

Master Scholarship: Digital Transformation for Community Impact Scholarship

Overview

The Digital Transformation for Community Impact Scholarship supports exceptional incoming students into thesis or course-based master's programs offered by Dalhousie's faculties of Computer Science or Management whose work advances inclusive, ethical, and community-centred digital transformation. Supported through Scotiabank's investment in Dalhousie University's College of Digital Transformation (CDT), this scholarship is designed to attract emerging leaders whose research, innovation, or applied impact uses digital technologies to reduce systemic barriers and expand equitable participation in society.

The scholarship reflects a core CDT principle: technology is not neutral. Digital transformation can reinforce existing inequities, or it can help dismantle them. This award supports students committed to shaping digital futures that are inclusive, accountable, and socially responsible.

Interested and eligible applicants are encouraged to apply using the form [provided at this link](#). Applications for the current year will be accepted until June 1st, 2026.

Purpose

The scholarship aims to:

- Recruit outstanding incoming students into the College's master's programs whose proposed work aligns with inclusive digital transformation.
- Support and advance research in digital innovation and transformation that addresses systemic barriers and delivers tangible benefits for communities that have been historically underserved.
- Strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration across Management, Computer Science, and related fields.
- Advance equitable social, economic, cultural, and technological outcomes in Nova Scotia and beyond.

Award Value

- Two entrance scholarships will be awarded each year from 2026 until 2030.
- Each scholarship is valued at \$10,000.
- Funds are paid in instalments in accordance with university policies.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be applying to or accepted into one of the following Dalhousie programs:
 - Master of Applied Computer Science

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Computer Science
- Master of Digital Innovation
- Master of Information and related joint degrees
- Master of Science in Business
- Demonstrate a strong connection between their proposed research or professional work and digital transformation (broadly defined)
- Articulate how their work has the potential to create positive community impact, particularly in contexts affected by systemic inequalities.

Both domestic and international students are eligible.

Equity-Deserving Group Priorities

In alignment with Scotiabank’s and CDT’s shared commitment to inclusion, priority consideration will be given to students who are members of or produce work that meaningfully benefits communities facing systemic barriers. Such communities include but not are not limited to:

- African Nova Scotian or Mi’kmaw communities
- Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities
- 2SLGBTQIA+ communities
- Communities of people with disabilities
- Rural, first-generation, newcomer, and financially marginalized communities

Applicants may come from any background. Selection is based on demonstrated commitment, understanding, and impact based on the application package, not solely on personal identity.

Application Deadline

- June 1st, 2026
- Shortlisted applicants will be notified for an interview request by June 30th, 2026.

Application and Selection Process

Applicants will submit:

- Copy of a screenshot or email confirming the master’s application or admission to one of the programs listed above
- Transcripts from previous academic programs (unofficial transcripts are acceptable for the application stage)
- A CV or résumé (2–3 pages recommended)
- A statement (1 -2 pages) describing:
 - their interest in digital transformation and community impact

- how their proposed work or program pathway aligns with CDT values and priorities

Academic/Opportunity Context (max 250 words) Applicants may describe circumstances that shaped their pathway (e.g., work commitments, caregiving, barriers to opportunities, non-linear education). Disclosure is voluntary and not required.

Applications will be evaluated holistically, recognizing that excellence and leadership can be demonstrated through many pathways. The review committee will consider:

- Evidence of readiness for master's-level work; demonstrated through academic preparation and/or relevant professional, project, or community experience
- Strength of alignment with digital transformation, broadly defined (e.g., digital technologies, data, platforms, systems, digital services, or digital innovation)
- Clarity and credibility of community impact, including a clear description of who may benefit and how
- Commitment to inclusive, ethical, and accountable practice, including thoughtful consideration of systemic barriers and potential risks or harms
- Feasibility, including whether the proposed work is realistic within a master's program timeline.

Applications are reviewed by a committee that includes CDT leadership and, where possible, reviewers with lived or community-based expertise relevant to the application pool.

Alignment with CDT and Scotiabank Priorities

This scholarship advances CDT's pillars of Financial Supports and Career Pathways, while supporting Scotiabank's goal of enabling access to digital skills, leadership development, and equitable career trajectories.

For more information about this scholarship opportunity, reach out to Colin Conrad, Associate Professor and Co-Director of the College of Digital Transformation at colin.conrad@dal.ca.