Writing a Strong Graduate Scholarship Application

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Why Should I apply?

If you work in …	You need to get …
a university	*research funding*
a startup	*venture capital*
a company	*approval for time and money*

- Good for your professional development and career
- Demonstrate ability to clearly formulate and present ideas

What Should I Apply For?

- Different purposes
    - Tuition and stipend
    - Travel awards

- Several opportunities – federal, provincial, from the University, and from the department

- Know your funding agencies mandates and requirements
  NSERC, CIHR, SSHRC, AI ....

- Details and a database search located at
    https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards

How Do I Write A Strong Application?

- Make sure you are eligible for the award
  - Immigration status
  - Program of study – MSc, PhD
  - Research area
  - Year of study

- Be aware of all the requirements
  - Formatting and page lengths
  - Documents to include
    - Recommendation letters *(ask early!)*
    - Research proposal
    - CV, transcripts etc.

- Start early

How Do I Write A Strong Application?

- Structure your application
  - Title
  - Specific aims
  - Background and preliminary work
  - Impact / significance
  - Methods
  - Resources and feasibility

- Be balanced in the technical content
  - Reviewers may or may not be experts in your area

- Start early (I really mean it!)

How Do I Write A Strong Application?

- Read and re-read your application for language and content

- Get feedback
  - Colleagues and supervisors
  - People *not* in your specific area of research

- If need be, get help from a native English speaker

  https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support

- Attend scholarship workshops

  https://grad.ucalgary.ca/my-gradskills/workshops-and-resources

  Keep track of updated notifications sent out by email

What Do Reviewers Look For?

- Academic performance
  - Grades, prior scholarships/awards

- Research potential
  - Prior research experience, publications

- Communication and leadership skills

CANDIDATE

- Significance & Innovation
- Feasibility
- Clarity and conciseness
- Completeness

RESEARCH

- GAC Selection Criteria and Indicators

https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/selection-criteria-and-indicators

Role of the Department

- Department is assigned quota for some awards

- Graduate Scholarship Committee does an internal review and top applications are forwarded

- Keep track of emails from Ella regarding important notifications