7th Scholarship Program of the Quebec Intersectoral Flood Network (RIISQ)

Doctoral Research Excellence Scholarships

2027–2029 Competition

The Quebec Intersectoral Flood Network (RIISQ) is launching its seventh scholarship program for the 2027–2029 period with a call for applications for research excellence scholarships. This program aims to support intersectoral training and research on preparedness, adaptation, management, and response to risks associated with flooding and other hydrometeorological hazards in Quebec. From a systemic perspective, these risks are considered the result of complex interactions among environmental, social, economic, territorial, and institutional factors that influence communities' exposure, vulnerability, and resilience (Renn et al., 2022).

Objective

Through this call, RIISQ seeks to support doctoral research projects that contribute to a better understanding of floods, their causes, and their consequences in Quebec. A systemic approach to risk differs from viewing risks as isolated phenomena by emphasizing their nonlinear and interdependent nature and their capacity to generate cascading effects across sectors, territories, and scales of intervention (Renn et al., 2022). Proposed projects must align, in whole or in part, with this systemic risk approach in order to move beyond the exclusive study of the hazard and examine interactions between natural processes and the social, economic, institutional, and territorial factors that shape risks; preparedness, adaptation, response, and recovery capacities; and the conceptual and theoretical frameworks that support a better understanding of these dynamics (Sillmann et al., 2022; Sillmann et al., 2025).

Description

The program welcomes a diversity of issues, theoretical and methodological approaches, disciplines, and forms of knowledge consistent with at least one of RIISQ's five research areas. It aims to support the development of relevant scientific knowledge and its mobilization among communities involved in managing flood-related risks in Quebec.

Depending on their research question, projects may consider the social, health, territorial, institutional, and environmental dimensions of risk, as well as issues related to inequality, vulnerability, inclusion, governance, and the diversity of knowledge, ways of knowing, and stakeholders involved.

RIISQ research excellence scholarships provide financial assistance to graduate students whose research topic relates to at least one of its five (5) research areas (https://riisq.ca/fr/axes-de-recherche-2/). These scholarships will support students in pursuing their research, facilitate data collection, and promote the transfer and mobilization of the knowledge gained.

Scholarship value and duration

As part of the competition, **three scholarships** will be offered at the doctoral level:

3 doctoral scholarships of **$35,000/year** for **two years** (total of $70,000/person). A possible extension for a third year depends on the availability of funding.

The maximum period covered by the scholarship must be May 2027 to April 2029 **or** September 2027 to August 2029.

Deadline

Applications must be submitted no later than January 15, 2027, at 12:00 noon (EST).

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, applicants must meet all requirements set out in the regulations **throughout the period covered by the scholarship**, including:

1. Be enrolled full-time in a doctoral program at a Quebec university;
2. Be a RIISQ student member at the time the application is submitted (to become a member: https://riisq.ca/fr/membres-et-partenaires/);
3. Be supervised by at least one regular RIISQ member (co-supervision is strongly encouraged and will be considered an asset in the application);
4. Present a project concerning Quebec's geographic environment and other geographic settings;
5. The document may be written in French or English;
6. Present a research project that aligns with at least one of RIISQ's research areas (https://riisq.ca/fr/axes-de-recherche-2/);
7. During the period covered by the scholarship (May 2027 to April 2029 or September 2027 to August 2029), not hold another scholarship from a federal or provincial funding agency: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), or Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ). However, the RIISQ scholarship may be requested for only part of the period if the government scholarship has ended by then;
8. If the student receives a MITACS internship award, the RIISQ scholarship must be deferred until before or after the internship;

9. Not receive two RIISQ excellence scholarships during the same program of study. A student may, however, receive one scholarship during a master's program and another during a doctoral program.

Submitting a scholarship application

To submit an application, the student must:

1. Complete the form and attach the project timeline;
2. Attach an **abridged CV** (maximum 2 pages);
3. Attach a copy of **transcripts** for the entire university record (the transcript does not need to be official; it may be an uncertified copy issued by the institution);
4. Attach a **letter from the supervisor, who must be a RIISQ member**, which must, among other things: (a) confirm supervision and (b) provide information on the support and supervision arrangements that will be offered to the student by the institution and, where applicable, by partners;
5. Ensure that they **are (or become) a RIISQ student member** when the application is submitted (visit https://riisq.ca/fr/membres-et-partenaires/).

Submit the project deliverables [see "Deliverables" section].

Period covered by the scholarship: May 2027 to April 2029 **or** September 2027 to August 2029.

The application may be written in French or English. However, if it is submitted in English, a French translation of the project title and abstract must be included.

Any incomplete or late application will not be considered. No postal submissions will be accepted.

The complete application package must be emailed **AS A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT** to bourses@riisq.ca no later than **January 15, 2027, at 12:00 noon (EST)**.

Application evaluation

Applications are evaluated and ranked based on three criteria (see the corresponding sections of the form):

1. PROJECT QUALITY AND SCIENTIFIC MERIT (50%)
• Relevance, clarity, and justification of the research problem **[C1]: 15%** • Originality of the project and expected contribution to the advancement of knowledge **[C1]: 10%** • Alignment of the project with RIISQ research areas and FRQ sectors **[C1]: 10%** • Relevance and clarity of the objectives **[C2]**; appropriateness of the methodology in relation to the objectives; and project feasibility **[C3 and C5]: 10%**

- Project timeline **[C5]: 5%**

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

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

3. BENEFITS FOR PRACTICE SETTINGS AND FOR QUEBEC (25%)

- Expected benefits of the project for flood management in Quebec and for addressing its consequences **[C4]: 15%**
- Direct or indirect contributions to practice settings and Quebec society **[C4]: 10%**

All submitted applications will be evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of at least three people appointed by RIISQ. A member of the RIISQ Scientific Committee will act as moderator of the evaluation committee. RIISQ will inform 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.

During and at the end of the funding period, the student agrees to:

- **Produce two (2) written reports** during the funding period and two (2) specific financial reports. The first mid-term report and its financial report must be submitted no later than two (2) months after the end of the first year of the scholarship period. The final report and its financial report must be submitted no later than two (2) months after the end of the scholarship period.
- **Update the project information sheet** to present the study's highlights, then provide a link to the open-access PDF version of the student's thesis or dissertation, as well as a list of resulting publications, if applicable.

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

For every written report and oral presentation related to the RIISQ-funded project, recipients are asked to acknowledge RIISQ and FRQ and include the RIISQ and FRQ logos.

The following statement must be included in the acknowledgements section of theses, dissertations, and scientific articles:

"The author(s) thank RIISQ (Quebec Intersectoral Flood Network) and its funding agency, FRQ (Fonds de recherche du Québec), for the financial support that made this research project possible in whole or in part. RIISQ is a research network focused on managing flood-related risks in a changing climate and has been funded by FRQ since 2018 (*see* https://doi.org/10.69777/266117)."

Key dates

- Launch of the 2026–2028 competition: October 30, 2026
- Application deadline: January 15, 2027, at 12:00 noon (EST)
- Evaluation: February–March 2027
- Announcement of results: April 2027.

Period covered by the scholarship: May 2027 to April 2029 **or** September 2027 to August 2029.

For additional information, write to: ***bourses@riisq.ca***