

The InterSectoral Flood Network of Québec's (RIISQ) Research Excellence Scholarships – 2026–2028 competition

Call for applications for the 6th scholarship program

The InterSectoral Flood Network of Québec (RIISQ) is launching its sixth scholarship program for the period of 2026-2028 with a call for applications for research excellence scholarships. This program aims to support intersectoral training and research in preparedness, adaptation, management and response to systemic risks related to the combination or accumulation of hydrometeorological hazards in Québec.

Objectives

With this call, RIISQ wishes to fund Master's and PhD research projects that seek to better understand systemic risks and their consequences, while considering the diversity of knowledge, know-how and actors involved, as well as the forms of governance they mobilize to respond to the challenge.

Vulnerable populations are the ones most affected by the impacts of climate change. It is therefore essential to take into account the driving forces of inequality and processes of inclusion in the management of climate disruptions at all stages (before, during and after flooding events) to reduce the impact on these populations.

This competition will prioritize research projects that explore collaborative and deliberative governance approaches that cross environments, disciplines and sectors, thus breaking down silos and reducing fragmentation, to increase resilience to floods and climate-related risks in the current economic and geopolitical context.

Description

RIISQ research excellence scholarships will provide financial support to graduate students whose research problem relates to at least one of RIISQ's five research axes (<https://riisq.ca/en/research-axes/>). These scholarships aim to support students in pursuing their research, facilitate data collection, and promote knowledge transfer and mobilization.

Six scholarships will be offered:

- 2 Master's scholarships of \$25,000/year for up to 2 years (total \$50,000 per person);
- 4 PhD scholarships of \$35,000/year of 2 years (total \$70,000 per person). A third year may be added if funds allow.

The scholarship period must fall between **May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2028**, or **September 1, 2026 to August 31, 2028**.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applicants must, **during the scholarship period**:

1. Be enrolled full-time in a Québec university;
2. Be a student member of RIISQ at the time of application (join here: <https://riisq.ca/fr/membres-et-partenaires/>);
3. Be supervised by at least one regular RIISQ member (co-supervision is strongly encouraged and considered an asset for the application);
4. Submit a research project aligned with at least one RIISQ research axis (<https://riisq.ca/en/research-axes/>);
5. Not benefit from another federal or provincial scholarship (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, FRQ) during the RIISQ scholarship period (May 1, 2026, to April 30, 2028, or September 1, 2026, to August 31, 2028). However, the RIISQ scholarship may be requested for only part of the period if the government scholarship has ended;
6. If holding a MITACS internship, adjust RIISQ scholarship before or after the internship;
7. Not be the beneficiary of two RIISQ scholarships in the same program. However, students may receive one scholarship during their Master's degree and another during their doctoral degree.

Application requirements

To apply, please submit:

1. The completed **form** and **project timeline**;
2. A **short CV** (max 2 pages);
3. Your **transcripts** for all university education (unofficial transcripts will be accepted);
4. A **letter from the supervisor (RIISQ member)**: (a) confirming supervision and (b) providing information on the support and guidance that will be offered to the student by their institution and, where applicable, by partners;
5. Ensure that **you are (or become) a student member of RIISQ** at the time of application (join here: <https://riisq.ca/fr/membres-et-partenaires/>).

If the candidate is awarded the scholarship, they agree to:

- Include the following statement in their thesis, dissertation, publications, or presentations:
 - "This research was made possible thanks to the financial contribution of the Réseau Inondations InterSectoriel du Québec (RIISQ), funded by the Fonds de recherche du Québec."
- Submit the project deliverables [see "Deliverables" section].

Send the complete application as one **PDF** file to bourses@riisq.ca by **January 26, 2026, 12:00 PM (EST)**.

Applications may be in French or English. If in English, include a French translation of the title and abstract.

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. No postal submissions will be accepted.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are evaluated on three criteria (see the corresponding sections in the form):

1. PROJECT QUALITY AND SCIENTIFIC MERIT (50 %)

- Relevance and originality of the issue of the project [C1]: 15%
- Connection to the specific theme of the call: **exploration of collaborative and deliberative governance approaches across different environments, disciplines, and sectors that break down silos and fragmentation, thereby increasing resilience to floods and risks related to climate disruptions in the current economic and geopolitical context.**
(**IMPORTANT:** It is possible to submit a project that does not align with this theme, but those that align with this criterion will receive additional points) [C1]: 10%
- Project's alignment with RIISQ's research axes and the FRQ's sectors [C1]: 10%
- Relevance and clarity of objectives [C2], adequacy of methodology, and project feasibility [C3]: 10%
- Project timeline [C5]: 5%

2. EXCELLENCE OF THE CANDIDATE'S RECORD AND SUPERVISION (25 %)

- Excellence of the candidate's record, expertise, and experience [CV and transcripts]: 15%
- Capacity of the university to provide inclusive and equitable supervision **and** involvement of the supervisor in the student's training during the scholarship period [Letter of support]: 10%

3. PRACTICAL OUTCOMES FOR QUÉBEC (25 %)

- Expected impacts of the project on flood management in Québec and its potential impact [C4]: 15%
- Direct or indirect practical contributions to the Québec society [C4]: 10%

All submitted applications are reviewed by an evaluation committee composed of at least three individuals appointed by RIISQ. A member of RIISQ's scientific committee will act as moderator of the evaluation committee. The RIISQ will notify applicants of its decision by email. The list of scholarship recipients will be posted on the RIISQ website.

Deliverables

No later than two months after receiving the scholarship, the student agrees to submit an **information sheet** summarizing the research project.

At the end of the scholarship period, the student agrees to:

1. Submit a **written report** no later than two (2) months after the end of the scholarship period. This report shall describe the progress of the project;
2. Submit a **financial report** to the RIISQ (**by the supervisor**) two (2) months after the end of the scholarship period;
3. **Update the information sheet** for their project, presenting the highlights of their project, and provide a link to the freely accessible PDF version of their thesis or dissertation, as well as a list of publications, if applicable.

Scolarship recipients will be invited to present the results of their projects in a **webinar** or at events (e.g., conferences or seminars) organized by RIISQ.

IMPORTANT DATES :

- Launch: November 26, 2025
- Submission deadline: January 26, 2026, 12:00 PM (EST)
- Evaluation: February–March 2026
- Results: April 2026
- Scholarship period: May 2026 to April 2028 **or** September 2026 to August 2028