

# Writing a Strong Graduate Scholarship Application

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# Why Should I apply?

If you work in ...	You need to get ...
<i>a university</i>	<i>research funding</i>
<i>a startup</i>	<i>venture capital</i>
<i>a company</i>	<i>approval for time and money</i>

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

# What Should I Apply For?

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- 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, AIHS, AITF ....
- Details and a database search located at  
<http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards>

# How Do I Write A Strong Application?

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- 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?

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- 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?

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- 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

Library resources: <https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/writinghelp>

- Attend scholarship workshops

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/workshops>

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

# Role of the Department

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- Department is assigned quota for some awards
- Graduate Scholarship Committee (8 ECE faculty members) does an internal review and top applications are forwarded
- GSC also matches applicants with faculty members for feedback to make your application stronger
- Keep track of emails from Ella regarding important notifications