



The Sonia Saari Memorial Scholarship for Graduate Students of Engineering and Architecture

Financial Compensation

The Sonia Saari Memorial Scholarship is a \$10,000 annual award. This scholarship program is available for graduate Engineering and Architecture students who plan to continue their academic career in the field of precast concrete related research, design, or construction for the 2026-2027 academic year, and are enrolled in a Canadian post-secondary institution. One scholarship recipient is awarded annually.

In addition to this application, once selected by CPCI for the scholarship, the successful candidates will also be encouraged to complete a second application for Mitacs in order to be approved for matching funding. The students will be notified in **September 2026** and will be provided with further instructions on next steps at that time.

Application Procedure

1. All applicants must first register for the free CPCI student membership. Visit this [link](#)
2. All applicants must have **two Reference Letters** submitted on their behalf. **At least one must be from an academic referee such as your academic supervisor.** Reference letters sent to CPCI by the applicant will not be accepted.
3. All applicants must submit an official transcript/s of their undergraduate and or graduate studies (if already enrolled in graduate studies).
4. All applicants must complete the Sonia Saari Memorial Scholarship application form.

Submission of Application: Completed applications **must be received no later than August 21, 2026.**

Contact CPCI at 877-937-2724 or by e-mail (info@cpci.ca) if you require assistance.

Eligibility

This award is open to any student who, as a minimum, has completed a bachelor's degree and is enrolled, or will be by the time the scholarship is awarded, in a Master's or Doctoral program of study at a Canadian institution.

The following criteria must be met by the applicant to be eligible to apply:

1. International students may apply provided that they are enrolled in an accredited Canadian University and that they provide a reference letter from their academic supervisor.
2. Must have achieved a bachelor's or graduate degree from a Canadian accredited program by the summer of 2026.
3. At the time of acceptance of this award (but not necessarily at the time of application), the applicant must have been accepted for graduate studies at a Canadian institution. The student **MUST** be engaged in graduate research on a topic related to precast concrete at an accredited Canadian university.
4. Must be a full-time graduate student during the entire scholarship year.
5. The recipient must commit to being available to present their precast concrete related research to CPCI at their annual convention, which typically occurs in the Fall (either virtually or in person depending on the location).
6. The winning student will be required to submit confirmation of graduate enrolment and will ultimately be required to submit confirmation of their research topic from their academic supervisor. This permits students who have still not decided on their school and/or supervisor to apply and enables them to take the scholarship with them to the university of their choice, provided they end up doing work in precastconcrete. CPCI will not award the scholarship unless such confirmation is received.
7. The award will be paid directly to the university, in trust, to be passed directly to the student.



Sonia Saari Memorial Scholarship Application Form

Personal Contact Information

First, Middle and Last Name				
Home Street Address	City	Prov	Postal Code	Date of Birth (mm/dd/year)
Personal Email				Citizenship Status

Academic Education

Undergraduate Studies	
University	Start Date
Field of study	Completion Date (Actual or Expected)
Graduate Studies	
University (Expected, if not yet Accepted)	Start Date
Level of Studies	Expected Completion Date

Awards

Describe any other scholarship award(s) below that you have received or are currently receiving.

Name	Duration	Amount



Research - Scope

Describe the scope of research that you are currently engaged, or intend, during your Graduate studies (If you currently do not have a defined scope of research, please provide a generic statement of research interest).

Highlight the importance of this research to the precast prestressed concrete industry and identify the areas for enhancement or innovation that your research aims to address (maximum 500 words/3000 characters).



Research - Objectives and Expected Outcome

Provide a general description of your research objectives followed by a brief description of specific tasks to accomplish this work.

Indicate the expected outcome from your research and describe its relevance to precast prestressed concrete industry (maximum 500 words/3000 characters).



**Research - Preliminary Results
(if already enrolled in the project)**

If applicable, describe the preliminary findings from your research and the overall significance to your research objectives (maximum 200 words/1200 characters).



**Research – Published Papers
(if already enrolled in the project)**

List maximum five Journal and/or conference papers that you are at least one of the authors and include the downloadable links. Describe the significance of your published work to the precast prestressed concrete industry.

Journal or Conference Name	Link
Significance to the precast prestressed concrete industry	
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Significance to the precast prestressed concrete industry	



Personal Statement

Provide a personal statement why you think the CPCI Scholarship Selection Committee should award this scholarship to you.

Present a rationale on how the precast prestressed concrete industry will benefit from your research.

Provide any additional information that you wish to share with our scholarship selection committee (maximum 200 words/1200 characters)

Other Activities

Please provide the following additional information as applicable (maximum 300 words/1800 characters)

1. Teaching Assistantship(s) – Course and duration for each
2. Internships – Institution(s) and duration
3. Student Organizations – activities, events, or involvements with organizations
4. Affiliations (describe if you are affiliated with any academic or professional organizations related to precast prestressed concrete industry)



Reference Letters

All applicants must ensure that at least two reference letters are submitted on their behalf, by the references. At least one must be from an academic referee such as your academic supervisor.

Both reference letters should be submitted directly to CPCI by the references, on behalf of the applicants, no later than August 21, 2026.

****Reference letters sent to CPCI by the applicant will not be accepted.****

Selection Criteria

The CPCI Scholarship Selection Committee is responsible for reviewing and awarding the winners. The selection process will be carried out based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Weighting
<u>Academic</u> Indicators: transcripts, previous scholarships and awards, coursework related to precast prestressed concrete	30
<u>Research</u> Indicators: published work, research topic-relevance to precast concrete industry and potential for advancements	30
<u>Personal skills</u> Indicators: leadership, work experience, technical and writing skills, and additional activities	25
<u>Reference Letters</u> Indicators: leadership capabilities, work ethic and potential growth in the precast/prestressed concrete profession	15
<u>Total</u>	100