

NSERC and MITACS Partner on Industrial Postgraduate Scholarships

Burnaby, B.C. – October 27, 2006 – MITACS, a Network of Centres of Excellence (NCE) that conducts research in the mathematical sciences, has partnered with NSERC to offer the new NSERC/MITACS Scholarship. This scholarship combines the best features of the NSERC Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS) program and the MITACS Internship Program and offers more funding than either award alone.

The NSERC Industrial Postgraduate Scholarships provide financial support for highly qualified science and engineering students. The support allows these students to gain research experience in industry while undertaking advanced studies in Canada. The scholarships are aimed at encouraging students to consider research careers in industry where they will be able to contribute to strengthening Canadian innovation.

Founded in 2003, the MITACS Internship Program connects organizations with university researchers who have advanced levels of expertise in areas that address vital research opportunities. These connections provide graduate students with the opportunity to apply their research knowledge to actual business challenges and help partners to utilize new tools and technologies to address advanced scientific issues that are vital to an organization's success

The joint NSERC/MITACS Scholarship is valued at \$30,000 annually of which NSERC contributes \$15,000. MITACS and an industry partner each contribute an additional \$7,500. This funding is available for up to two years at the Master's level or up to three years at the doctoral level.

About MITACS

MITACS (www.mitacs.ca) is a Network of Centres of Excellence in the mathematical sciences hosted by Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. The only Canadian organization of its kind, it focuses on developing mathematical solutions in five of the economy's fastest growing sectors: biomedical and health, environment and natural resources, information processing, risk and finance and communication, networks and security. Each MITACS research project partners academic scientists and their graduate students from universities across the country with Canadian organizations. For more information about the MITACS Internship Program, visit www.mitacsinternships.ca.

About NSERC

NSERC, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, is a federal agency whose role is to make investments in people, discovery and innovation for the benefit of all Canadians. The agency supports some 22,000 university students and postdoctoral fellows in their advanced studies. NSERC promotes discovery by funding more than 10,000 university professors every year and fosters innovation by encouraging more than 800 Canadian companies to participate and invest in university research projects. For more information, visit www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca.

About NCE

The NCE is comprised of 24 pan-Canadian research networks involving 830 companies, 266 public sector departments and agencies, 51 hospitals, 194 Canadian and foreign universities and more than 365 other organizations from Canada and abroad. Last year alone they collectively invested \$71 million in cash and in-kind contributions.

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