The *Grant Assist Program* an initiative of the Office of the Vice-President (Research).

The goal is to enhance the quality and competitiveness of grant applications to Tri-Agencies from the University of Alberta.

Researchers applying to SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR or other major funding agencies are encouraged to avail themselves of the Grant Assist Program.

Limited support is available to Graduate Students, Candidates and Postdoctoral Fellows. Types of support vary by Tri-council stream.

Activity

Ball Toss

Doctoral Scholarships

CIHR	NSERC	SSHRC
Frederick Banting & Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships & Doctoral Foreign Study Awards $30K/yr + $5K/yr research $; up to 3 yrs	NSERC Postgraduate Scholarships & Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarships: PGS D: $21K/yr CGS D: $35K/yr up to 3 years	SSHRC PhD: $20K/yr, up to 4 yrs. May go overseas Joseph Armand Bombardier CGS: $36k/yr up to 3 yrs

Vanier CGS (all agencies): $50K/yr, up to 3 yrs.

Master's CGS harmonized application
CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC

CGS:

$17.5/yr

1 yr only.

Application docs:

- Completed 3 part online application:
  - Identification
  - Summary of Proposal
  - Activity Details
- Outline of proposed research [attach as a pdf]
- Canadian Common CV [confirmation number]
- All official academic transcripts, undergraduate and graduate [as one PDF attachment]
- Completed Reference Assessments [2; invitation initiated, form completed online]

CIHR: Funds all areas of health research, including:

- biomedical, clinical, health services
- social, cultural, environmental and
- population health

NSERC: Funds research in the natural sciences and engineering. Selection falls within the following committees:

- Cellular & molecular biology
- Chemistry
- Civil and industrial engineering
- Chemical, biomedical & materials science engineering
- Computing sciences
- Earth sciences
- Evolution and ecology
- Electrical engineering
- Mathematical sciences
- Mechanical engineering
- Plant & animal biology
- Physics & astronomy
- Psychology

SSHRC funds research in which:

- The proposed research questions or related activities are primarily in the social sciences or humanities

- The intended outcomes of the research must primarily be to add to our understanding and knowledge of individuals, groups and societies — what we think/thought, how we live/d, and how we interact/ed with each other and the world around us.

Note: use of 'qualitative' *methods* alone ≠ SSHRC eligible

Eligibility to apply and hold an award varies per competition.

Usually includes: Canadian or permanent resident & attending a Canadian university (some exceptions).

Read the criteria here:

Masters:
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp

Or here:
http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/fellowships/doctoral-doctorat-eng.aspx#a4

Keys to success?

- Demonstrate that you match the competition *eligibility criteria*
- Demonstrate that you far exceed the average for *evaluation criteria*

Note: while you will depend on your referees' letters and departmental ranking, it is <u>your responsibility</u> to ensure they have the information to represent you as well as possible

eligibility criteria

SSHRC Funds for *Research Promise*

An eligible graduate program must have a *significant research component*.*

A significant research component = original, autonomous research that leads to the completion of one of the following: thesis, major research project, dissertation, scholarly publication, performance, recital and/or exhibit that is merit/expert reviewed at the institutional level and is a requirement for completion of the program.

Programs of study (i.e.: MA) that are based on course work only are typically not eligible since they do not include a significant research component.

** Please note: CIHR & NSERC do not fund grad students' research per se. In these cases, research funding depends on the supervisor.*

Academic merit, judged by a multidisciplinary committee

Academic merit =

- proposed program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge
- relevant professional and academic experience, including research training [conference presentations, scholarly publications, RAships]
- past academic results [transcripts, awards, distinctions]
- 2 referees' written evaluations
- departmental appraisal/ranking

Activity: Keywords

15 mins

Paper
Markers

1st word
1st fold
Pass Left
1st sketch
2nd fold
Pass Left

Repeat x 3

Justifying your research / program of study. Fill in the blanks:

An algorithm for framing arguments for academic research funding:

1. We [*academia/government/company/social group*] have a *question/problem/false perception* that needs to be *answered/solved/corrected. That question is* _____
2. It is a compelling, timely, pressing, and important *question/problem* because _____
3. The *people/constituencies/localities/terrains/species* who are most *affected/vexed* by the *question/problem/false perception* are _____

4. The *solution/answer/correction* requires certain *data/inputs* those *data/inputs* are _____
5. The methods I will use to *get/analyse* the *data/inputs* will be _____
6. These are the best *methods/tools* to answer the question because _____
7. I am best suited to get and *analyse/operationalize/reify* the *data/inputs* because ____
8. Each task will support the work required to study/ *find/ analyse/ operationalize* the *data/input*, and/or develop the *solution/output* in these ways: _____

9. The project will be accomplished, on time and on budget because *I* will work in these ways: _____, during these timeframes: _____, spending the funding in these ways: _____, to produce these *answers/outputs/results/products/information:* _____

10. The people/constituencies who will *benefit from/care about* my program of study / *research-results/outputs* are: [pick 1 from each category:
    1} academic; 2} societal policy or change-makers; 3} localized stakeholders/section of the interested public].

11. I will *share/mobilize* our *research results/creative outputs* with each constituency [1, 2, 3 above] in these specifically targeted [to each of 1, 2, 3] ways: _____

12. The results of our research will be … *world happiness/zen clarity insights/new policy/better widgets/smarter people/social wellness* …

Activity: Framing the problem

1 sentence; 2 clauses.

***1st clause*: a reality-describing statement**

***2nd clause*: a challenge / problem / concern deriving from or associated with clause 1.**

Clause 1 & 2 must be connected by one of these words:

but, however, regrettably, unfortunately, while, or yet.

1 sentence, 2 clauses, joined by ‘however’

Peer review is the gold standard for quality of research funding decisions

however,

little research has attempted to understand how the peer review process motivates or demotivates researchers to participate in research grant competitions.

beyond design & methodology:

Effective Research Training

Knowledge Mobilization

Timeline | Tasklist

Budget

key elements of any program of study

Organized, linear connections between *why, when, how & who*

- Why: is this research *necessary / important*?
- When: is it necessary / important *now*?
- How: Are the proposed means / tasks/ the right *ones*?
- Who: what makes *you* capable / ideal to do this?

summarizing

Write for non-specialists: Ask an aunt or neighbour to read it. Practice tweeting your 3 points. If non-specialists understand, the committee members will think you are smart!

3 key points in any proposal summary:

- Problem to be addressed
- What you will do / methodologies to be used / tasks undertaken / type of data to collect; how analysed
- Significance: why it's an important / contribution to ____ [society/literature]

Optional point: why are you the right person for the tasks/study/program? [skills, aptitude, prior experience…]

Final tips

Writing fundamentals are very important.

- Spellcheck for *Canadian* English, ou le français du Québec.
- Read sentences backwards to hunt for homonyms.
- Pithy sentences are best [you only have 1800 characters].
- Punctuation makes a difference
- Jargon makes you look like a poseur.
- Avoid clichés like the plague.

- Follow the guidelines!
- Don't copy/paste or duplicate text.
- Offer subtitles, whitespace.
- Write for a non-specialist audience.
- Revision is the new black.
- Deadlines are closer than they appear.
- The printer and the server will always fail at the last minute.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Good Luck!

{you can do it}

"uplifting the whole people"

— HENRY MARSHALL TORY, FOUNDING PRESIDENT, 1908