



FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Canadian Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral (CGS-D) Applications

Dr. Donna-Marie McCafferty, Associate Dean FGS

Kate Bourne, Graduate Leaders Circle, Co-Chair

Dana Lowry Graduate Leaders Circle, Co-chair

August 2023

- This session will be recorded and will be available for viewing on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website.
- Please turn off your video and microphone during the presentation.
- There will be specific times for questions, which will be noted in the presentation. At those times, please enter questions into the chat box.

Federal Research Funding Agency competition

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

<http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards>

Overview

Value	\$35,000 per year
Duration	36 months
Tenure	Canadian institutions only
Application deadline	Through a Canadian institution with a quota: Contact your institution
How to apply	Refer to the Application procedures and “Where should I submit my application?”
Results announced	April
Application forms and instructions	CIHR: ResearchNET and instructions NSERC: Online System and instructions SSHRC: Online System and instructions

- Create a culture of applying for funding and provides experience in scholarly writing (esp. proposals)- should be applying for all you are eligible for
- Prestige: Tri-Agency support is an important metric of success for **you**, your supervisor, your program, and the university as a whole.
- Potential of additional funding opportunities
- Potentially free up your stipend for other graduates/ students/lab resources
- **Don't wait until the first time you think you have a legitimate shot at a scholarship to try preparing an application**

1. Notice of Intent (NOI): System now closed

- ❖ Registering an NOI provides you with valuable support for your application:
- ❖ Transcript Requests: Requested from FGS through NOI form.
- Identify References: FGS will send your references details of scoring criteria and a guide to writing a strong scholarship reference.
- ❖ Information on further Application Support will be sent to you, such as Graduate Leaders Circle workshops, peer mentoring cafes and drop-in sessions. You will be informed of any changes to the competition (eg. deadlines or submission guidelines) which may occur.

2. Submit your full application: **Deadline October 2nd**

(through agency-specific online application portals)

Full Application-Know the deadline

2. Submit your FULL application: Deadline **October 2nd** (INTERNAL)

Check FGS awards website <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/award-opportunities/search-awards>

- ❖ Online application: submit through agency-specific portal
- ❖ Transcripts:
 - Requested if you submitted an NOI form by August 2. The Graduate Scholarship Office will compile all your listed transcripts and format them into one file as required by the application portal. You will be emailed one PDF (Sept 22nd).

You are responsible for checking details (transcripts complete & legible) and uploading to your application. Review the final version of your online application before it is submitted.

If you did not submit an NOI, you are responsible for compiling your transcripts on your own.

- Complete the CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award Form
- Apply through ResearchNet:
<https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38887.html>

Applicants and their supervisor(s) must ensure they have the following:

- a [ResearchNet account](#)
- a [CIHR PIN in ResearchNet](#)
- a [Common CV account](#) (applicant only)

CIHR Doctoral

- CIHR PIN (and primary supervisor's CIHR PIN)
 - If you don't have one already, you will need to request one:
<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/38201.html>
 - Request early (it can take up to 3 business days)
- 2 sponsor/referee forms
- CCV
- Application
 - Attachments
 - Publication's list (2 pages)
 - Training Expectations (2 pages)
 - Research Project Summary (1 page) + lay abstract
 - Proof of Canadian Citizenship/Permanent Resident document
 - Confirmation of scientific area form & signature pages
 - Special Circumstances Document (1 page, optional)
 - Voluntary Self-Identification Form for Indigenous Applicants

- NSERC Online Services portal:
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp
Applicants complete Form 201.
- SSHRC web-based forms portal-registration and login
<https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp>
- Check FGS website for links to all Agencies
grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/opportunities/tricouncil

NSERC Doctoral

- 2 Referee Reports on the Applicant
- Form 201
 - Attachments
 - Outline of proposed research (2 pages & 5 pages for references)
 - Optional justification of eligibility of proposed research (1 page)
 - Contributions and statements (2 pages)
 - Contributions to research and development
 - Significant contributions (up to 3)
 - Applicant's statement
 - Optional special circumstances (half-page)

SSHRC Doctoral

■ Application

— Attachments

- Program of Study (2 pages)
- Supplemental Special Initiatives /Sport Justification (1 page each)
- Research Contributions (1 page)
- Allowable inclusions (1 page, optional)
- **online CV**

— Referees

- Identify 2 referees in the application & SSHRC will send the letter of appraisal directly to the contact email listed for that referee.
- Once the letter is completed it is automatically attached to the application.
- The reference letters are all completed directly within SSHRC portal

- **Start early**
 - Writing a good application takes time and planning. Make a schedule so that you can meet the competition deadlines and submit with confidence.

- **Know what you are applying for**
 - Read the terms of reference to confirm you meet the eligibility criteria and understand what is required to complete the application.

QUESTIONS?

Evaluation and Selection Criteria

Institutional review

CGS-D applications undergo an institutional review and are ranked within each discipline. The University of Calgary then submits applications according to their quotas for consideration to each agency.

Agency review

Agency selection committees review applications

Multidisciplinary selection committees evaluate applicants based on a variety of measures as indicated within the application, transcripts and reference letters

Evaluation Criteria

WEIGHT	CRITERIA
50 %	Research ability and potential
50 %	Relevant experience and achievements achieved within and beyond academia



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Indicators of Research Ability and Potential (50 %)

Quality of research proposal

- specific, focused, and feasible research question(s) and objective(s)
- clear description of the proposed methodology
- significance and expected contributions to research

Highlight:

- ✓ What is new and important about your research?
- ✓ What is the key question your research addresses and how will it be answered?
- ✓ How does your research fit with institutional and/or funding agency priorities?
- ✓ What are estimated milestones and what does success look like for this research proposal?
- ✓ Write clearly

- “Hooking” your audience
 - Draw the audience into the importance of the work quickly
 - Introduction written at newspaper level
 - Understandable regardless of educational level

Introduction:

Even if humanity could completely halt human carbon emissions today, the climate risks they pose would persist for millennia,¹ yet fossil fuels remain our primary source of energy to satisfy the population’s energetic needs. [...] According to climate scientists, if there is no immediate and substantial reduction of CO₂ emissions, the earth will witness massive and effectively irreversible impacts on ocean ecosystems before 2100. Hence, society is left with the question: **how can we avoid disastrous long-term consequences when we know that society is as dependent on fossil fuels as ever?**



- Relevant training, such as academic training, lived experience, and traditional teachings
- Research experience and achievements relative to the applicant's stage of study, lived experience, and knowledge systems
- Quality of contributions and extent to which they advance the field of research. Contributions may include: publications, patents, reports, posters, abstracts, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, knowledge translation outputs, community products, etc.

Evidence:

Common CV /Form 201

Contributions

Reference letters

- Demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically
- Demonstration of responsible and ethical research conduct, including honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, commitment to safety and to the dissemination of research results and adherence to the use of professional standards
- Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach
- The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats

Evidence:

Reference letters

Contributions

Common CV / Form 201

- **Lewinson RT et al. (2012).** The effects of wedged footwear on lower limb frontal-plane biomechanics during running. *Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine*. Online Ahead of Print. (upper-tier journal in Sport Medicine/Orthopedics)

“In this randomized experiment, I studied the influence of wedged footwear on knee joint mechanics during running by altering wedge angle across 7 different footwear conditions. I found that as wedge angle shifted from a lateral wedge to a medial wedge across the 7 conditions, knee angular impulses (a variable commonly associated with the development and progression of various musculoskeletal conditions) significantly increased. This is an important finding because it highlights that the current practice of prescribing medial wedge footwear to treat running injuries should be questioned. I was responsible for study design, subject recruitment, testing, analysis, and preparation of the manuscript.”

Role ———

Topic ———

Impact ———



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Indicators of Relevant Experience and Achievements Obtained within and beyond Academia (50 %)

- Scholarships, awards, and distinctions (amount, duration, and prestige)
- Academic record:
 - Transcripts
 - Duration of previous studies
 - Program requirements and courses pursued
 - Course load
 - Relative standing in program (if available)

Evidence:

Transcripts

Reference letters

Relevant Experience and Achievements... within academia and beyond

- Professional, academic and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community, such as:
 - teaching, mentoring, supervising and/or coaching
 - managing projects
 - participating in science and/or research promotion
 - community outreach, volunteer work and/or civic engagement
 - chairing committees and/or organizing conferences and meetings
- participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies and/or clubs

Evidence:

Common CV /Form 201

Reference letters

- Increase readability and be direct
 - Save work and effort for your adjudicators

- Example (NSERC):

“I was elected President of the Students United in Research of Fisheries (SURF), on a platform to create new science programs to mentor and educate local GK-12 students. My leadership provided seven new mentors to guide ‘at-risk’ students as they developed science-fair projects during 10 weeks, more mentors than in prior years of the program. I personally mentored three students that built a model aquifer to test water cycling...”

Role ———
Topic ———
Impact ———

QUESTIONS?

Components of a Strong Application

- Always follow the instructions!

Examples:

- if you are restricted to a one-page research proposal and you submit an extra page, that extra page will be removed before your application goes to adjudication
- if you are to use a specific font and size and you use something smaller, the adjudicator may reduce your score because you have not followed the instructions.

- **Ask early and send reminders!**
- **Choose wisely:** ask your potential referees if they can provide you with a positive reference; one of them should be your current supervisor or someone who is familiar with your academic work.
- **Give them the details:** The **scoring criteria** for the award
 - Your research **rationale and goals**
 - Your recent **presentations and publications**
 - Your **accomplishments**. It may be that they know you as a good student, but struggle with specifics – it's your job to remind them!
 - The **deadline** to submit the letter and instructions on how to submit it
- **Follow up - Don't be shy!**
 - Remind your referees of the deadline a week or more before the reference is due.

- The curriculum vitae (CV) is a record of your academic background; it captures:
 - Degrees
 - Awards
 - Research
 - Publications, Presentations and Other Achievements.

- Set aside more time for the CCV than you think you will need to complete it--it is a process!

Differences:

CIHR: Canadian Common CV

NSERC: Form 201 (Contributions and Applicants Statement; 2 pages)

SSHRC: Research Contributions (1 page) and SSHRC CV

- Don't cram as much text as possible into the document
- Consider using some of the following:
 - Space between paragraphs
 - Indentation
 - Headings
 - Bolding

Image copyright Ally Brosh
<http://hyperboleandahalf.blogspot.ca/>

How set in stone are the project's and movement's names at this point? To grow faster, the movement needs to make a good first impression, taking advantage of anyone's fleeting first exposure to it so a person will want to learn more and believe it could actually offer a possible real solution or they won't bother. But this name, "The Venus Project", rather than encouraging one to listen with an open mind could cause one's antennae to go up, waiting for the crazy, not realistic, "out of this world" part. I'm guessing the Venus in the Venus Project comes from Jacques being in Venus, Florida, but to any newbie "Venus" means something "out there" in other planet, and I think that makes an easily avoidable bad first impression. The "Venus Project" name doesn't sound serious to me, it sounds childish. Also the name of the movement, "Zeitgeist", is not only needlessly non-self-descriptive (we're wasting valuable exposure time with a mysterious name - losing the opportunity that on each occasion when the name of the organization is mentioned, that in itself could be sending an introduction to a new idea, like if the name were "Technology Solves All Movement for a sloppy example), but it will also forever tie the movement to what some will call the conspiracy stuff (9/11, religion, etc.) because of your identically named movie Zeitgeist, and this will only distract and alienate from the RDE prize. I was in the 9/11 Truth Movement and saw up front & personal so many who had an instinctively negative visceral reaction to any suggestion that 9/11 was an inside job, that they would hear no more. Also, why alienate those with strong beliefs in their religion? Is it really necessary for us to first convince everyone they've been lied to about everything their whole life before introducing a sane alternative to a profit based society when there are no good jobs anymore even in the first world? People are desperate for an alternative and these other things I think are unhelpful distractions to a beginner's introduction to the possibility of another way. Activists for a new system won't get so many bites at the mainstream media exposure apple that we can afford to squander any by tying a hand behind our back with unimportant inconsequential stuff like names and logos. Perhaps if we eliminate these easily changed hurdles, the movement will grow faster and have less back and debunking charges to respond to. Trust me, I know that responding to 9/11 debunking charges is a full time job in itself, it's a rabbit hole. Unless we get away from the Zeitgeist movie name, we will be linked to the what people call the 'conspiracy' stuff. Of course, this suggestion should not anyway detract from your contribution, Peter. You actually created the movement, right? And probably lots of us learned of BECAUSE of your movie's addressing of the 'conspiracy' stuff. This is truly only a request for a superficial and easily made change to de-link the V.P. and a R.B.E. with the unrelated items others deem conspiracy and/or non-positive theories. I say easily made because people's flyers, dvd sleeves, logos, stuff that is printed when needed, can be changed digitally on computers using existing technology generally available to those who print the stuff (just retyping, or simple editing, right?) and there are stockpiles of stuff with the current names on it that would be wasted I assume? Thanks in advance for your consideration, and please also address whom you think such a decision as to the movement's name should be made.

descriptive (we're wasting valuable exposure time with a mysterious name - losing the opportunity that on each occasion when the name of the organization is mentioned, that in itself could be sending an introduction to a new idea, like if the name were "Technology Solves All Movement for a sloppy example), but it will also forever tie the movement to what some will call the conspiracy stuff (9/11, religion, etc.) because of your identically named movie Zeitgeist, and this will only distract and alienate from the RDE prize. I was in the 9/11 Truth Movement and saw up front & personal so many who had an instinctively negative visceral reaction to any suggestion that 9/11 was an inside job, that they would hear no more. Also, why alienate those with strong beliefs in their religion? Is it really necessary for us to first convince everyone they've been lied to about everything their whole life before introducing a sane alternative to a profit based society when there are no good jobs anymore even in the first world? People are desperate for an alternative and these other things I think are unhelpful distractions to a beginner's introduction to the possibility of another way. Activists for a new system won't get so many bites at the mainstream media exposure apple that we can afford to squander any by tying a hand behind our back with unimportant inconsequential stuff like names and logos. Perhaps if we eliminate these easily changed hurdles, the movement will grow faster and have less back and debunking charges to respond to. Trust me, I know that responding to 9/11 debunking charges is a full time job in itself, it's a rabbit hole. Unless we get away from the Zeitgeist movie name, we will be linked to the what people call the 'conspiracy' stuff. Of course, this suggestion should not anyway detract from your contribution, Peter. You actually created the movement, right? And probably lots of us learned of BECAUSE of your movie's addressing of the 'conspiracy' stuff. This is truly only a request for a superficial and easily made change to de-link the V.P. and a R.B.E. with the unrelated items others deem conspiracy and/or non-positive theories. I say easily made because people's flyers, dvd sleeves, logos, stuff that is printed when needed, can be changed digitally on computers using existing technology generally available to those who print the stuff (just retyping, or simple editing, right?) and there are stockpiles of stuff with the current names on it that would be wasted I assume? Thanks in advance for your consideration, and please also address whom you think such a decision as to the movement's name should be made.



- Consider your audience
 - The committee will likely include non-specialists
- Avoid jargon
- Limit abbreviations (or avoid them altogether)
- Explain technical terms

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?

Top Reasons Good Students Don't Get Funded

- 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.

QUESTIONS?



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Get Started!

- **Contact your referees:** give them information about the competition – deadlines, scoring criteria, how to submit a reference. Provide material they could use!
- Access portal and **start the application** – What do you need to complete it?
- Map out an **application schedule**, set check points to ensure progress
- Plan your **support network**: your supervisor, your program (is there a department workshop?), consult current scholarship holders in your program
- **Peer review:** Scholarship Cafés, application writing groups, drop-in support (all over Zoom)

CGS-D Scholarship Cafés and Drop-In Mentoring

[Drop-in #1](#)

Tuesday August 15 2023

1:00pm - 2:30pm

[Drop-in #2](#)

Thursday September 7 2023

2:00pm - 3:30pm

[Drop-in #3](#)

Monday Sept 25 2023

2:00pm-3:30pm

[Drop-in #4](#)

Wednesday Sept 27 2023

10:30am-12:00pm

[Drop-in #5](#)

Friday Sept 29 2023

10:00am-11:30am

Click for a link to register for a drop-in mentorship (first come first served).

[Scholarship Café #1](#)

Tuesday September 19 2023

10:00am - 12:30pm

[Scholarship Café #2](#)

Thursday Sept 21 2023

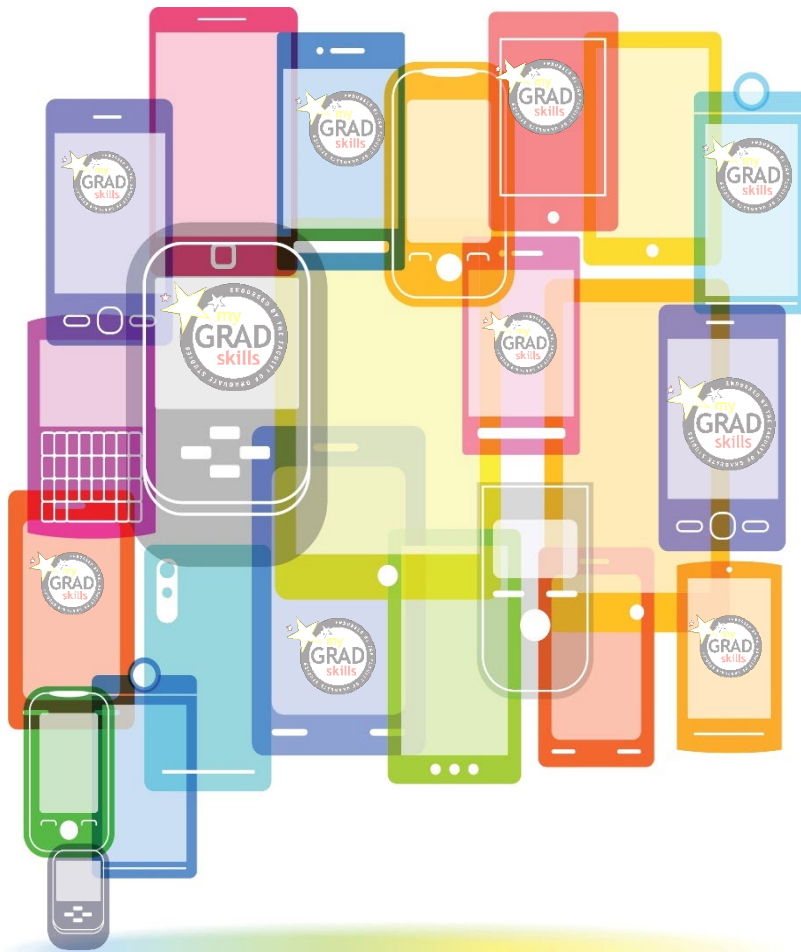
1:00pm - 3:30pm

Click for a link to sign-up for a 30-minute one-on-one mentorship session.

- Ask Writing Center to review application
- Review your application one last time, check for spelling, grammar, formatting or factual errors.
- Read the application instructions again.
- You will increase your chance of success by following these tips and following the instructions exactly.

- Scholarship Office: gsaward@ucalgary.ca
- Graduate Leaders Circle:
 - Kate Bourne and Dana Lowry
gradlead@ucalgary.ca
- Associate Dean Graduate Studies:
 - Dr. Donna-Marie McCafferty
dmmccaff@ucalgary.ca

Connect and learn more about other workshops!



[ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/
workshops](http://ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/workshops)

facebook.com/mygradskills

twitter.com/mygradskills

mygradskills@ucalgary.ca

[http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards
/tips_for_success](http://www.grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tips_for_success)



QUESTIONS?