

---

So you are thinking about grad school ...  
... you should start by applying for external awards now

David Lie  
Associate Chair – Graduate Studies



# Outline

---

- Graduate school
- The ECE@UT graduate program
- The NSERC scholarship
- The OGS scholarship
- Vanier Scholarship



# Graduate School

---

- Graduate school allows you to obtain specialized knowledge in an area of study
  - You like to have and possibly create such knowledge
  - You would like a job that requires such knowledge
- Two main degrees: Masters and Ph.D.
  - Take classes
  - Pursue research in your area of study
- Graduate school has its rewards
  - Second/Third degree
  - Personal satisfaction
  - Opens up opportunities



# Graduate School – Cont'd

---

- But also requires a strong commitment
  - 20-24 months for Masters
  - 4-5 years for Ph.D.
- Financial implications
  - Expenses and loss of income
  - Offset by higher starting salaries
- Financial support is available
  - Scholarships (e.g.: NSERC/OGS)
  - Research and Teaching assistantships
  - Guaranteed support packages

It is an important decision that only you can make



# The ECE Graduate Program

---

- We are the largest ECE department in Canada
  - Great breadth and critical mass
  - Best in research in Canada
  - Among the top 10 in research in North America
  - Research budget: ~ \$16M per year
- Our Faculty members are leaders in their fields
- ECE is a great place to learn and to generate ideas!
- Guaranteed funding packages
  - ~ \$23K/year for Masters for up to 2 years
  - ~ \$23K/year for Ph.D. for up to 4 years



# The ECE Graduate Program – Cont'd

---

- Apply for admission using an online system at:
  - <https://apply.sgs.utoronto.ca>
- Deadline is in early Jan
  - Please monitor our graduate web pages at [www.ece.utoronto.ca](http://www.ece.utoronto.ca) for updated information
- Talk to your profs; form an interest in one or two areas



# The NSERC Scholarship

---

- Provides financial support for high-caliber students engaged in Masters or Ph.D. level programs in sciences or engineering
- 2011/2012 levels of support:
  - \$17,300 for Masters
  - \$21,000 for Ph.D.
  - Department tops the award by ~\$6,300
- Held for a maximum of 4 years (Masters and Ph.D.), subject to satisfactory performance
  - 1 year in Masters
  - 3 years in Ph.D.



# NSERC Eligibility

---

- To apply, you must:
  - **Be Canadian citizens or a permanent residents of Canada**
  - Hold (or is expected to hold at the time of the award) a degree in science or engineering from a university whose standing is acceptable to NSERC
  - Intend to pursue in the following year full-time graduate studies and research at the master's or doctoral level in an eligible program
  - **Have an average of A- (80-84 at UofT) in each of the last two completed years of study**
- More information:
  - [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/BellandPostgrad-BelletSuperieures_eng.asp)





# Applying for NSERC

---

1. Register and fill in application online:  
[https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc\\_web/nserc\\_login\\_e.htm](https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm)
  2. Designate “Darlene Gorzo” [darlene.gorzo@utoronto.ca](mailto:darlene.gorzo@utoronto.ca) as the person responsible for uploading transcripts to the NSERC website
  3. Submit one set of original official paper transcripts to the ECE Graduate Office (SF1107)
  4. Download completed forms as pdf files from website and email to [darlene.gorzo@utoronto.ca](mailto:darlene.gorzo@utoronto.ca)
  5. Ask 2 reference letter writers to submit reports as pdf files to [darlene.gorzo@utoronto.ca](mailto:darlene.gorzo@utoronto.ca)
- **Deadline for all steps is September 30<sup>th</sup>!**
  - Information available at:
    - <http://www.ece.utoronto.ca/grad-nserc-ogs/>



# Selection Process

---

1. Applications are ranked internally by the ECE department about 50 are sent to a university-wide competition
2. University ranks applications from departments across campus, top XX are forwarded to NSERC
3. NSERC holds a national competition from applicants submitted from universities
4. Notification of decisions by March 31, 2013



# The OGS Scholarship

---

- Provides support for excellent students pursuing graduate studies at an Ontario university
- Offers \$15000 per year; held for one year only
  - Supervisor tops by ~\$8,400 Masters/\$9,800 PhD
- Eligibility:
  - Be enrolled or plan to enroll in one of Ontario's approved graduate programs
  - Be a Canadian Citizen, a permanent resident, or be in Canada on a student authorization/study permit
  - An overall average of at least A- (80-84 at UofT) over the last 20 courses



# Applying to OGS

---

- The OGS competition is being restructured for 2013-14. Eligibility requirements and application procedures will be posted on the SGS website very soon:
  - <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/informationfor/students/money/support/provincial.htm#OGS>
- Application should be similar to NSERC procedure in general



# Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships

---

- Very competitive scholarships for top PhD students, 50K/year for 3 years
  - ECE department can only submit **2** nominees!
- Eligibility requirements:
  - Students must be nominated by the university
  - Must be pursuing a doctoral degree
  - Have completed no more than the first 20 months of PhD
  - Must have A+ average (90%+)
- Application Process:
  1. Apply online here  
<http://www.vanier.gc.ca/eng/home-accueil.aspx>
  2. Submit one set of original official paper transcripts to the ECE Graduate Office (SF1107)
  3. **Deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>!**



# Getting good Reference Letters

---

- Ideally a professor/supervisor who knows you well:
  - Summer internship supervisor
  - Design/Thesis project supervisor
  - A class you did well in, asked lots of questions
- Try to arrange a short meeting with the professor to discuss your goals and interests for graduate school
  - Do some preparation and actually know what is going on in that area, what are the key problems you want to work on?
  - Bring your application materials (especially the statement) and have them ready
  - Bring a copy of your transcript



# Final Words

---

- Spend time on the proposed research:
  - Do your background research
  - Articulate:
    - Why you think this field is worth studying
    - What you think are the critical problems in the field worth working on and why
    - How your past experiences make you a good candidate for working in this field
  - Proof read and polish the language
- Good luck!

