

Graduate Entrance Research Scholarship (GERS) & BC Graduate Scholarship Program (BCGSP) – FAQ

1. Am I eligible for Graduate Entrance Research Scholarship (GERS) if I'm entering a Master's degree course-based program rather than a thesis or project-based program?

No, the GERS is only available to students enrolling in a **dissertation, thesis or research project-based graduate program**. Students in course-based programs are not eligible for this scholarship. Eligible students will automatically be considered for the award. Criteria for the Graduate Entrance Research Scholarship can be found online here:

<https://selfservice.unbc.ca/BcFinaidSelfService/ssb/awardGuide#!/welcome/7010/awardDetails>

2. What programs are eligible for the BC Graduate Scholarship Program (BCGSP)?

Programs will determine eligibility for this award. The criteria is that the student be enrolled or have intention to enroll in a research-intensive graduate program with an emphasis, but not exclusive focus, on disciplines related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, Entrepreneurship and Design, Indigenous and regional programs. Students who are between 0-12 months of study are automatically considered.

3. Am I eligible for a GERS/BCGS if I am entering a PhD program, after having completed a Master's program at UNBC, or if I am switching graduate programs?

You are eligible to be considered for a GERS/BCGS if you are entering a graduate program for the first time (for example, if you are entering a PhD program after having completed a Master's program at UNBC). If you are switching graduate programs (e.g. from one Master's program to another), you are not eligible to be considered for a GERS/BCGS a second time.

4. If my GPA is slightly below 3.67, is there any flexibility in the eligibility criteria?

Eligibility requires a **Graduate Admission GPA of 3.67 or higher and an alignment with UNBC's research priorities**. Currently, there is **no flexibility** for applicants with GPAs below this threshold.

5. Since there is no application form, how are recipients selected and notified? How do I apply for the award?

Eligible students are **automatically considered** during the graduate admissions review process based on academic merit and alignment with UNBC's research priorities. Successful candidates are notified according to the university's standard award communication timeline, typically via email, or are included in the admission offer. Students who do not receive the award are not notified.

6. Are students automatically considered for GERS/BCGSP once they submit their graduate application?

Yes. Students who meet the eligibility requirements are **automatically considered** for GERS/BCGSP when they submit their application for a Master's or Doctoral program. There is no separate application process for this award.

7. How is the \$17,500 award payment distributed? Is it given as a one-time payment or is it distributed in installments?

The \$17,500 GERS/BCGSP award is **distributed over a 12-month period in monthly installments**. Successful recipients receive the award directly into their **student account each month for a full year** rather than as a lump sum. Students in course-based programs are not eligible, and these are the only programs that permit a Spring break in registration. To maintain your award, ensure you register each semester (link to registration guide:

<https://www.unbc.ca/graduate-administration/registration-guide>.

8. Are there any conditions or expectations for maintaining the award (e.g., minimum GPA, research progress)?

Yes. To maintain eligibility for GERS, recipients must be **enrolled full-time in a dissertation, thesis or project-based graduate program** at UNBC. Maintaining full-time status each semester in an eligible program is required to continue receiving the award.

For the BCGSP, students must be enrolled full-time in their program each semester to continue receiving the award.

9. Can I hold a GERS or BCGSP along with other awards like a Tri-Agency Scholarship?

According to UNBC's **award ceiling policy**, students can receive **up to \$17,500 in internal funding** per academic year. Therefore, students awarded a GERS or BCGSP are **not eligible for additional internal scholarships** in the same year.

However, students are encouraged to apply for **external scholarships** (e.g., SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR), as there is no limit on external funding, and these do not count toward the internal award ceiling. More information about external scholarships and awards can be found here:

<https://www.unbc.ca/office-research-and-innovation/graduate-students-and-postdoctoral-fellows>

10. Can I hold a GERS/BCGS along with a Teaching Assistantship or Research Assistantship?

Yes. Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships are paid positions, and they do not count toward the internal award ceiling.

11. When will I receive the 1st payment?

Students must register in order to receive their payment. Payments are released on Wednesdays. Normally, the first payment would be the first Wednesday of the month after the start of the semester.

12. What if my question is not answered here? Who do I contact?

Grad-scholarships@unbc.ca