

Graduate Student Funding

Tips for Completing Graduate Awards Applications
with Sara Sealey, Awards Officer, Faculty of
Graduate Studies

The presentation will begin soon – please ensure your microphone is muted and your camera is turned off in the WebEx application to save bandwidth during this session – thank you!



**University
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General Email Inquiries – if you aren't sure who to contact:

Graduate.Awards@umanitoba.ca

What are some of the types of awards and funding available for graduate students?

- Scholarships and prizes – for academic achievement – can come from the Faculty of Graduate Studies, Financial Aid & Awards or from your home department
- Stipends or department-based funding – usually funding available via your home department or advisor – usually not based on academic achievement
- The source of the funding or award can mean it is paid to you in different ways – not all are paid in the same way
 - Some are paid via payroll – deposited to your bank account every two weeks – if you have this type of funding you will need Canadian bank account set up before this can be initiated
 - Some are applied directly to your tuition fees on Aurora Student – are credited towards tuition fees directly; can request refund cheque from Financial Aid if you have a credit on your account after all your Fall and Winter tuition is paid

Can you tell me all of the awards that I'm eligible for?!?

- Searching for funding is time consuming – unfortunately no easy answers
- Diversity of graduate student research even within departments makes this particularly tough
- Students are best to search for funding based on their area and sub-area of research

Where can I search for awards and funding?

- Faculty of Graduate Studies – “FGS Upcoming Awards” email***
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Award Database -
<http://webapps.cc.umanitoba.ca/gradawards/> - new version coming!
- Financial Aid and Awards Database
<https://wwwapps.cc.umanitoba.ca:8443/searchableAwards/searchForm/awardSearch>
- Ask your department how they communicate departmental award opportunities and deadlines
- Bursaries – Financial Aid & Awards handles all bursaries– requirements for bursaries for international students listed here:

http://umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/bursaries/index.html

General bursary application due to FAA: October 1st each year!!!!

There may be summer bursaries available – watch communications for possible summer bursary deadline!

Review Award Eligibility Requirements:

Ensure you review the eligibility requirements for awards – there are specific requirements for each one – they may be based on things such as:

- Citizenship - Canadian/Permanent Residents vs International
- Program – Master’s vs. PhD, or both
- May be for a particular year in program – eg) 1st year PhD students
- Minimum GPA requirements – can be different for different awards – for example – 3.75 in each of the last two full years of study; or 3.50 based on the last 60 credit hours/two full years of study
- If you aren’t sure if you meet the requirements, ask the contact for the award – this may be the department, FGS, the external agency, Financial Aid & Awards, etc.

Application Requirements/Supporting Documents:

- Research Proposal – ensure you follow guidelines such as maximum word count, format, - have your advisor look it over and give feedback as to how you could possibly strengthen your application; give them ample time!
- Transcripts – ensure you review and know what format is required:
 - Official (needed for Tri-Agency applications!) or certified copies
 - If certified copies are permitted, please obtain those from your home department – they can assist with creating these certified copies from your admission file
 - Format of transcripts? – double sided, legends etc.
 - YES, EVEN OFFICIAL U OF M TRANSCRIPTS ARE NEEDED FOR SOME AWARDS!!!!
- Reference letters
 - Ensure that your referee will write a positive letter on your behalf
 - Reference letter versus form – follow specified format

Other general award application tips:

- Carefully read application instructions (font size, margins etc)
- Proof read your application (spelling, grammar, syntax)
- Ask your advisor to read your application (research proposals)
- **Be sure to give your references enough to time write a letter of reference and that they know the submission details/deadline**
- Order your transcripts early to ensure they arrive before the deadline
- Apply for all awards that you are eligible for
- Maintain consistency (double sided vs single sided) if paper application
- Ensure that your student number and the name of the award competition is on the application (on cover page, envelope, your CV)

External Funding - Tri-Agency Awards:

- Canada's major, federal, research funding for professors and universities comes via the Tri-Agencies; they also have student awards for Master's and PhD students
- There are three "agencies" and each agency is responsible for providing funding via grants to professors and scholarships for students:
 - NSERC – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
 - SSHRC – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
 - CIHR – Canadian Institute of Health Research
 - Students research may cross over between two agencies – example: could be CIHR or NSERC – students should contact the specific agency with even a brief write up of there proposed research to find out which agency they should apply to if they are unsure

Tri-Agency Awards for Students:

- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR) – PhD – \$50,000 per year for 3 years; focus on students with leadership experience – for both Cdn/PR and International – competition deadlines approaching – Friday, Sept 3rd, 2021.
- Tri-Agency Doctoral Awards – Canada Graduate Scholarships -Doctoral (SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR CGS-D) and Doctoral (NSERC PGS-D or SSHRC Doctoral)- NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR – only for Cdn Citizens and PRs - eligible up to first 3 years (NSERC) or 4 years (SSHRC) – CGS-D valued at \$35,000 for 3 years; NSERC PGS-D valued at \$21,000 for 1-3 years; SSHRC Doctoral valued at \$20,000 for 1-4 years; competition for funding for the 22-23 academic year is underway – complete applications due online by Friday, October 1st, 2021.

Tri-Agency Awards for Students – Cont'd:

- Tri-Agency Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's (CGS-M) – for SSHRC, NSERC, and CIHR - Cdn Citizens and PR only eligible – next competition will launch soon – Sept 2021 - with deadline for receipt of completed applications set as December 1st, 2021 (note: deadline for the CGS-M is December 1st each year – this is the annual deadline for receipt of all complete applications)

Other major awards for graduate students:

- Research Manitoba (RM) – for Cdn/PR AND International students - health related fields only – apply directly to RM – next competition will run in Fall 2020– see Research Manitoba website for additional details
- University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship (UMGF) – Master’s students eligible in first 2 years of Master’s; PhD students eligible in first 4 years of PhD program – Master’s UMGF valued at \$14,000 per year for 1-2 years, PhD UMGF valued at \$18,000 per year for 1-4 years; departments recommend students UMGFs – check with department for deadline/application procedure
- Departmental Scholarships - Each department/program will have awards that are for students studying in their specific programs – contact your home department for information on award competitions or how to be considered for departmental scholarships/awards/prizes – they set application procedure/deadline

Other major awards for graduate students:

- IGSES: International Graduate Student Entrance Scholarship – only for International Master's students who are paying the international tuition differential fee in year 1 of their Master's program; awarded at time of admission based on admission GPA of 3.5 or higher; questions on this award and disbursements should be directed to Laura.Hilash@umanitoba.ca



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