

# 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



**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada**  
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca



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## Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's program

Overview	
<b>Value</b>	\$17,500 for 12 months, non-renewable
<b>Application deadline</b>	<a href="#">December 1</a>
<b>Application procedures</b>	<a href="#">See below.</a>
<b>How to apply</b>	<p>The application platform (<a href="#">Research Portal</a>) will open in late August or early September, within five business days of the launch of the funding opportunity.</p> <p>To view instructions and other resources, consult the <a href="#">Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's program resources</a> web page.</p> <p>To create or access an application, log in to the <a href="#">Research Portal</a>.</p> <p>To create a Canadian Common CV, log in to the <a href="#">Canadian Common CV website</a>.</p>
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="#">See below.</a>

**Objective**



# Application through Research Portal

The screenshot displays the Research Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Government of Canada logo and text in both English and French, along with links for Canada.ca, Services, Departments, and Français. The main header features the text 'Research Portal' and the 'Canada' logo, with a large red maple leaf graphic in the background.

## Welcome to the Research Portal

### Account

The Research Portal is intended for use only by individuals participating in the preparation of applications for funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), in the administration of awards, and in the merit review of applications.

Before using the Research Portal, you must read the [Terms and conditions](#) and [Transparency](#) (see below). When you login and use this system, it means that you understand these policies and conditions and you consent to the use of your personal information for administrative purposes.

**Notice: Maintenance Window**

This system will normally be unavailable to users Saturdays from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. (eastern), as well as on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. (eastern).

#### Sign In

Email:

Password:

[Sign In](#)

New here? [Create account](#)

I forgot my [password](#).

Version: 40.2.230901.1 ..

Terms and conditions | Transparency

# 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](mailto:Luhmann@ualberta.ca)