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APPLYING FOR FUNDING



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- If you plan on applying to graduate school, particularly in a graduate psychology program it is highly recommended that you apply to external scholarships such as OGS and one of the tri-council awards (SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR).
- This shows graduate programs that you are familiar with the process of applying to funding which is an integral part of your graduate career
- Although the scholarship results are often released after the graduate school acceptance offers are made, winning an external scholarship has in some occasions paved the way for an acceptance offer. – so let programs know as soon as you can if you find out you have won.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

- You should be beginning to think about which professors you may want for reference letters in EARLY SEPTEMBER.
- Applications for scholarships must be submitted by the internal or “program” deadline (early October for OGS and mid-November 2012 for Tri-Council) for the Department of Psychology
- Note that different scholarships will have different deadlines

ASKING FACULTY FOR REFERENCE LETTERS

- Be sure to give them a reasonable amount of time to write it (a good rule of thumb is about a month if you can)
 - But it is not as great a burden as you think, and it is part of their job
 - It is easier for professors who know you to write you a letter: so it is to your advantage to conduct yourself as an undergraduate in such a way to make an impact. Professors respond best to those students who actively, creatively, and diplomatically participate in class and turn in excellent work
 - Go to those professors for whom you've done your best work
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ASKING FACULTY FOR REFERENCE LETTERS

- For a good reference letter, it often takes more than just a class with a professor – they need to be able to talk about your personal and academic attributes.
- Ask reference letters from professors who know you well
 - For example you have not only taken course with them but volunteered I their lab for a period of time.

FORMS & REFERENCE LETTERS

- It is very important that you use the correct forms and provide the correct forms to your referees.
- For all scholarships you will require a letter of reference to be written by a faculty member who can assess your academic skills and performance.

WHEN SEEKING REFEREES BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Unofficial copy of your transcripts
 - A “letter of interest” in the type of research you would like to do. This is usually something you have to write in order to submit either with your application for a scholarship and/or for your application to graduate school.
 - Some referees may like to see a copy of your written work - preferably from a psychology course were you have had to write something in APA style. If that is not available any example of your writing ability is good.
 - Any appropriate forms, with the appropriate sections filled in by YOU.
 - Information as to where the form is to be sent. If they are to be sent somewhere else other than the Psychology Dept at York university provide self addressed stamped envelopes
 - A succinct time schedule for when specific reference forms are due in.
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WHEN SEEKING REFEREES BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- After a faculty has agreed to be your referee (first inquire either in person or through email):
 - Provide all relevant documents such as scholarship forms, transcripts, CVs/Resumes, research interest cover letter, deadlines for when they should be submitted and to where in either a physical or digital package that you can give to the professor.
- You can send a follow up email a week before the application deadline thanking the professor for their time and gently reminding them that the deadline is approaching.

HELPFUL PACKAGE

Check out the Honours Student Website for a link to a package for
WHAT TO PREPARE WHEN REQUESTING A REFERENCE LETTER:

[http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/documents/Refereerequestpackagerevie
w1.pdf](http://www.yorku.ca/health/psyc/documents/Refereerequestpackagerevie
w1.pdf)

TRANSCRIPTS

- you will need official copies of your transcripts
- Order all transcripts to be sent directly to the Graduate Psychology Program, Rm 297 BSB by the internal deadline for the particular scholarship.
- The transcript paper now reads that "transcripts issued to students are not considered to be original".
- Please note the Tri-Council agencies and OGS are willing to receive transcripts stamped "issued to student" as long as our Graduate Program offices receive these transcripts in sealed envelopes, as per our standard practices.
- York graduate school transcripts may be ordered from the Bennett Centre for Student Services, or on line. Please allow at least two weeks for the transcript office to process transcripts.

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OGS)

Internal Program deadline is usually early to mid-October (exact date announced early fall 2012)

Eligibility for OGS:

- Applicants entering the first or second year of graduate studies at the time of application or those who will be in the first or second year of graduate studies during the tenure of the award, must have an overall average of at least A-, or the equivalent, on the last 20 one-term/semester courses, or the equivalent, completed.
- Please note that you will need to find TWO professors to complete the two-page academic assessment report and have them submit it to 297 BSB before the internal deadline. It is very important that the professors submit this form. *The academic assessment report – 2nd page must be signed along with the 1st page.* This form must be used, no attached letters.

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OGS)

- An OGS is awarded for one academic year, which may consist of three consecutive terms. One-term awards are not granted.
- For 2011-2012, the value of the award was about \$5,000 per term. Students may receive \$10,000 for two consecutive terms or \$15,000 for three consecutive terms.
- Further details including the OGS paper and on-line application is available at: <https://osap.gov.on.ca/OSAPPortal/en/A-ZListofAid/PRD1346626.html>

TRI-COUNCIL AWARDS

In addition you can apply for one of three prestigious fellowships from NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR. You must choose **ONLY** one—you can not apply to more than one.

NSERC

The NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship (PGS) and Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) provide support to high-caliber scholars who are engaged in Master's (or Doctoral programs):

- **in the natural sciences (research relating to fundamental processes such as perception, cognition, learning, motivation, physiological psychology, neuropsychology, animal behaviour, comparative psychology and ethology) and engineering.**

NSERC

Transcripts due in Graduate Office: Wednesday October 3, 2012

Intention to apply – email [Freda Soltau](#) in the Psychology Graduate Studies office by Wednesday October 3, 2012 indicating that you intend to apply (include your full name and student number and the fact that you will be applying at the Masters level)

Final online application deadline: Monday October 22, 2012

SSHRC

- Open to applicants who, at the time of the award, will be registered as full-time students at the Master's (or Ph.D) level:
- **in the humanities and social sciences disciplines supported by SSHRC (eg., this could cover topics in psychology from social, personality, individual differences, creativity, abnormal, etc).**

SSHRC

Application Deadline: Wednesday November 7, 2012

The application in full (application, transcripts, references) must all be submitted to the graduate office by this date.



CIHR

Program deadline usually mid-November (exact date announced early fall 2012)

- The Canada Graduate Scholarships Master's Awards administered by CIHR are intended to provide special recognition and support to students who are pursuing a Master's degree **in a health related field in Canada.**

SUBJECT MATTER ELIGIBILITY

- Minor revisions have been made to the guidelines on subject matter eligibility. Applicants working in research areas where boundaries overlap are advised to state clearly in all applications for funding why they believe their proposals are appropriate for support by the agency to which they are submitting their application.
- For details on which subject matters are eligible for SSHRC:

http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx#af2

- For details on subject matters for NSERC and CIHR:

<http://www.science.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FEE7261A-1#SSHRC1>

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS ASSESSED?

Master's Evaluation Criteria

- 1. Achievements and activities of the candidate*
 - 2. Characteristics and abilities of the candidate*
 - 3. Research training environment*
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WHERE/WHEN DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?

Applications for scholarships must be submitted by the internal or “program” deadline for the Department of psychology. Note that different scholarships will have different deadlines (TBD early Fall).

All York undergraduate students must submit their scholarship applications for Graduate school, along with all supporting documentation, to the Graduate Program Office that their undergraduate program is affiliated with.

For Psychology this is located in Rm 297 BSB

APPLICATION COMPLETENESS:

- Ensure that your application is complete!
 - Agencies are cracking down on enforcing completeness rules
 - Use the application checklist to ensure you have all pieces
 - You can also check the agency websites links for details on complete applications packages
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QUESTIONS?

Reach Saeid, 2012 Thesis Coordinator at:

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