FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship

Student Workshop

Dr. Lisa Hughes, Assoc. Dean FGS
Kim Edwards, SSHRC Scholar, Anthropology and Archaeology

Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Process-Committee, Feedback and mentoring

General tips for application prep.

and

Perspectives from UCalgary Graduate Leader
Kim Edwards, SSHRC Scholar, Anthropology and Archaeology

Graduate Leaders Circle Info
Scholarship Café Info
(You will have an opportunity to sign up for a Cafe IN PERSON at the end of the workshop)

Question Period
Graduate Scholarship Officer:
  — Erin Coburn (ecoburn@ucalgary.ca) – SSHRC
Applying and Eligibility

- Information and Eligibility:

- Application and Instructions:
  https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logonFellowships.jsp

- University of Calgary information and deadlines:
  http://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tricouncil
Top Reasons to Apply for Scholarships

- It creates a culture of applying for funding and experience in scholarly writing (esp. proposals).
- You don’t want to wait until the first time you think you have a legitimate shot at a scholarship to try preparing an application.
- It creates an ongoing desire to disseminate research.
- Added prestige of awards. SSHRC is federal.
- Your success helps the university/program distribute funding to others.
- Tricouncil success is a broad metric for the university
The Tricouncil Awards and the QEII awards have the same eligibility criteria.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies will be directly awarding a portion of the QEII awards based on ranking in the university competition.

This rewards our top present students and importantly is a recruiting tool for incoming students who are awaiting results of the Tricouncil competition.

Your program will still receive a quota of QEIIIs to distribute in addition to any success in the Tricouncil based competition.

Apply to the Tricouncil and you have two chances at QEII awards, otherwise only one.
SSHRC Doctoral Deadline

Your program/department has their own deadline you must satisfy that precedes the federal and Faculty of Graduate Studies deadlines. This includes requesting your transcripts through them.
How is my application evaluated?

Evaluation Criteria
Multidisciplinary selection committees evaluate applicants solely on academic merit, measured by:

- past academic results, as demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;
- the program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge;
- relevant professional and academic experience, including research training, as demonstrated by conference presentations and scholarly publications;
- two written evaluations from referees; and
- the departmental appraisal (for those registered at Canadian universities).

Currently in MA program:
   – One letter must be from MA supervisor

Currently in PhD program:
   – One letter must be from PhD supervisor (if assigned) and one from MA supervisor

Other letter should be from an expert in your field who know you and your work

All else being equal, ask senior, tenured faculty
Be sure to give reference ample time to complete the evaluation

Send references:
- Letter of Appraisal form
- Copy of your Research Proposal
- List of publications
- Addressed (stamped) envelope to return the letter (remind then to sign over the seal)
• You can list up to 6 on the application

• If you have more than 6 awards, discuss with your supervisor and decide which ones might be best to include

• Some awards have little monetary value, but are more prestigious than those with higher monetary value
Research Contributions

- Publications, conferences, etc.

- Early stages of graduate career (most contributions are helpful):
  - Non-refereed publications (e.g. working papers)
  - Conference presentations – including small local conferences, student conferences, etc.

- More advanced students (quality of contribution also taken into consideration)
  - Refereed journals are most highly valued
  - International conference venues
Purpose is twofold:
- demonstrates your research potential
- demonstrates your communication skills

Goal: Convince committee members that
- You can successfully complete a doctoral program
- You will make a contribution to your field
Follow the instructions!

Do not be tempted to decrease the font size or to increase the margins

Respect the page limit

Print application single-side. This is *not* the time to save paper.
Don’t cram as much text as possible into the document

Consider using some of the following:
- Space between paragraphs
- Indentation
- Headings
## Consider your audience

- The committee will (likely) include non-specialists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Focus Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee 1</td>
<td>Fine arts, literature (all types)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee 2</td>
<td>Classical archaeology, classics, classical and dead languages, history, mediaeval studies, philosophy, religious studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee 3</td>
<td>Anthropology, archaeology (except classical archaeology), archival science, communications and media studies, criminology, demography, folklore, geography, library and information science, sociology, urban and regional studies, environmental studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee 4</td>
<td>Education, linguistics, psychology, social work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee 5</td>
<td>Economics, industrial relations, law, management, business, administrative studies, political science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adjusting to your audience

- Avoid jargon
- Explain technical terms
- Would a non-linguist know what the following was intended to mean?
  - Binding and control
  - Determiner Phrase
  - Voice onset time
Adjusting to your audience

- Limit abbreviations (or avoid them altogether)

- Would a non-linguist know (and remember!) these?
  - L2
  - VOT
  - LF
First paragraph:

- Your proposed research in a nutshell
- Capture the audience’s attention: show that you are passionate about your research
- What is new and important about your proposed research?
- Key questions to be addressed and an indication of the methodology you will use
What should I include?

- What is new and exciting about your research?
  - Establish that you are making a novel contribution

- What is the broader relevance of your research?
  - To other fields?
  - To SSHRC’s mandate?
“The six challenge areas have been integrated within SSHRC’s Talent, Insight, and Connection programs, to encourage and promote research, talent development, and the mobilization of knowledge in focused challenge areas, complementing SSHRC’s support of these activities across all research areas.”

Future Challenge Areas
What should I include?

- What is/are the research question(s)?
  - Be specific
- How is it relevant to your field?
  - Provide a clear literature review
- How will I conduct my research?
  - Explain and justify research methodology
- Is it feasible? (Give a timeline)
  - Don’t take on too much
  - What are the stages of your research? (Progress to date)
Why me? Why here?
- Relevant background, why you are qualified to undertake this project
- Why the proposed university is a good place
- Why the proposed supervisor is a good fit for the project

If possible, find ways to connect proposed work to your previous research experience
What should I include?

- Highlight how your field (and beyond) will be advanced
- Highlight innovation

- You may want to highlight contributions in the following areas:
  - Empirical
  - Theoretical
  - Methodological
Finally...

- Make sure your writing is grammatical and that you have proofread for spelling errors
  - Find someone to proofread!

- Get feedback, revise, repeat
  - People in your field:
    - Specific content, general readability
  - Outside your discipline:
    - Is the content accessible to a non-specialist
- This is not an easy task... get organized early, break it down into steps, read the instructions carefully, and get as much feedback as possible

- Think about it this way... if you are putting 100 hours into this process and you get the scholarship, that over $1,000/hr... if you don’t get it you still have a good foundation for your proposal for next year.
Step One: Departmental Evaluation
- Screening and ranking of applicants by a Departmental Committee
- People in your discipline who would know the jargon

Step Two: University Evaluation
- Ranking of applicants by Faculty of Graduate Studies Comm.
- Faculty members who are peripheral to or even outside your discipline.

The University has a quota so you need to satisfy this second committee!!!
Step Three: SSHRC Evaluation in Ottawa

- Awards based upon votes from a committee of researchers (acad, ind, gov, arts) in the discipline from across the country.

- Each application is pre-reviewed by two members of the committee prior to the meeting in Ottawa (1st and 2nd readers). Each member will have to read ~100 applications and prepare a BRIEF summary.

- Each application is discussed for 4-5 minutes divided into a 2 min summary by the 1st reader, a 1 minute comment by the 2nd reader then 2 min for questions comments by the remainder of the committee (4-6 people).

- Each member votes independently on three criteria and the scores are then weighted by criteria and averaged.

- **Most will have only seen your application for 5 minutes**

- Ultimately, a ranked list is produced and a line is drawn where the budget runs out.
Top things the adjudicator wants to know

- What is this person going to do?
- Is the research feasible?
- What will be the outcomes and their impact? Is it new? Who will care?
- Do I have a picture of who this person is?
- Is this a good investment?
A generic letter of reference. The letter is positive but gives no specifics and does not address criteria.

Content, context and/or impact of research not clearly stated.

Not following instructions –i.e. addressing criteria, or stretching rules.

Frustrating evaluators by making material hard to find.

Diluting genuinely important/impressive material by describing generic material at length.

Not addressing possible weaknesses in the application.
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Scholarship Café
Graduate Leaders Circle
Opportunity to receive one-on-one feedback from successful Vanier and Killam scholarship applicants (members of the Graduate Leaders Circle (GLC))

Sign up for 20 min. session
  — Writing specialist
  — Scholarship specialist
CAFÉ DATES

- 30 September (Fri), 1:00 to 4:30pm
- 12 October (Wed), 1:00 to 4:30pm

All Cafés will take place in MT 215.

To signup:
Contact: gradlead@ucalgary.ca
Connect and learn more about other workshops!

ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/workshops

facebook.com/mygradskills

twitter.com/mygradskills

mygradskills@ucalgary.ca