



Canadian Association  
for Graduate Studies

Association canadienne  
pour les études supérieures

## **2018 CAGS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN ENHANCING THE GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE (GSE AWARD)**

What makes a graduate school great? Many things of course. But now, more than ever, graduate schools can make a difference in their students' lives beyond just granting a degree. They do that by being accessible, supportive and open to new approaches.

The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) is pleased to announce the **2018 CAGS Award for Excellence and Innovation in Enhancing the Graduate Student Experience (GSE Award)**. This award will be given to a CAGS member school in recognition of outstanding administrative and/or programmatic contributions. In 2018 the field is open to any and all contributions.

### *AWARD PROFILE & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS*

The purpose of the award is to encourage, recognize, and reward administrative or programmatic excellence and innovation in enhancing the experience of graduate students and outcomes of graduate education, from recruitment through degree completion. *Any CAGS member institution is eligible.*

The award focuses specifically on co-curricular or administrative innovations and excellence. Applications may relate to any facet of the graduate education process as it pertains to “accessibility”, including programs that address financial stress, mental health, physical limitations, prejudice and violence.

The internal institutional selection processes are the responsibility of the Dean of the Graduate School or comparable official.



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**GUIDELINES FOR THE 2018 CAGS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN ENHANCING THE GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE:**

1. An applicant must be a CAGS member graduate school or a program at a member graduate school. Only one graduate program per institution is eligible to apply. Application materials must include:
  - a. An application letter from the Graduate Dean or comparable official at the institution. The letter should describe the pertinent graduate education innovation that enhances the “retention and degree completion”, as well as the internal process used to select the award applicant.
  - b. A document (500–1500 words) or short video that describes the pertinent graduate education innovation and explains why it is significant. The document should describe the intended measures of success and provide data relevant to those metrics. Testimonials from students or providers are welcome.
  - c. The promotions - Show us how you advertise your program. Got a webpage? A video? Some photographs of a recent event? Send them to us. Judges would like to know how you are getting the word out. If appropriate, we will use your digital files in the profile we run on the CAGS website and in promoting the winner to media and bloggers.
2. All application materials must be sent to the Administrator at CAGS, via [email](mailto:info@cags.ca) at [info@cags.ca](mailto:info@cags.ca) **no later than May 31, 2018**. The *Subject* line of the email message should read: 2018 CAGS Award for Excellence and Innovation in Enhancing the Graduate Student Experience.



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3. Selection will be based upon three criteria (as it pertains to accessibility and constructive support):
  - a. Excellence
  - b. Innovation
  - c. Impact
4. The 2018 award includes a certificate of award and an invitation to participate in a workshop to share ideas, innovations and learning outcomes. Awards will be presented during a ceremony at the 2018 annual conference of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies in Winnipeg.
5. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges selected by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies.
6. Questions about the eligibility requirements or award guidelines should be directed to the Executive Director or Administrator, at CAGS, by phone at (613) 562-0949 or via [email](#) at [info@cags.ca](mailto:info@cags.ca).