

2026 CFG Graduate Scholarships and CGS Student Competitions

We are pleased to announce the annual student competitions by the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique (CFG) and the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS):

- 1) CFG Michael Bozozuk National Graduate Scholarship
- 2) CFG Dennis Becker MSc Prize
- 3) CGS Graduate Student Presentation Competition
- 4) CGS Undergraduate Report Competition (Individual Submission)
- 5) CGS Undergraduate Report Competition (Group Submission)

The application deadline for the awards and competitions is **May 15, 2026**. The 2026 awards and competition winners will be presented this fall at the Canadian Geotechnical Conference (GeoQuébec 2026) in Quebec City, Quebec.

Rules, application package content and selection criteria for the awards and student competitions are given below. For further information, refer to the CGS Education Committee website (https://cgs.ca/committee_education.php).

1) CFG Michael Bozozuk National Graduate Scholarship

The scholarship was established by the CFG in 2007, on the occasion of the 60th Canadian Geotechnical Conference in Ottawa. The scholarship is valued at \$5,000.

Any graduate student entering or registered in a Canadian university Master's or PhD program that is directly related to an identified field of geotechnique, is eligible. Programs include geotechnical engineering, geological engineering, mining engineering, geoenvironmental engineering or geoscience, engineering geology, and hydrogeology. Nominees must have high academic standing and preference will be given to those who have some practical experience and are active, or have shown leadership, in the geotechnical community.

Nominations are limited to one per academic department and require a letter, accompanied by rationale, written and signed by the graduate supervisor. The rationale should include the following:

- Evidence of academic standing
- Research output
- Contributions to practice
- Leadership/activity in the geotechnical community

The application package should include the following:

- 1) Completed application form (attached)
- 2) A letter written and signed by the graduate supervisor (Max 2 pages)
- 3) Academic transcript
- 4) Resume (Max 2 pages)

For award ceremony purposes, the nomination package should also include a digital image (300 dpi) of the nominee in the jpeg format.

Nominations and questions should be sent by email to the Selection Committee Chair, Dr. Kshama Roy (Kshama.Roy@mun.ca). For nominations, the email subject line should include the words "Michael Bozozuk National Graduate Scholarship".

2) CFG Dennis Becker MSc Prize

This prize is offered to a full-time post-graduate student at a Master's level, attending a Canadian university whose research focus is directly related to the field of geotechnique. Eligible programs include geotechnical engineering, geological engineering, mining engineering, geoenvironmental engineering or geoscience, engineering geology, and hydrogeology. The award is granted primarily based on academic excellence, the purpose and relevance of the research project to the practice of geotechnique, and the quality of the research summary. Students who have displayed activity in volunteer or leadership roles in geotechnique will receive special consideration. The scholarship is valued at \$5,000.

Due to the time required for students to complete courses and conduct sufficient research to support a quality application for the MSc Prize and the time for application processing and adjudication, the award is typically provided as a prize after students have completed their program, rather than as a scholarship during their studies. Nominees must either be currently in their Master's program or have graduated from a Master's program within the past 12 months.

Nominations are limited to one per academic department. The application package should include the following:

- 1) Completed application form (attached).
- 2) A signed statement of support from the research supervisor endorsing the application (Max 2 pages).
- 3) A 500-word synopsis of the nominee's research project describing the purpose and relevance of the expected or actual outcome, and how it is expected to improve the current state of practice in geotechnique.
- 4) Academic transcript (Note that the nominee should have completed all the course requirements for their Master's program).
- 5) Resume (Max 2 pages).

For award ceremony purposes, the nomination package should also include a digital image (300 dpi) of the nominee in the jpeg format.

Nominations and questions should be sent by email to the Selection Committee Chair, Dr. Kshama Roy (Kshama.Roy@mun.ca). For nominations, the email subject line should include the words "Dennis Becker MSc Prize".

3) CGS Graduate Student Presentation Competition

Established in 1988 as the Graduate Student Paper Award, this competition was revised in 2002 to encourage geo-engineering or geoscience graduate students at Canadian Universities to make formal

technical presentations to peer and professional audiences. The award is assessed on the basis of a presentation recorded before a live technical audience followed by a question-and-answer session. The first-place award includes a \$1,250 honorarium, a certificate, a one-year membership in CGS, free conference registration, and an opportunity to present at the Annual Conference (GeoQuébec 2026). The second-place award includes a \$750 honorarium, a certificate, a one-year membership in CGS, and free conference registration.

The presentation should be a maximum of 15 minutes, excluding the question-and-answer session. The presentations are evaluated based on geotechnical content and interest (60%), oral and visual quality of presentation (30%), and performance during the question-and-answer period (10%). The presenter must be registered as a student at the time of the presentation. The presentation can be recorded in person or using web conferencing (e.g. Zoom).

The application package should include the following:

- 1) Video in mp4 format submitted through a file sharing service (e.g. Dropbox).
- 2) Completed application form (attached).

For award ceremony purposes, the nomination package should also include a digital photograph (300 dpi) of the nominee in the jpeg format.

Nominations and questions should be sent by email to the Student Competition Chair, Dr. Fangzhou Albert Liu (fangzhou.liu@mcgill.ca). For nominations, the email subject line should include the words "Graduate Student Presentation Competition".

4) Undergraduate Report Competition (Individual Submission)

This award was established in 1987 to reward excellence in the preparation of an undergraduate geotechnical thesis by a full-time undergraduate student at an accredited Canadian university. In 2002, this award was changed to the Undergraduate Report Award (Individual Submission) to foster individual skills in solving open-ended geotechnical design problems and in preparing formal technical reports.

The written reports (e.g. Undergraduate Thesis, Term Project, Summer Work Report) are evaluated based on their geotechnical content and interest (70 %), and on the quality of the presentation and writing (30 %). Nominations are limited to one per academic department. The report must have been prepared by a single undergraduate student.

The first-place award includes a \$1000 honorarium, a certificate, a one-year membership in CGS, and free conference registration (GeoQuébec 2026). The second-place award includes a \$750 honorarium, a certificate, a one-year membership in CGS, and free conference registration.

The application package should include the following:

- 1) Written report in PDF format.
- 2) Completed application form (attached).

For award ceremony purposes, the nomination package should also include a digital photograph (300 dpi) of the nominee in the jpeg format.

Nominations and questions should be sent by email to the Student Competition Chair, Dr. Fangzhou Albert Liu (fangzhou.liu@mcgill.ca). For nominations, the email subject line should include the words “Undergraduate Report Competition (Individual Submission)”.

5) Undergraduate Report Competition (Group Submission)

This award was established in 2002 to foster teamwork skills in solving open-ended geotechnical design problems and in preparing formal technical reports.

The written reports (e.g. Group Research Report, Term Project) are evaluated based on their geotechnical content and interest (70 %), and on the quality of the presentation and writing (30 %). Nominations are limited to one per academic department. The report must have been prepared by a group of students.

The first-place award includes a \$700 honorarium per student (maximum of \$2,800), a certificate, a one-year membership in CGS, and free conference registration (GeoQuébec 2026) for each student. The second-place award includes a \$400 honorarium per student (maximum of \$1,600), a certificate, a one-year membership in CGS, and free conference registration.

The application package should include the following:

- 1) Written report in PDF format.
- 2) Completed application form (attached).

For award ceremony purposes, the nomination package should also include digital photographs (300 dpi) of the nominees in the jpeg format.

Nominations and questions should be sent by email to the Student Competition Chair, Dr. Fangzhou Albert Liu (fangzhou.liu@mcgill.ca). For nominations, the email subject line should include the words “Undergraduate Report Competition (Group Submission)”.