Governor General's Gold Medals 2022

For more than 140 years, the [Governor General's Gold Medals](#) have recognized the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada. They are awarded to Master's or doctoral students who have achieved the highest academic standing in their degree programs. For official information, regulations and procedures, visit the [Governor General's Gold Medal](#) website.

The purpose of this program is to:

- Encourage scholarship across Canada and recognize outstanding students
- Maintain a spirit of universality across the country, the Directives were designed to ensure that the medals are awarded based on academic criteria only
- Present the medals on behalf of, and in the name of the Governor General at an appropriate ceremony where possible

The medal is accompanied by a certificate signed by the Governor General, but is not associated with any monetary award.

Eligibility

To be eligible for nomination for a 2022 Gold Medal, a candidate:

Must complete all the requirements of the Master's degree (thesis only) program or the doctoral degree program between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022, inclusive.

Must graduate with high first-class honours and have maintained first-class honours throughout the degree program. Minimum first-class honours at Western is 80%. The assessment of highest academic standing includes an examination of such criteria as:

- Academic excellence in courses, seminar performance.
- Evaluation of the thesis/thesis defense.
- Originality/significance of the research.
- Evaluation of letters of support.
- Appraisal of other degree requirements.
- May be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident or an international student.
- May be considered if the degree was completed on a part-time basis.

Competition Overview

The number of Gold Medals awarded by each university is determined by its full-time equivalent (FTE) graduate enrolment:

- 1 medal: under 2,500 students
- 2 medals: 2,500 to 5,000 students
- 3 medals: more than 5,000 students

Based on the above model, Western University annually awards three Governor General's Gold Medals, to outstanding graduate students who have completed their degree programs with the highest academic standing as determined by the university committee.

Overall academic excellence determines the selection of Western's three Gold Medal recipients each year, regardless of graduate degree level (Master's or doctoral).

Only the most meritorious candidates should be put forward to the Faculty Committee. The nomination files undergo a two-tier adjudication involving an initial review and ranking by the Faculty Committee, and a final review and selection by the SGPS Selection Committee.

How to Apply

Eligible students are nominated by their graduate programs.

A complete application consists of:

- Letters:
  - One nomination support letter from the Graduate or Department Chair (max. two pages), signed on letterhead. The letter must illustrate the candidate's overall excellence (academic, research, engagement, leadership).
  - One nomination support letter from the thesis supervisor (max. two pages), signed on letterhead. The impact of the research must be made clear i.e. the 'knowledge to action' outcomes. Does it have understandable impacts to end users? i.e. industry, practitioners, policy makers, etc.
- Abstract of the thesis (one page). Research must be made clear.
- Current CV of nominee.
- Western academic record.

The nomination package must be submitted to the Faculty Graduate Office no later than **July 15, 2022,** via email: graded@uwo.ca

Timeline

- Spring: Annual call for nominations
- July 15, 2022: Deadline for submission to the graduate office in the Faculty of Education
- August 15, 2022: Deadline to submit ranked nominations to SGPS
  - SGPS will accept nominations for August-completing candidates only up until September 9, 2022
- Late September/early October: SGPS Selection Committee convenes to select the three (3) recipients
- By early October: SGPS submits the names of the new Medalists to the Registrar