Writing a Strong Graduate Scholarship Application

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Why Should I apply?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you work in ...</th>
<th>You need to get ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a university</td>
<td>research funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a startup</td>
<td>venture capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a company</td>
<td>approval for time and money</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic performance</td>
<td>Grades, prior scholarships/awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research potential</td>
<td>Prior research experience, publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and leadership</td>
<td>skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significance &amp; Innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feasibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clarity and conciseness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completeness</td>
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</table>

### GAC Selection Criteria and Indicators

[https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/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