The 1967 Science Scholarship Program was introduced in 1967 to celebrate the centennial of Canadian Confederation and the fiftieth anniversary of the National Research Council. These awards are intended to encourage young men and women of outstanding intellectual promise to pursue postgraduate studies and research leading to doctorate degrees. They are also meant to stimulate exchanges of students between different cultural and geographical regions in Canada. Scholars must select for graduate studies universities other than those from which their first degrees were obtained.

Postgraduate scholarships in science librarianship and documentation were introduced in 1967 with the object of encouraging graduates with degrees in science or engineering to become science librarians, documentalists or science-information specialists in an effort to meet the demand by universities, research laboratories, industrial firms and related organizations for properly-qualified persons in these fields.

NRC also offers awards for the support of research carried out by staff members of Canadian universities. The fields of science supported through National Research Council awards to university researchers include agriculture, astronomy, biology, chemistry, computing and information science, engineering, geography (physical), geology, geophysics, mathematics, metallurgy, meteorology, oceanography and limnology, physics, space research and certain areas of psychology.

Under its program of awards to university staff, the National Research Council offers the following types of grant:

University grants

Operating Grants, awarded on an annual or three-year basis to individual researchers at Canadian universities as contributions towards the normal operating costs of their research projects. Grant funds may be used to employ assistants, to purchase minor equipment, materials and supplies, and to help defray the costs of computing services, field trips and other limited travel.

Special Computing Grants, awarded at the discretion of NRC to researchers whose computing requirements justify expenditures that are large in comparison with other operating expenses. Special computing grants are intended to pay for machine-time only, and computing costs will, in most cases, be included as an expenditure for payment from operating grant funds.

Equipment Grants, provided to assist in the purchase of special research equipment or installations (either single items or parts that, when assembled, form a unit) costing in excess of \$5,000.

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