Grad School

Applying for Funding*

*based on workshop materials developed by the Dept. of Sociology, Univ of Alberta

Welcome …

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs, and research stations are primarily located on the traditional territory of Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, and Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe nations; lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7, and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems, and cultures of First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.

Today …

▶ Information SSHRC MA scholarship program

▶ Application process

Funding Grad School (MA)

1. Internal funding: TA/GRA, scholarships
2. External funding: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

Scholarships help you to focus and plan your program

- Develop your grant/writing skills
- Reduce cost and workload (e.g.TAs, PT jobs)
- Enhance your CV
- Scholarships beget scholarship
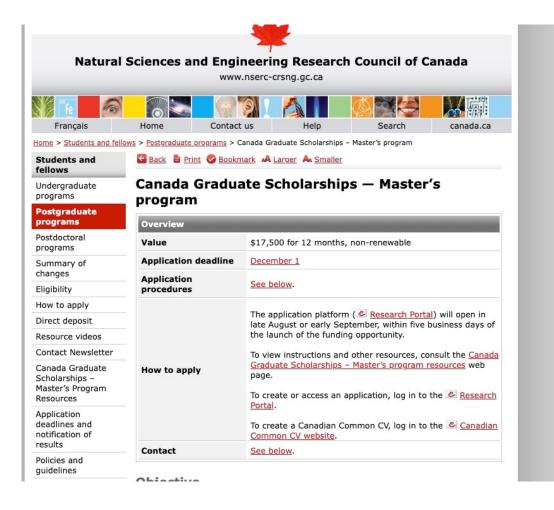- use template of application for other competitions

Canada Graduate Scholarships — Master's program (CGS-M)

- $17.5K/year, one year (not renewable)
- must apply before or within month 12 of MA program
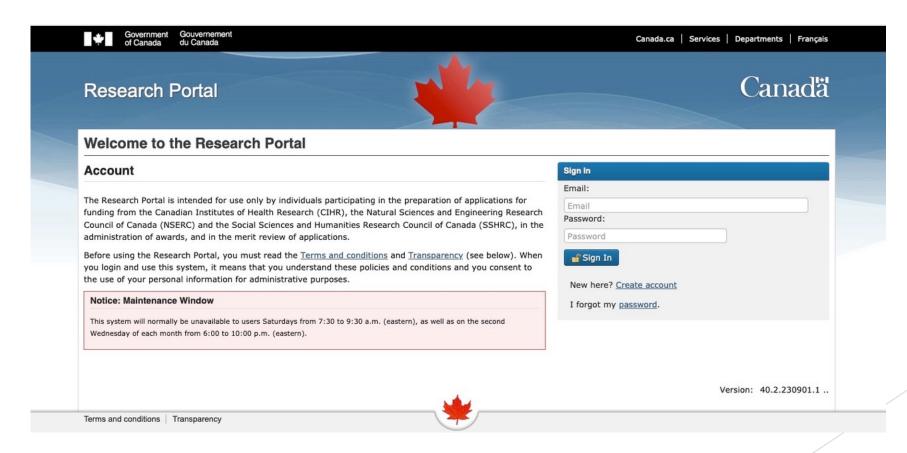- Deadline 1 December [via SSHRC online portal]

Objective and Eligibility

▶ develop research skills, train high achieving undergraduate and early graduate students

▶ Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or a Protected Person

▶ be enrolled, will or have applied for full-time admission to

▶ eligible Canadian institutions (grad program with significant research component)

▶ have completed, as of December 31 of the year of application, betw. 0 and 12 months of the program

General Information

Application through Research Portal

Application details

- Carefully read the [instructions](#)

- EDI commitment of SSHRC: [Black student researcher funding](#) , [Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements Pilot Initiative](#) (add. $5k)

- Hard deadline: no late or incomplete application

- Adhere to [strict presentation standards](#)

- Indicate up to 3 eligible current or potential future host institutions (where you are studying/to which you will apply)

Application components

1. Online application form
2. Proposal – proposed research project (1 page + 1 page references and citations)
3. Plain language abstract (1800 characters, incl. spaces)
4. Canadian common CV (online form)
5. Transcripts
6. **2 reference assessments**

Reference (assessment) letters

▶ familiar with your research and abilities (current/previous prof, employment/volunteer supervisor)

▶ meaningful supportive commentary

▶ contact referees early – at least 4 weeks

▶ *Invitations* section of your application: enter the required information for each referee and deadline

▶ Referees will receive an email with link to their reference assessment

▶ Provide referees with material (draft proposal, your cv, etc.)

▶ **You cannot submit your application until after they submitted their assessment**

The proposal – edit, edit, edit – seek feedback

▶ Good punchy title

▶ Be specific as possible

▶ Include background, context of current scholarship, objective/hypothesis, theoretical approach and methods (cite pertinent literature) & significance of the proposed research

▶ If not thesis/major paper program, clearly outline the research component of the degree.

▶ If you have not yet decided on a specific project, you must still provide a detailed description of a proposed research project. You may change your research direction or activities during the course of the award.

WHAT IS SSHRC LOOKING FOR? MA

▶ Academic excellence (record, scholarships/awards, duration, course load) – 50%

▶ Research potential (quality, originality, relevant work experience, training, significance and feasibility, previous research experience) – 30%

▶ Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills (work/leadership/management experience; clear communication in writing and oral formats, volunteer/community outreach) – 20%

Special circumstances

SSHRC will consider

- child-rearing/parental leave
- Illness
- Disability
- cultural or community responsibilities
- socio-economic context
- trauma and loss
- family responsibilities
- a pandemic.

WHAT MATTERS IN SSHRC APPLICATIONS (IN GENERAL)?

- Past academic results

- Program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge

- Relevant professional and academic experience

- Referees

Start today!

- Read the instructions carefully and make a timeline for completion
- Proposal – focused, significant, clear, concise
- Common CV
- Referees – contact them as soon as possible
  - choose well -- you need positive and detailed assessments
  - make it easy for them – provide all relevant information
  - Don't hesitate to ask – part of the job
    - Deadline alert!

- get feedback on your proposal from your referees beforehand

Thank you!

- To receive workshop slides, please email Luhmann@ualberta.ca