00 PM (ET) on 29 March 2024. Please send separate files for each award category, and include "CAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award" in the subject line.

Note: the nominees for the 2023 CAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award are currently in the process of adjudication, and the winners will be announced in early 2024.