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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a university</td>
<td>research funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>a startup</td>
<td>venture capital</td>
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<tr>
<td>a company</td>
<td>approval for time and money</td>
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- 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, AIHS, AITF ....

• 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
  Library resources: https://library.ucalgary.ca/guides/writinghelp

• 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>Candidate Research</th>
<th><strong>What Do Reviewers Look For?</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Academic performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Grades, prior scholarships/awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research potential</td>
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<td>• Prior research experience, publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Communication and leadership 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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**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 (8 ECE faculty members) does an internal review and top applications are forwarded

- Keep track of emails from Ella regarding important notifications