



Dalhousie University Indo-Pacific Scholarships and Fellowships for Canadians (IPSFC) Program, 2026-2028

Application Guidelines – April 2026

These guidelines accompany the Call for Applications and outline eligibility, key dates, terms and conditions, required deliverables, and the selection process (including criteria and weighting).

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1. Program overview

The Indo-Pacific Scholarships & Fellowships for Canadians (IPSFC) program is an initiative of Global Affairs Canada, in support of the Government of Canada's [Indo-Pacific Strategy](#). Dalhousie has received institutional funding under the IPSFC to deliver its own program of outgoing scholarships and fellowships over a two-year period, 2026-28.

Dalhousie's IPSFC, managed by the Office of Strategic Engagement, expects to award up to 12 scholarships to graduate students and up to 21 fellowships to faculty and research personnel for research placements of varying duration in eligible Indo-Pacific countries over the life of the project. Up to four Calls for Applications from the Dalhousie community are planned: spring 2026, summer 2026, winter 2027 and summer 2027.

Awards will support placement-related costs such as travel, accommodation, meals/incidentals, insurance, and visa fees, so Dalhousie graduate students, faculty, Postdoctoral Fellows and Research Associates can advance a concrete research project with an Indo-Pacific host partner and deliver defined research outputs.

Awards will support placements focused on the following thematic priority research areas for the Indo-Pacific Strategy:

- Climate change
- Natural (including marine/ocean) resources management
- Sustainable development

2. Award streams and award values (CAD)

Scholarships for graduate students (Master's/PhD):

- 12 weeks: \$12,000
- 24 weeks: \$17,500

Fellowships for faculty and research staff:

- 4 weeks: \$10,000
- 12 weeks: \$15,000
- 24 weeks: \$22,500



3. Key Dates – Calls for Applications:

3.1. Round 1 (Spring 2026)

- Applications open: April 27, 2026
- **Deadline: Friday May 15, 2026 - 12:00 noon Atlantic time** (late submissions cannot be accepted)
- Results (notifications): June 2026
- Placements to begin: July 1 - October 31, 2026

3.2. Round 2 (Summer 2026)

- to be announced

3.3. Round 3 (Winter 2027)

- to be announced

3.4. Round 4 (Summer 2027)

- to be announced

4. Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

4.1 Citizenship / residency

- Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to apply.
- International students and temporary residents are not eligible.

4.2 Host location (Indo-Pacific region)

- For the first Call for Applications in spring 2026, **the host institution must be located in India or the Philippines.**
- Applicants must check [Government of Canada Travel Advice and Advisories](#) before applying and before travel. IPSFC will not fund travel to destinations where Global Affairs Canada advises “Avoid non-essential travel” or “Avoid all travel.”

4.3 Dalhousie affiliation

- Scholarship awardees must be registered Master’s/PhD students during the entire period of the planned research placement.
- Fellowship awardees must hold an active, full-time Dalhousie appointment during the entire period of the planned research placement – either tenured/tenure-track faculty members, Postdoctoral Fellows, or Research Associates.



5. Priority host institutions (Dalhousie partners)

For the first Call for Applications in spring 2026, applicants must propose to partner with the following Dalhousie IPSFC partner institutions in India and the Philippines:

- [Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati \(IIT Tirupati\)](#)
- [Indian Institute of Technology Ropar \(IIT Ropar\)](#)
- [Tamil Nadu Agricultural University \(TNAU\)](#)
- [University of the Philippines Los Baños \(UPLB\)](#)
- [Mariano Marcos State University \(MMSU\)](#)
- [University of the Philippines Visayas \(UPV\)](#)

Priority will be given to applicants whose proposed projects align with the [Tirupati Tri-Institutional Global Innovation Campus](#) based at IIT Tirupati/IISER Tirupati.

6. Required deliverables (conditions of award)

Applicants must demonstrate an ability to meet the required deliverables for their award stream and provide evidence through post-placement reporting.

6.1 Fellowships

By the end of the placement, each Fellow is expected to deliver:

- One guest lecture at the host institution;
- One conference presentation related to the placement activities, at the host institution or another institution in the Indo-Pacific region;
- At least one joint follow-up research project planned with host collaborators;
- At least one joint scholarly publication planned with host collaborators.

In addition, each Fellow is expected to deliver:

- At least one research funding application submitted within one year of completing the placement;
- At least one joint scholarly publication published within two years of completing the placement.

6.2 Scholarships

By the end of the placement, each graduate student Scholar is expected to deliver:

- At least one joint scholarly publication planned with host collaborators.

After the placement:

- At least one joint scholarly publication published within two years of completing the placement.



7. Eligible costs

Award amounts for Scholars and Fellows have been calculated on the basis of placement location and duration, and are intended to meet the full cost of placements at the host institution. No budget is required as part of the award application process; however, please note that the following have been deemed eligible expenses:

- Economy-class airfare (most direct/economical route) and ground transportation in-country;
- Visa and related fees;
- Accommodation (on-campus accommodation for visitors is encouraged where practical and appropriate);
- Meals and incidentals;
- Travel and health insurance (if not already provided by Dalhousie);
- *Fellows only*: travel to one conference within the Indo-Pacific region and associated registration fees (where the Fellow is a designated conference presenter).

Proof of major expenses incurred (e.g. receipts for air tickets, accommodation costs, etc.) will be required with the end-of-placement financial report.

8. Terms and conditions of awards

8.1 Disbursement (90% / 10%)

- 90% of the award value will be provided to awardees prior to departure, following signature of the Letter of Award and completion of the required pre-departure orientation.
- The final 10% of funds will be released after satisfactory completion of end-of-placement reporting (narrative and financial).

8.2 Reporting and surveys

Awardees will be required to undertake the following, to enable data collection by project staff and to meet reporting requirements to the program funder (Global Affairs Canada):

- Pre-departure orientation, including a pre-placement research capacity survey and completion of applicable Dalhousie international travel requirements as referenced in section 8.3;
- End-of-placement narrative and financial reports submitted within two weeks of placement completion;
- Post-placement survey (during the reporting window);
- 12- and 24-month follow-up surveys regarding award deliverables.

8.3 Travel and research security

- Awardees must comply with [Government of Canada Travel Advice and Advisories](#) and applicable Dalhousie travel requirements (for [graduate students](#) and [faculty and research staff](#)).



- Note that some project proposals may require research security review prior to final confirmation of funding.

9. Application package (required documents)

- [Online application form](#);
- **Résumé or short-form curriculum vitae**;
- **Dalhousie letter of support**: a letter on Dalhousie letterhead, describing the planned research placement and intended dates, and signed by the research supervisor (in the case of Scholarship applicants) or Department Chair/Dean (in the case of Fellowship applicants).
- **Host institution letter of support**: a letter on the proposed host institution's letterhead, describing the planned research placement and intended dates, expressing support for the placement and benefits to the host institution. It should be signed by the proposed research supervisor (in the case of Scholarship applicants) or faculty mentor (in the case of Fellowship applicants) at the host institution.

10. Selection process

- Staff in the Office of Strategic Engagement (OSE) will undertake initial screening of applications for eligibility and completeness.
- All eligible applications will be provided to an internal Dalhousie Selection Committee (membership TBD) for review and assessment.
- Eligible applications will be scored using a structured rubric.
- Top-scoring applications will be recommended for awards by the Selection Committee to the Vice-President Strategic Engagement and the Vice-President Research & Innovation, who will jointly confirm final selections and issue Letters of Award.

11. Selection criteria and weighting

Applications will be assessed against the following weighted criteria (100% total):

- **Quality and originality** of proposed research – 35%
- **Host institution fit and collaboration plan** – 15%
- Alignment with **IPSFC thematic priority areas** – 15%
- Planned **deliverables** (outputs and evidence plan) – 15%
- **Sustainability and longer-term impact** (credible pathway to follow-on outcomes) – 10%
- *For spring 2026 applications*, additional scoring weight will be applied to placements proposed for **IIT Tirupati / IISER Tirupati** – 5%
- **Equity** considerations – 5%



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The IPSFC project integrates the Government of Canada's **Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)** framework into the scholarship selection process, to ensure diversity of awardees. All applicants who are represented by the five groups designated under Dalhousie's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy as requiring special consideration (women, racially visible persons, persons with disabilities, Indigenous peoples and 2SLGBTQ+) are therefore invited to self-identify on the application form.

12. Contact

For all questions regarding this Call for Applications, please contact ipsfc@dal.ca.