

Terms of Reference  
(Revision 2, August 26, 2025)

## **Robert G. Driver Graduate Scholarship in Steel Structures**

CISC Centre for Steel Structures Education and Research ("The Steel Centre")

### **1. Name**

The award is known as the "Robert G. Driver Graduate Scholarship in Steel Structures", and the recipients as "Driver Scholars". The fund from which the scholarships are awarded is provided by the CISC Centre For Steel Structures Education and Research ("The Steel Centre") at the University of Alberta.

### **2. Purpose**

In appreciation of the numerous contributions of Professor Robert G. Driver to the engineering profession, collaborative research, engineering education, and to the Canadian steel industry, the Steel Centre established this award to recognize and encourage University of Alberta engineering graduates who are pursuing a graduate degree in structural engineering, with major emphasis on the study of steel structures, and to manifest their gratitude for the contributions of Prof. Robert G. Driver to engineering education and steel research.

### **3. Funding**

The Selection Committee consists of the industry representatives of the Steel Centre Industry Advisory Committee. The Steel Centre Student Experience Coordinator will coordinate the selection and administrate the payments. The Selection Committee will either allocate the award based on reviewing the applications received to a single recipient, or divide it among two students. The objective of the Selection Committee is to maximize the benefits of the scholarship funds to the Steel Centre. Commitments will be for one year, with the total amount in any given year not exceeding CDN\$10,000. The payments will be made in two installments, the first installment by January 31 and the second one by May 31.

### **4. Eligibility**

- A.** The Scholarship is to be awarded to a graduate student, or two graduate students, provided that they are:

- i. full time graduate students in structural engineering at the University of Alberta, with major emphasis on the study of steel structures
  - ii. enrolled in either a Master's degree or a Doctoral degree
  - iii. in their first or second year of graduate studies for Master's degree students and in their first to fourth year of graduate studies for Doctoral degree students
  - iv. committed to advancing their education in steel structures;
  - v. intentional about maintaining effective relationships with the Canadian structural steel industry, either by working with a structural consultant firm, a steel fabricator, a connection design firm, a software developer in a relevant field, government bodies, pursuing an academic position with an educational institution to instruct and research in the area of steel structures, or by starting their own business with the focus on steel structures.
- B.** Applicants who have structural steel experience and/or have worked within the steel industry may be given preference.
  - C.** If the recipients do not complete their studies, they will be required to repay the principal to the Steel Centre. Repayment may be forgiven if their abandonment results from reasons beyond their control.
  - D.** Applications must be filed no later than October 31 of the year preceding the year in which the scholarships will be awarded.
  - E.** A successful applicant will be permitted to hold the Driver Scholarship only one time.
  - F.** The recipient should give a presentation on their research project to the Steel Centre at one of their Industry Advisory Committee meetings.

## **5. Administration**

- A.** Payments are made in advance in two installments, to one or two recipients per academic year. The payment will be made following the announcement of the award. Payments will normally be made by January 31 and May 31, upon approval of the Steel Centre Industry Advisory Committee.
- B.** This Scholarship is intended to be supplemental to other scholarships the recipients may have already held.
- C.** If the Selection Committee does not identify a suitable candidate in any given year, no scholarship will be awarded in that year.
- D.** The Steel Centre Industry Advisory Committee, at any time, may initiate the process for revisions to the Scholarship (please note 5.E.). Such changes are to be discussed and approved by the Steel Centre Industry Advisory Committee.
- E.** Terms of the scholarship can only be revised a maximum of one time within a two-year period.
- F.** The Steel Centre will manage all administration of the Scholarship.

## **6. Application Procedures and Deadline**

Applications must be received by October 31 of the year preceding the year in which the Scholarship is to be awarded. No application form is provided. Each applicant must submit a written application enclosing (ONE pdf file) the following information:

- A.** A curriculum vitae, including education history, work experience, community and university involvement, and publications and presentations (maximum three pages).
- B.** Current transcripts of the applicant's post-secondary academic record.
- C.** A statement explaining the rationale for the choice of the steel structures research and the Steel Centre Research Group (maximum one page).

- D.** A statement about their career objectives and how they plan to engage with the steel industry after graduation, either by working with a structural consultant firm, a steel fabricator, a connection design firm, a software developer in a relevant field, government bodies, in pursuing an academic position with an educational institution to instruct and research in the area of steel structures, or by starting their own business with the focus on steel structures (maximum one page).

Applications must be received by the Steel Centre at [info@steelcentre.ca](mailto:info@steelcentre.ca) no later than October 31, 2025.