

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?

- 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?

- 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 (8 ECE faculty members) does an internal review and top applications are forwarded
- Keep track of emails from Ella regarding important notifications