Canada Graduate Scholarship – Master’s (CGSM) 2018-2019
Overview of Awards

• Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship
  – Master’s (CIHR CGSM): $17,500/year; for 1 year

• Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship
  – Master’s (NSERC CGSM): $17,500/year; for 1 year

• Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship
  – Master’s (SSHRC CGSM): $17,500/year; for 1 year

• Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement
  – Up to $6,000 for a period of research study abroad
Eligibility Criteria

• Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada

• Graduate program with a significant research component

• Completed no more that 12 months of full-time studies in the graduate program as of December 31, 2017

• Have at least a 3.5 GPA in each of the last two years of full time study (or equivalent)

• Have not received any other Tri-council funding for a master’s program
Application Process


• You may select up to 5 institutions for your proposed study.

• If not yet admitted to a graduate program, you must also apply for admission no later than March 1, 2018 in order to be considered for the CGSM at the University of Alberta.

• FGSR reviews CGSM applications for eligibility and completeness and forwards applications to departments.

• Departments conduct preliminary evaluations and rank applications and forward to the FGSR Graduate Scholarship Committee for Final adjudication.

• Decisions are announced via Research Portal on April 1, 2018.
Application Components

• The completed application form

• An outline of proposed research (one page max, plus one page for citations)

• CV (to be completed on the Canadian Common CV online system)

• Two letters of reference (to be uploaded online by referees before December 1st)

• Official and up-to-date transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended, including University of Alberta transcripts (scanned and uploaded).
Selection Criteria

**Academic excellence**
- Grades, awards and distinctions
- Weight: 50%
- What helps: GPA of at least 3.5 in each of the past two years

**Research Potential**
- Potential contribution to advancement of knowledge
- Weight: 30%
- What helps: Research activity, well-written proposal

**Personal Characteristics and Interpersonal Skills**
- Past professional and relevant extracurricular interactions and collaborations
- Weight: 20%
- Evidence is required
Research Statements

Dr. Craig Heinke
Associate Professor
Department of Physics
Tel. 780.492.0714
heinke@ualberta.ca
Science perspective: Heinke

- Craig Heinke, Physics (astrophysics)
- Judged PGSD/CGSD awards, Postdocs
- Also have judged NSERC USRAs
- Very difficult, most are very good!
Science: Academics

• Difficult to compare institutions
• PGSD evaluators not required to calculate GPAs; but most do
• I created scale, from first-class (~3.5; differs) to maximum, to compare students
• Extra points for (large) GPA improvement, more competitive school
Science: Research Statements

• Looking for clear, feasible, significant research plan
• Background of problem, & why it matters
• Describe state of the art (current work)
• Plan of attack; new ideas, new methods, new observations?
• Expected results
Science: Research Statements

– To avoid:
  • Excessive jargon (think of a nonspecialist!)
  • Omitting “why it matters”
  • Overstating what will do (think of specialist!)
  • Waiting until last minute.

*Very* helpful for someone to give feedback.
Science: Personal Characteristics

• Evidence of leadership, communication skills.
• Leadership in research (e.g. mentoring others), or in extracurriculars (membership alone not helpful).
• Communication: success in presentations (&/or papers), working within group.
• Look in CCV, reference letters.
Research Statements

Dr. Samira ElAtia
Assistant Professor
Campus Saint-Jean
Tel. 780.485.8630
samira.elatia@ualberta.ca
Outline of Proposed Research—Some Basics

- “...a detailed description of your proposed research project for the period during which you will hold the award.”

- CGS guidelines—Maximum two pages.
- All facets of research project: context, specific questions, theoretical framework, methods used in project.

- Conclude (or begin) with wider significance of study.
An Idiosyncratic Piece of Writing

• Understand and write to a non-specialist audience. Imagine audience as informed, well-read but not an expert.

• Place in larger context but also be specific and precise.

• Delineate the bigger significance, curiosity, puzzle or context of work—in non academic terms.
Fundamentals of a good statement

• Leaves reader with a clear sense of project.
• Establishes clear research goals, questions and plan.
• Demonstrates project is manageable, achievable.
• Cites relevant literature.
• Highlights research component of work (for creative projects)
Things to avoid!

• Any irrelevant, obtuse or grand claims or broad generalities.

• Fluff and jargon.

• Questions that do no match proposed research.

• Overstating the case or imprecision.

• Writing errors (grammar, spelling) can be fatal!
Questions to answer

• Does the proposal seem consistent with the questions asked?

• Can it be accomplished in time frame?

• It is possible, understandable, interesting to non-specialist?

• Is it clearly written and presented?

• Is it rooted in a specific literature?
How to get there?

• Have a non-academic (or non-specialist) friend read it over.

• Engage supervisor and other students in your field.

• Time for proof-reading and distance from text.
Questions?

Contact Tri-Council

CIHR, CGS M Award Program Delivery Coordinator
Tel.: 613-952-0763
E-mail: cgsma@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

NSERC
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