



# Preliminary Assessment Form (PAF) FAQs

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## **Is the PAF application submitted through the Student Awards Application in the My UCalgary Portal?**

No, it is not through the portal. Please apply on this website <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards-and-funding/award-opportunities/CGRSD>

## **Are part-time students eligible to apply for the PAF?**

Yes. Part-time students are eligible to apply for the Preliminary Assessment Form (PAF). However, applicants must be registered as full-time students at the time the award is activated and paid.

In certain circumstances, award holders may request to hold their award on a part-time basis. Such requests must first be approved by the institution and then submitted to the appropriate federal granting agency for review. Approval is not guaranteed, and each request is considered on a case-by-case basis by the agency.

## **Since this is a preliminary assessment, can I add or update information in the full application if I am successful?**

Yes. The Preliminary Assessment Form (PAF) and the full application are separate processes and are not connected. If you are invited to submit a full application, you may add, update, or correct information as appropriate. The full application will be reviewed independently by a different group of faculty reviewers.

## **Does the PAF application require references?**

No, you will need referees if successful with PAF for the CGRS-D application. Please review the CGRS D Application instructions for your tri-agency: [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_eng.asp)

## **I am confused about how to calculate my GPA.**

If you completed a degree at the University of Calgary, you could easily calculate your GPA using the tools in your Student Center-from the side panel select "Exams and Grades."

If you studied at another university, check the "Cumulative GPA" section on your transcript or use the GPA calculators available on the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) website.

## **Do I need to submit transcripts for the PAF application?**

No. Transcripts are not required as part of the PAF application.

If you are successful in the PAF process and invited to submit a full CGRS D application, you will be required to provide official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended as part of the CGRS D application.

**Can I submit two PAF applications for two different funding agencies?**

No. You may submit only one PAF application and must select one funding agency (NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR) for your application. Multiple PAF submissions for different agencies are not permitted.

**If I have more than 10 journal papers, should I include all 10 journal papers or it is better to provide a mix combination of journal, conference, community products etc.?**

Select your most impactful contributions. A mix of journal articles, conference papers, and other relevant outputs is encouraged, particularly those that support and align with your proposed PhD research.

**Can I include journal papers that have been submitted and under review?**

No. Only publications that have been formally accepted and assigned a DOI may be included.

**Can program funding be included under scholarships and awards?**

No. Guaranteed, non-competitive program funding should not be listed as a scholarship or award. Graduate Assistantship Teaching (GAT) or similar funding should be included under work experience instead.

**Do tuition awards count as competitive funding?**

No. Tuition awards are not considered competitive funding, as they are not awarded through a competitive selection process.

**How and where should references or citations be included in the application?**

Please include references that support your research proposal in the References Supporting Research Proposal section if applicable and use the citation style commonly adopted in your discipline. If you are unsure which style to apply, please consult your supervisor.

It is acceptable if you do not have references at this stage. References will be considered later at the full application stage, if you are invited to proceed.

**Why is a text entry section not accepting my complete submission even though I am within the stated word limit?**

The Qualtrics form is configured using character limits rather than word limits. The character limits have been set based on the approximate word limits specified in the application guidelines. Depending on factors such as word length, spacing, formatting, and special characters, a word submission may exceed the character limit. If you encounter this issue, please revise and shorten your submission to fit within the available space.

**Will the number of successful PAFs be roughly equivalent to the UCalgary quotas for national competition? I.e. will successful PAFs who submit a complete & eligible application on October 15th be guaranteed to be forwarded to the national committee or will there be a further shortlisting process in Oct/Nov?**

No, we will have a final number of successful PAFs which include the quotas plus 25%

There is no guarantee that people who complete the full application will be forwarded. That will be a separate internal competition based on full CGRS D applications.