

Objective

Established in 1985, the prestigious Richard J. Schmeelk Canada Fellowship has been offered to French and English-speaking Canadian graduate students who wish to broaden their geographic and cultural horizons. The fellowship is available to students holding a bachelor's degree who desire to pursue graduate studies in Canada's second official language.

The Richard J. Schmeelk Canada Fellowship was established by Richard J. Schmeelk as a mean to promote harmony and collaboration between Canada's French and English-speaking communities, and to encourage cultural exchanges. The Schmeelk Canada Foundation offers fellowship recipients a unique opportunity to expand their network and discover diverse opportunities country-wide.

Number, Value and Duration of Fellowship

The Richard J. Schmeelk Fellowship awards 8 scholarships to selected students pursuing fulltime studies at the Master's or Ph.D. levels.

- Master's degree fellowship: \$20,000 per academic year, renewable for a maximum of \$40,000 or up to two years
- PhD degree fellowship: \$10,000 per academic year, renewable for a maximum of \$40,000 or up to four years
- English-speaking students from outside Québec holding a bachelor's degree pursuing a law degree at Université Laval are eligible for a scholarship of \$10,000 per academic year, renewable for a maximum of \$40,000 or up to four years

There is a stacking limit of \$35,000 per year for scholarships and bursaries from all sources. The year is defined as September - August. Scholars must report scholarships received from all sources to their university scholarship office and to the Schmeelk Foundation; payments will be reduced by the value of the other awards held.

- Master's students cannot hold more than \$15,000 other award funding.
- PhD students cannot hold more than \$25,000 in other award funding.

Travel grants may be offered by the Schmeelk Canada Foundation to selected scholars. They must be applied for directly through the Schmeelk Canada Foundation. Visit the website for more information.

Candidate Eligibility Requirements

An eligible applicant must :

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- Be fluent in English and French
- Be 40 years of age or younger
- Have Canadian citizenship or a permanent residency status
- Hold a Bachelor degree and be planning to enter in full time studies towards a Master's or PhD program in the 2024 Fall academic term
- Must not be receiving a salary or special allowance from employer while studying
- Have a minimum cumulative average of 70% (or equivalent) over the last three terms of available marks. Non-academic courses such as career or personal development-related courses will not be considered

Applicants must meet the following criteria based on language and university enrollment:

- Quebec French speaking applicants must be enrolled at The University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario), or at the University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta).
- English speaking applicants from outside Québec must be enrolled at the Université Laval (Quebec City) or at the Université de Montréal (Montreal) and its affiliated schools (Polytechnique Montreal and HEC Montreal)

Field of Study/Program Requirements

- Applicants will need to have been accepted into a master's or PhD program in the fields of Business Administration, Computer Science, Engineering, Actuarial Sciences, Architecture, Political Science or Law*.
- Eligible institutions are:
 - University of Western Ontario
 - University of Calgary
 - Université de Laval
 - Université de Montréal and its affiliated schools (Polytechnique Montréal and HEC Montréal).
- Must attend the academic program in person and reside in the general area where the university is located.
- Be a full-time student in accordance with the requirements of the university and the program of study. To renew the scholarship (September-August), Fellows must confirm that they remain in good standing with their university and their program by submitting a transcript from the last academic year.

*Law studies are only eligible for students attending Université Laval who have already completed a bachelor degree.

Application Process

The student is considered the owner of the application and must be eligible for the scholarship according to the program guidelines. The student will need to add awards@univcan.ca to their safe senders in their junk email options so that they can continue to receive important messages from SPC.

Note: In compliance with Privacy Law, information about a student's application will not be released to anyone who has not been specifically authorized by the student. Third parties (parents, guardians, etc.) may contact SPC on behalf of the student, in person, by phone, or by email, to receive information about the application but only if authorized on the account. To add an individual to the file, the student must complete the "Access to File" section of the application.

1. Submit an online application by visiting <https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/welcome/Schmeelk-EN/>
2. The application, including all supporting documentation, must be submitted to SPC no later than the application deadline of **January 28th, 2024**
3. Documents will be reviewed by SPC staff to ensure all requirements have been met.
4. Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email following processing by SPC.
5. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all supporting documents have been received and accepted by visiting <https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca> to review their scholarship application status.
6. Account maintenance will be conducted online.

Supporting Documentation

The supporting documentation described below is required as part of this application. If any of these documents are not received and accepted, the application will be considered incomplete and will not be evaluated.

1. Personal Statement About Cultural Awareness

Please outline your plan of study in 500 words and include in your description details about how the Schmeelk Fellowship will help you promote cultural awareness, especially between French and English-speaking Canadians, and help you to stimulate exchange between them.

2. Essay about Personal Accomplishments

What were your most significant accomplishments in the last three (3) years? Please describe them in 500 words and the work you undertook to make them happen.

3. Letters of recommendation

Applicants must provide two (2) letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from an academic familiar with their body of work and at least one from a non-academic familiar with your accomplishments. Letters can be in either French or English. Both letters must be provided on official letterheads and should be typed, signed by the author, and submitted in PDF format. Both letters should be dated within 3 months of the application deadline.

4. Transcripts

Provide a transcript of the last three terms of available marks, that is, marks for the period of September 2022 to December 2023. If the applicant was not enrolled during this time, marks for the last three available terms will be accepted. Home school grades will only be accepted if they have been validated through a recognized, independent evaluation process. Transcripts may be uploaded to the online application; however, an original copy may be requested at any time, in order to verify its authenticity.

Selection Process

The selection of scholarship recipients is made by a committee of Canadian university and college representatives chosen by Scholarship Partners Canada (SPC). **The Schmeelk Foundation exercises no influence in the adjudication process.** Once complete, the selection committee's decision is irrevocable.

The Selection Committee reviews the applications based on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of superior leadership through his or her involvement, accomplishments and impact to society and willingness to remain involved.
- Promoting cultural harmony, language immersion, and mutual understanding among French and English-speaking Canadians across diverse regions of Canada
- Academic merit.

The applicants' profile will be evaluated based on the quality and relevance of the application package. The Selection Committee reserves the right to request an interview with any applicant.

Payment

Scholarship payment(s) will only be issued upon completion of the scholarship acceptance process and review and acceptance of all required supporting documentation by SPC.

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- SPC will forward payment of the scholarship to the educational institution on behalf of the Schmeelk Foundation.
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that payment of tuition fees is made within the defined time frame set by the educational institution regardless of the timing of the scholarship payment.
- Payment by the institution to the student will be made in accordance with the normal practice of the educational institution.
- Note that, depending on method of payment, receipt of payment can take 6-8 weeks following the applicant's acceptance of the award.
- Scholarships will be disbursed solely for academic terms attended after the date of being awarded the Fellowship. Scholarships are not "retroactive".
- Disbursements cannot be deferred to later terms if a Fellow exceeds the stacking limit.

Administrator

SPC, a division of Universities Canada, administers the scholarship program on behalf of the Schmeelk Canada Foundation. Universities Canada's mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industry, communities, and institutions in other countries. Universities Canada is associated with leading firms in nearly every sector of the economy through its provision of scholarship services and management of more than 140 different scholarships programs on behalf of corporations, government agencies and private foundations throughout North America. For additional information, please visit www.univcan.ca.

Contact Us

Scholarship
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Fellowship*

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