

2021 Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship Application Instructions

The Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship is among Canada's largest and most prestigious scholarships. Every effort is made to honour the criteria set out in the will of Dorothy Killam. It was Mrs. Killam's desire that those awarded scholarships be likely to contribute to the advancement of learning or to win distinction in their profession.

Before completing your application, ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements listed below

Am I eligible to apply?

1. You must be continuing in a doctoral degree program or have been recommended for admission to a doctoral degree program in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Alberta.
2. You should have a first class academic standing (equivalent to a GPA of 3.5 or greater over the current graduate program graded course work at UofA)
3. If you are registered as a part-time student at the time of application, you may apply; however, you must register full-time to hold one of the awards offered in this competition.
4. Graduate Scholarship Committee policy is to offer awards for up to and including the **sixth** year of a doctoral program only. Funding for the seventh year of a doctoral program will only be considered if a compelling explanation (illness or parental leave or personal catastrophe) outlined in a letter of support from the department is provided. This letter is in addition to the required two letters of reference.
5. Applicants must have completed no more than 48 months in the doctoral program as of December 31, 2020. Applicants must have completed at least one year of graduate work (master's or doctoral level) before start of tenure; tenure may begin on May 1st or September 1st. As the Killam Scholarship is offered for a two-year period, you should anticipate being registered in your doctoral program for at least 18 months (as of May 2021).
Note: If you transferred from a Master's program to a Doctoral program, the number of months completed during the Master's program will count towards the Doctoral Program.
6. If you will be registered as a Qualifying student or you will be on academic probation during 2021/22, you are not eligible to submit an application for this competition.

Application Process

1. Complete and submit the [Killam application form](#) and any requested documents directly to your department (see 'What do I need to submit?').
2. Each department will send nominated applications to FGSR via GSMS by **February 17, 2021**.
3. The FGSR Graduate Scholarship Committee adjudicates submitted applications. Applicants for the Killam Scholarship will be informed of decisions *after* the Killam Trustees meeting in late May - early June. Award decisions are made on a competitive basis and many more applications are received than can be funded.

What do I need to submit?

1. **Complete application form (download application and save in desktop first, before beginning)**
2. **Transcripts:** copies of official up-to-date transcripts for **all** post-secondary study are required to support an application. Your home department may have copies in your department file. If your department does not have these transcripts, you are required to submit new transcripts. Unofficial copies of University of Alberta transcripts are acceptable.
3. **Two Letters of Reference:** Applicants are required to have their referees submit a completed and signed [Letter of Reference to Support Application for Graduate Awards Form](#). **This particular form is mandatory.**

Arrange for two letters of reference from persons familiar with your academic work. Reference letters must be submitted by your referees directly to your department. Current U of A doctoral students must ensure that one of these letters is from their graduate program **supervisor**.

Letters of Reference are given substantial weight in the assessment of research quality and productivity and of performance in classes. Professors who have had sufficient opportunity to assess your potential and who can provide a complete, detailed, and thoughtful analysis of your achievements and scholarly attributes are the most effective referees. Provide your referee with complete information about you.

Letters should support the information in your application, be enthusiastic, focus on your skills, past achievements, and potential, stress strengths and personal attributes, comment on the quality of publication venues, and demonstrate why you are of superior calibre and worthy of an award. Extremely brief or vague letters are a disadvantage.

Note: Students newly admitted to the FGSR may elect to use the letters of reference submitted with the application for admission, provided the letters are less than one year old. Check with your department.

Reminder: Submit all documents to your department by the department deadline.

Tip: START EARLY! Review what transcripts will need to be ordered and order such asap (ensure that Fall 2020 grades, if applicable, appear on transcript). Give your referees plenty of time to submit their letters of reference.