FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Funding for Graduate Students
Grad Success Week

Dr. Donna-Marie McCafferty (CIHR), Assoc. Dean FGS
Dr. Rebecca Saah (SSHRC), Assistant Professor
Lucie Nurdin (NSERC), Graduate Leader Circle Co-Lead
Alaa Dabboor, MSc Geomatics Engineering, Writing Support Administrator and Writing Tutor

May 9, 2019 – 9-10.30
Agenda of the Workshop

- Available Resources
- Criteria for selection
- Preparing the application
- General tips
- Adjudicator comments
- Questions
Eligibility
Graduate Award Database

Graduate Studies Awards

You must meet the eligibility criteria at the time the award is paid.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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<td>Bursaries</td>
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<td>Indigenous</td>
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<td>Recommended by Program</td>
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<td>Entrance</td>
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<td>Medals and Prizes</td>
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<td>External</td>
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<td>Open Doctoral</td>
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| Keywords |  |

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<td>Master's Thesis-based</td>
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Tri-Council: NSERC; CIHR; SSHRC
Award Opportunities

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) administers a wide variety of awards for graduate students at the University of Calgary, funded from a variety of sources. Awards are competitive and based on merit, in addition to other criteria.

It is important to read the eligibility requirements and follow the application instructions for each award you apply for.

About applying for awards
Types of Awards

**Entrance Awards**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies encourages graduate students to study at the University of Calgary by offering entrance and recruitment awards to exceptional students.

These awards are only open to new students. To be eligible, you cannot have started your doctoral program prior to the November 1 launch of this competition.

**Federal Awards**

There are many federal awards funded by the Government of Canada. Some of these awards are administered through the University of Calgary and some are administered directly by the Government of Canada.

**Indigenous Awards**

Indigenous awards are part of an initiative to increase access and participation of aboriginal students in post-secondary learning. They are open to students registered full-time who are Status Indian/First Nations, Non-Status Indian/First Nations, Métis or Inuit.
Types of Awards

Provincial Awards

Provincial awards are funded by the Government of Alberta for study at a university in Alberta. These awards may have citizenship restrictions, so it is important to read the eligibility requirements.

University Awards

University awards include a wide variety of awards, funded by generous private and corporate donors, faculty and graduate programs. These awards are administered through the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

External Awards

There are many funding opportunities through external agencies. Apply for external awards through the University of Calgary or directly to the external funder, depending on the application process chosen by the funder.

Other

In addition to funding administered through the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) provides a number of funding opportunities for graduate students.

For questions about GSA funding opportunities, contact the GSA at awards.gsa@ucalgary.ca.
Timelines
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Vanier</th>
<th>Trudeau</th>
<th>CIHR PhD</th>
<th>Indigenous</th>
<th>NSERC PhD</th>
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<th>CGS M</th>
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<td>CIHR PhD</td>
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<td>Sep</td>
<td>Indigenous</td>
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<td>NSERC PhD</td>
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<td>SSHRC PhD</td>
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**Faculty of Graduate Studies**

**University of Calgary**
## Graduate Award Timeline

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<td><strong>Travel</strong>&lt;br&gt; Citizenship: Cdn/PR.&lt;br&gt; Deadline: Apr 1</td>
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<td><strong>Travel</strong>&lt;br&gt; Citizenship: Int'l&lt;br&gt; Deadline: Oct 1</td>
<td><strong>Travel</strong>&lt;br&gt; Citizenship: Int'l&lt;br&gt; Deadline: Jan 1</td>
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Contacts
▪ Scholarship office: gsaward@ucalgary.ca

▪ Graduate Leaders Circle -- Lucie Nurdin: gradlead@ucalgary.ca

▪ Associate Dean Graduate Studies:
  — Donna-Marie McCafferty

▪ Your graduate program administrator
# Award Contacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Administrative Assistant, Graduate Awards</th>
<th>Joan Tetraulj</th>
<th><a href="mailto:tetraulj@ucalgary.ca">tetraulj@ucalgary.ca</a></th>
<th>(403) 220-3813</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Scholarship Officer (Award List)</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecoburn@ucalgary.ca">ecoburn@ucalgary.ca</a></td>
<td>(403) 220-5690</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Scholarship Office (Award List)</td>
<td>Marni Fieldberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:marni.fieldberg@ucalgary.ca">marni.fieldberg@ucalgary.ca</a></td>
<td>(403) 220-2805</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Scholarship Officer (Award List)</td>
<td>Krishanga (Mihiri) Wijesuriya</td>
<td><a href="mailto:krishanga.wijesuriya@ucalgary.ca">krishanga.wijesuriya@ucalgary.ca</a></td>
<td>(403) 220-8581</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship Team Lead (Award List)</td>
<td>Jamie Pryde</td>
<td>j <a href="mailto:pryde@ucalgary.ca">pryde@ucalgary.ca</a></td>
<td>(403) 220-8483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manager, Graduate Awards</td>
<td>Cathie Stiven</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cstiven@ucalgary.ca">cstiven@ucalgary.ca</a></td>
<td>(403) 220-3857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships (Technology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada Graduate Scholarships Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements (CGS-MSFSS)</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous Award Competition</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
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<td>Mitacs</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
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<td>Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Doctoral Scholarship</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Recommended Awards - Medicine</td>
<td>Jamie Pryde</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Awards</td>
<td>Erin Coburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schmeelk Canada Fellowship</td>
<td>Jamie Pryde</td>
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my.ucalgary.ca -> Academic -> Student Centre
What do you need to submit?

- Online application through Student Centre
  - Select Awards
  - 2 References
  - Academic History
  - Scholarship and Award History
  - Research Abstract and Proposal (thesis) or Statement of Study (course-based)
  - Bibliography
  - Presentations and Contributions
  - Leadership and Interpersonal Skills
  - Allowable Inclusions
Selection Criteria
Selection Criteria

- Academic Excellence (40-50 %)
- Research Potential (30-50 %)
- Leadership and Interpersonal Skills (20-40 %)
Selection Criteria

- Academic Excellence
  - Transcripts
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)

- Research Potential
  - Research proposal
  - Presentations and Contributions
  - Awards
  - Reference assessments (x2)

- Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills
  - Leadership Statement
  - Reference assessments (x2)
Academic Excellence
As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions

- Academic record (first class average)
- Scholarships and awards held
- Duration of previous studies
- Type of program and courses pursued
- Course load
- Relative standing (if available)
Research Potential
Highlight:

- What is new and important about your research or field of study?
- What is the key question your work addresses and how will it be answered?
- How does your work fit with institutional priorities? (Eyes High)
- What are estimated milestones and what does success look like?
- Write clearly
- What is the impact?
- Feasibility. What resources are available?
Research Proposal (Thesis-based)

- What key question(s) your research will address? How will the question(s) be answered? Why is this the most appropriate way to explore the question? Justify the methodology.

- What is new about your research and why is it important? Highlight any way that your research project promises a notable advancement or innovation in the discipline.

- Ensure your proposal is specific. An ambiguous or indefinite proposal will weaken your application.

- The project must be achievable within the time-frame allowed. Offer milestones if possible.

- Convey your research goals without resorting to disparaging others.
Statement of Study (Course-based)

- Explain what you are studying and why – similar to a research paper
- Demonstrate your ability to apply your skills and knowledge and your ability to think critically
- Describe the quality and originality of contributions to your field
Presentations & Contributions

- **Publications, Presentations, Performances and other Contributions**
  - Highlight your academic accomplishments.

- **Provide as much background information as possible**
  - Adjudicators outside of your discipline may not be aware of the **conferences** at which you have presented or the prominence of the **journal** in which you have been published.

- **If there is not a specified format, follow the format most commonly used in your discipline.**
  - Contact your program and supervisor for those details.
Leadership, personal statement and interpersonal skills
Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills

- As demonstrated by the applicant’s communication skills, past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations.
  - Work experience
  - Leadership experience
  - Project management including organizing conferences and meetings
  - The ability or potential to communicate and present theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats
  - Involvement in academic life
  - Volunteerism/community outreach
What is “leadership”?

- **Personal achievement:**
  - professional involvement in dance, arts, music, etc.;
  - significant artistic achievement;
  - recognized athletic achievement, especially in a leadership role;
  - entrepreneurial achievement (startup company); and/or
  - foreign travel and study.

- **Involvement in academic life:**
  - mentoring/teaching;
  - supervisory experience;
  - Involvement in student government and in the university community, including committees, teams, senate, boards, ethics committees, etc.;
  - project management;
  - roles in professional societies; and/or
  - organization of conferences and meetings.

- **Volunteerism/community outreach:**
  - community involvement in charity or not-for-profit organizations.

- **Civic engagement:**
  - parliamentary page positions and internships;
  - political activity; and/or
  - elected positions.
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...”

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<th>Topic</th>
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Leadership Experiences and Interpersonal Skills

Example (SSHRC):

Through my involvement with community organizations and academic associations, **leading my peers and cultivating community change have become overarching themes** in my past, present and future goals. My belief in the power of strong leadership is the driving force behind many of my past and current accomplishments, as outlined in my CV. I pride myself in my ability to **critically identify areas of need** and creatively **generate practical solutions**.
References
Do not just ask someone for a reference. Be proactive and make it easy for your referee to write a good assessment:

- Provide the review criteria.
- Provide transcripts and a CV: highlight areas you wish to have covered in the assessment.
- Meet to discuss: what criteria do you think they should address?
- Be strategic in choosing your referees in terms of covering the criteria.
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.
It is always a good idea to use your supervisor. If you are a new student, use this as an opportunity to discuss your goals for the next few years with your supervisor. Chat with them about this.

Have the references complement your application.

Give your referees some time (2 weeks *minimum*, most references require more, a good bet is 4 weeks).
Reference Assessments: Tips for Referees

- Guide on writing a reference – send this
- Remind of the deadline!

Tips for Success

The Graduate Scholarship Office wants you to succeed in your program and in your funding applications. We encourage you to take the necessary time to properly prepare your application to improve your chance of success.

Before You Apply for Funding

- Search the Graduate Award Database to generate a list of internal University of Calgary awards you may be eligible for
- Read Creating Strong Funding Applications
- Consider which publications to list on your scholarship application
- Check the event calendar and GRADpost for scholarship workshops

Reference

- Plan ahead. Ask for a reference well in advance of the due date.
- Provide this guide on writing a reference to your referee

Before You Submit Your Application

- Check every item and page for accuracy
- Ask someone not in your field to read it
- Ensure you have included all the documents requested
- Make certain all documents are in the correct format
- Ensure you send your application to the correct location
▪ Address the criteria.

▪ Characteristics and abilities are assessed from references. Leadership is not just extracurriculars, address the personality traits and comment on where you think this student will end up in their career.

▪ Be specific. Back a point up with an anecdote.
Allowable Inclusions
When appropriate, outline extraordinary circumstances that may have delayed or interrupted:

- 1) your completion of degree(s),
- 2) record or research achievement, or
- 3) your research career.

Extraordinary circumstances include care of family members, illness, disability or other exceptional factor. Employment while completing your degree is not considered extraordinary.

250 words (less than one page)
How to Create a Strong Scholarship Application

▪ **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.
The end!
From the Adjudicator’s point of view
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?

Scan Test:
- Have someone outside your field read you application quickly (scan it, ~ 5 minutes).
- What major point(s) do they take away from it? Is it what you wanted them to?
A generic reference. The assessment is positive but gives no specifics and does not address criteria.

Content, context and/or impact of research not clearly stated. ("So what?")

Not following instructions (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.