



# GUIDELINES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

## Application - Arbour Scholarship

### Doctorate

#### Eligibility

The PhD Arbour Scholarship competition is open to full-time students registered in selected PhD programs at one of the following universities that partner with the Arbour Foundation: Bishop's University, Concordia University, École de technologie supérieure, HEC Montréal, Institut national de la recherche scientifique, McGill University, Polytechnique Montréal, Université de Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke, Université du Québec à Montréal, and Université Laval. In accordance to its mission, the Arbour Foundation only recognizes programs from one of the following domains – Engineering, Computer Science, Administration. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact their university to ensure their PhD/DBA program qualifies for this competition, as applicable programs vary from one institution to another.

To be eligible, **students must:**

- have completed **at least 2 full-time semesters in a Québec university** in the past 12 months\*. These 2 full-time semesters do not necessarily have to be in the same field as the degree currently sought out;
- be **enrolled full time** in a PhD or DBA program (during the fall and winter semesters following the scholarship application);
- have a university average grade of **at least 75% (cumulative average of the last diploma obtained or of the last session(s) of the current diploma)**;

Students are eligible to receive a scholarship if they have at least two full semesters remaining in their program at the time of the first scholarship instalment (one fall and one winter semesters).

\*NOTE: if the university has granted a study leave (for maternity or illness), the student must contact the university to determine if he or she is still eligible for the scholarship.

## Selection Criteria

Academic performance (min 75%)	45%
Valid and recognized financial need *	25%
Research skills and/or ability to apply prior learning and skills	20%
Social involvement / leadership	10%

\* Financial need is a key criterion for the Arbour Foundation. The Foundation recognizes that each case is unique and is committed to evaluating each bursary application taking into account the particular situation of each student. **However, it is important to note that a student receiving a scholarship of \$35,000 or more for the year for which he or she is applying for an Arbour scholarship will have his or her application rejected.**

A 30% quota is imposed on each university as to the number of international student applications that may be forwarded to the Foundation's selection committee, i.e., approximately one-third of all applications submitted (all types of scholarships combined).

## Instructions to submit an application

A complete application file must include:

- The completed application form for the Arbour scholarship including consent for the privacy policy (downloaded from the Foundation's website and completed in a web browser or with Acrobat Reader – pay attention to the maximum number of words indicated);
- The following supporting documents:
  - ✓ All **official** university transcripts in French, English or Spanish
  - ✓ Letter of support from an **academic sponsor** (details in the Letters of support section)
  - ✓ Letter of support from a **non-academic sponsor**, with no family ties to the candidate (details in the Letters of support section)
  - ✓ CV
  - ✓ List of publications (if applicable)

**Applications must be submitted directly to the university where the candidate is registered.** Each university sets its own procedures and deadlines. **It is the student's responsibility to get the proper information.** Applications sent directly to the Foundation by candidates will not be accepted nor considered. This applies to the application form, transcripts, letters of support as well as any other document sent separately to the Foundation.

Finalists are selected by their universities among all the applications received. Each university then forwards the best application files to the Foundation.

The Foundation's selection committees then select the candidates who will be invited for an interview amongst all the forwarded files. Any finalist not invited will be notified by the Foundation.

Selected finalists will be invited to an in-person interview (or virtual interview in the event of 'force majeure') that will take place between mid-August and end of August. This year, individual interviews will take place **between August 18 and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025** inclusively. A detailed schedule will be made available in due time. Candidates are required to make themselves available for this period. If you are unable to attend the interview in person, your request must be justified in writing. It will be evaluated by the Arbour Foundation, which, if it deems it admissible, may allow the interview to take place virtually.

After all the finalists have been interviewed, the Foundation will select the ones who will receive an Arbour scholarship. **Not all finalists will receive a scholarship.** By mid-September, all finalists will be informed of the decision of the selection committees as to whether or not they are awarded a scholarship.

## **Instructions for the letters of support**

Two letters of support must be included in the application file:

- The first letter of support must be from an academic sponsor who will highlight the candidate's academic performance as a mandatory theme and, as an optional theme, their social involvement in an academic environment.
- The second letter of support will come from a non-academic sponsor who will discuss the candidate's merits outside the academic community.

All letters of support must be on the official letterhead of the organization (university, association, company) and signed by the sponsor with a mention of their title and contact information.

## **Value of scholarship and disbursement**

The value of the PhD Arbour scholarship is \$30,000. Scholarships are disbursed by your university in two equal instalments – one in the fall semester and the second in the winter semester – upon presentation of a full-time registration proof.

PhD Arbour scholarships are renewable once. See the guidelines for renewals for more details.

## **Important note for potential scholarship recipients who speak little or no French**

The mission of the Arbour Foundation is first and foremost to contribute to Québec's economic growth through education. For this reason, it is important for international and Canadian students with no or little French skills to acquire this competence to fully participate in Québec's society and economy. The Arbour Foundation is currently working to facilitate their integration with a mentoring program, networking events and various other activities geared towards the same goal.

Since French is a key element in Quebec's cultural integration, the Arbour Foundation wishes to encourage all the students with little or no knowledge of the language to take French lessons on a regular basis. To this end, the Arbour Foundation will offer French-language learning courses to selected scholars.

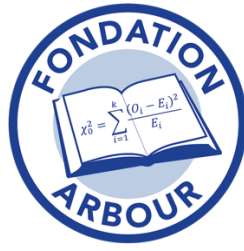
The following protocol applies to new and returning scholars:

- The Arbour selection committees evaluate the French skills of each candidate during the selection interview.
- Candidates getting a scholarship whose level of French is deemed inadequate are personally notified by the Arbour Foundation. They receive the first instalment of their scholarship in the fall semester (October), but the second instalment (February) is conditional to attending French lessons AND receiving a positive evaluation from their instructors.
- The same conditions apply for renewal applications for a second year.
- Students are encouraged to participate in weekly lessons during both semesters (fall and winter).
- There is no charge for these lessons, as they are fully subsidized by the Arbour Foundation.
- Training is tailored to the needs of each student and is offered on an individual basis. Lessons can take place at different times of the week, depending on the agreement between the student and the instructor;
- There is no written exam, but simply an ongoing evaluation by the instructors. This evaluation is sent to the Arbour Foundation at the end of December of the current year and again at the end of June of the following year. If the December evaluation is positive, the second installment (February) of the scholarship is disbursed as planned. If the June evaluation is positive and, if it is possible for the student - according to the rules established

by the Arbour Foundation - to apply for a one-year renewal of the scholarship, then the student may submit his application (Note: a positive evaluation does not grant automatic renewal; the regular selection criteria will also be applied by the Arbour selection committees).

- Should the evaluation be negative, the Arbour Foundation reserves the right to cancel the second instalment (February) and may not allow a student to submit a renewal application. In the event the payment of the second part of the scholarship is cancelled, the student and his or her home university will be notified as soon as possible. It should be noted that the Arbour Foundation makes no judgment on the improvement of the scholar's level of French and relies exclusively on the recommendation from the French instructor.

**\*PLEASE NOTE\*:** If the student decides to take a French course at his home university (or any other university in Quebec), he or she will not be required to take the French lessons offered through the Arbour Foundation. The second installment will therefore be conditional on successfully completing the French course and submitting his/her transcript to the Arbour Foundation upon receipt of his/her grade for the course.



## PRIVACY AGREEMENT CONSENT FORM ARBOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

### PREAMBLE

The Arbour Foundation ("the Foundation") awards Arbour scholarships ("scholarships") to MBA, MSc and PhD students in engineering, computer science and business administration at the following Quebec universities: Bishop's University, Concordia University, École de technologie supérieure, HEC Montréal, Institut national de recherche scientifique, McGill University, Polytechnique Montréal, Université de Montréal, Université de Sherbrooke, Université du Québec à Montréal and Université Laval. In accordance with a partnership agreement with these universities, they administer the scholarship competition and submit the best candidates selected by a peer review committee to the Foundation. The personal information of these candidates is therefore transmitted to the Foundation, which complies with all applicable laws regarding the use and retention of personal information.

Please address any questions, concerns, or complaints regarding the Foundation's compliance with these laws to the President and CEO by e-mail at [info@fondationarbour.ca](mailto:info@fondationarbour.ca), by telephone at 514-844-5990, or by mail at 1434 Sherbrooke Street West, Suite 300, Montreal, Québec, H3G 1K4.

By submitting this document, you consent to the use and retention of your personal information. Please take the time to carefully read the details set out below.

### CONSENT

Your personal information is collected for the processing and evaluation of scholarship applications, interviews, selection of scholars, and administration of their files, as well as the administration and the payment of the scholarships. This information is provided by you, your referees or the institutions as per your application. The selection process requires that your information be disclosed to members of the Arbour Selection Committee and to any other person who may require it for audit, evaluation, selection, administrative or mentoring purposes.

In addition, your personal information may be used in the future to contact you to follow up on your scholarship application or to solicit your support for the Foundation's planned or other giving program. Your name, field of study and/or research topic may also appear in our annual report or any other communication related to the announcement of the scholarship competition results in which you are participating.

Your personal information will also be used to compile statistical data. The Foundation will securely retain the personal information of candidates selected by the universities and whose files they have received. The Foundation shall not to share or sell this information for any other purpose.

No other use or disclosure of your personal information will be made by the Foundation, unless required or permitted by law or authorized by you. The personal information collected as part of this application is limited to that which is necessary for the purposes of evaluating your application and for the purposes indicated in this document.

You may consult your personal information in your file by contacting the Foundation's administration.

You may withdraw your consent at any time. If this withdrawal takes effect during your period of eligibility for the scholarship, your eligibility and our ability to administer payments may be reduced or terminated (i.e., you may not be awarded the award or its payment may be cancelled after you have withdrawn your consent).

By signing and attaching this consent form to your application, you agree to the collection, use, disclosure and retention of your personal information for the above-mentioned purposes.

Date:

Applicant's signature:

# Application Form

## Arbour Scholarship - Doctorate



### 1. CANDIDATE'S INFORMATION

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Code \_\_\_\_\_ University ID # \_\_\_\_\_

University \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Country of origin \_\_\_\_\_ Canadian Citizen\* ☐

Permanent Resident\* ☐ since \_\_\_\_\_

Study Permit\* ☐ since \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Mother tongue \_\_\_\_\_

Other language(s) spoken \_\_\_\_\_

Level of French \*\*      None ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced ☐

☐ I agree to have my CV forwarded to the Foundation's partner companies and organizations and I agree to be contacted by these organizations so that they can offer me a professional opportunity (internship or job).

**\* Attach a copy of your birth certificate OR passport OR citizenship card OR permanent resident card OR study permit.**

**\*\* The Arbour Foundation's French policy is detailed in the guidelines. Please read it carefully.**



Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. GUIDELINES

I have read and understood the guidelines for the Arbour scholarship program, more specifically:

- ☐ all eligibility criteria;
- ☐ if the Arbour Foundation's selection committees judge my level of French to be insufficient, I will have to take French training provided by *the Fondation pour la langue française*. The second instalment of my scholarship (February) will be conditional upon confirmation from this institution that I have attended the training and that I have received a positive assessment of my progress, as described in the guidelines.

## 3. AREA OF STUDY

Indicate in which of the following areas supported by the mission of the Arbour Foundation you study in:

- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Computer Science (including Software/Computer Engineering)
- ☐ Administration

## 4. TRANSCRIPTS

You must have a minimum average of 75% or the equivalent in your most recent studies. This is an essential element of your application to the Arbour scholarship program. Please attach **all** your university transcripts (in English, French, Spanish only).

My overall average is \_\_\_\_\_ on 100.

Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

**College/CEGEP**

Name of Institution

## Program

# Diploma

Year

## University Studies - Undergraduate

Name of Institution

## Program

# Diploma

Year

## University Studies – Master's

Name of Institution

## Program

# Diploma

Year

## Other studies completed

Name of Institution

## Program

# Diploma

Year

## Other studies completed

Name of Institution

## Program

# Diploma

Year

## Other studies completed

Name of Institution

## Program

# Diploma

Year

### Planned or current studies (PhD, DBA)

Date of entry  
in program

Date of expected graduation

Total number of credits  
of program

Credits earned to date

Department

## Study Program

Supervisor

Field of study or Thesis subject \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT

The Arbour Foundation recognizes the importance of volunteering in our society. Please use the space below to list and describe any social involvement that you are particularly proud of. (Maximum: 500 words)

Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. FINANCIAL SITUATION

The mission of the Arbour Foundation is to support the most deserving students who need financial assistance. Please explain briefly but explicitly why the financial support of the Arbour Foundation is important to you. (Maximum 500 words)

Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

## BUDGET

	Last year/this year				Next 12 months	
	Summer	Fall	Winter	12 mths		
	1 May - 31 August	1 Sept – 31 December	1 Jan - 30 Apr	TOTAL	1 May – 30 Apr	Growth
<b>School fees</b>						
Tuition						
Books, school supplies, etc.						
<b>Logement</b>						
Rent						
Mortgage						
School and municipal taxes						
Home Insurance						
Telephone, cable, internet						
<b>Food</b>						
Groceries						
<b>Transport</b>						
Public transportation						
Car expenses (payments, repairs, gas)						
Car insurance						
<b>Personal Exp.</b>						
Leisure and activities (restaurants, outings, sport, etc.)						
Daycare expenses						
Alimony paid						
Personal expenses (clothing, articles and personal care)						
Conference expenses (your share)						
Medical and Dental fees (inc. health insurance)						
Family support (sent abroad for example)						
Other, specify _____						
Other, specify _____						
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Employment revenues						
Employment insurance benefits						
Other gov. benefits (child allowance, etc.)						
Loans and grants						
Other grants (research)						
Alimony (received)						
investment and interest income						
Family support received (from abroad for ex.)						
Other, specify _____						
Other, specify _____						
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>						

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**REVENUES MINUS EXPENSES**

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**BALANCE SHEET****Assets****At time of  
application**

Money in the bank

Investments, specify \_\_\_\_\_)

Available line of credit (incl. credit card)

Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_)

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**TOTAL ASSETS**

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**Liabilities****At time of  
application**

MEQ loans and grants

Loans (banks, family, other)

Credit cards

Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_)

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**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

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**NET ASSETS**

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Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

#### 8. PERSONAL STATEMENT

In your own words, first describe your study objectives and then your career goals. Explain how you will contribute subsequently to society at large. (maximum 750 words)

Candidate's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read and signed the consent form regarding the Privacy Policy on personal information of the Arbour Foundation.**

**I hereby certify that my statements in this application form are true.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date