2020 Tri-Agency Awards and Affiliated Fellowships Information Panel (Doctoral)

Monday, July 13, 2020
Resources for this session

1. Document with answers to all questions submitted last week
2. Tri-agency PhD handout
   • Adjudication Process Overview
   • Writing for Tri-Agencies: Key Considerations
   • Tri-Agencies Subject Matter Eligibility
   • Online Resources
   • Tri-Agencies + Affiliated Awards Help Contacts
   • Sample Proposals
3. This set of slides will be distributed after the session
Funding Sources

**Tri-Agency**

**Affiliated Fellowships**

**Canadian Citizens and PR**

**International**

**2020 DEADLINES:** Vanier, 3 September, noon PDT; All others TBA (possibly week of 14 September)
**Tri-agencies:** federal granting agencies that fund research and govern ethical conduct of research in Canada
Beyond funding: Tri-agencies statement governing ethical conduct of research in Canada
Eligibility: Tri-Agency Awards

• Canadian citizen or PR, as of application deadline

• completed **no more than 24 months** of full-time study in their doctoral program by December 31 of the year of application (no more than 36 months if transferred directly from Bachelors to a PhD; fast-tracked or enrolled in joint program, e.g., MD/PhD, MA/PhD)

• submit only one doctoral award application in a given academic year. Nominations to the [Vanier CGS](https://www.canada.ca/en/research-nature-sciences-scholarships-grants/vanier-cgs.html) program do not count towards this limit

• not have already received a doctoral-level scholarship or fellowship from CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC
Eligibility: Affiliated Awards

Citizenship:
All students regardless of citizenship. Canadian citizens and permanent residents are required to apply to the Tri-Agency CGS D program, if they are eligible to do so.

Fields of Study:
All (exceptions do not affect FoE students)

Student status:
Applicants who plan to be registered full-time graduate students at UBC's Vancouver campus as of September 2021

Months of study:
Between zero and 36 of full-time doctoral study as of December 31 2020
• Exceptions: student has transferred directly from a Master’s program into a doctoral program without receiving a Master’s degree; student has proceeded directly from a Bachelor’s or equivalent program to their doctoral program
Tri-Agencies Subject Matter Eligibility

**SSHRC**
- research or related activities must be primarily in the social sciences and humanities
- The intended outcome of research must primarily be to add to our understanding and knowledge of individuals, groups and societies

**CIHR**
- intended outcomes of the research must primarily improve or have an impact on health and/or produce more effective health services and products and/or strengthen the Canadian health care system

**NSERC**
- program of research must be primarily in the natural sciences and engineering, other than the health sciences
- intended objective(s) of the research must primarily be to advance knowledge in one or more of the natural science or engineering disciplines
Adjudication
Process
Overview

UBC DEADLINE:
TBA – likely week of
14 Sept., noon PDT on
deadline day
Questions

Time for questions specifically about what we have just gone over:

• Funding sources
• Candidate eligibility
• Subject matter eligibility
• Deadlines
• Adjudication process
1. Completed Web-Based Doctoral Award Application Form
2. Program of Study (maximum two pages)
3. Bibliography and Citations (maximum five pages)
4. Research Contributions (if applicable, maximum one page)
5. Supplement and/or Joint or Special Initiative Justifications (if applicable)
6. Allowable Inclusions (if applicable)
7. Official Letter to Confirm Part-Time Study and/or Leave of Absence (if applicable)
8. All Official and/or Certified Copies of Undergraduate and Graduate-Level Transcripts
9. Letters of Appraisal (two letters, in sealed envelopes, maximum one page each)
10. Departmental Appraisal (only for candidates who must apply through a Canadian university)
11. Completed Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information Form
12. Application Checklist
Completed Web-Based Doctoral Award Application Form

• A good application demonstrates:
  • a strong academic record;
  • excellent potential to conduct advanced scholarly research;
  • strong communication skills; and
  • the ability to successfully complete the graduate program in a timely manner.
Program of Study (maximum two pages)

• Describe your proposed program of study in non-technical terms. Avoid jargon and acronyms and ensure that your proposal is written in clear, plain language understandable to a multidisciplinary committee

• Two approaches: a) entering doctoral studies; b) continuing doctoral studies (e.g., second year)
If you are entering doctoral studies:

• State your current level of study (e.g., completing a master’s degree, etc.).

• Provide the title and a brief description of your master’s thesis, if applicable.

• Identify the degree program that you will pursue, including any relevant courses, faculty expertise, etc., and provide explanations for your choices (fit between proposed research and location of research).

• Describe your proposed doctoral thesis project, including the research question, context, objectives, methodology and contribution to the advancement of knowledge, as well as your special interests and expertise in the proposed area of research.
If you are currently in a doctoral program, provide the following:

• Clearly state your current level of study (e.g., second year of doctoral studies, etc.).

• Indicate what coursework you have completed and describe where you are in your research work.

• Name supervisor and supporting faculty (fit between proposed research and location of research).

• Describe your proposed doctoral thesis project, including the research question, context, objectives, methodology and contribution to the advancement of knowledge.

• Describe what you hope to accomplish during the award tenure, and what will remain to be done before you obtain your degree.
Interdisciplinary Proposals

• If your proposed research is interdisciplinary (e.g., related to health or psychology), justify your submission to the agency you’ve selected.

• If the output of your degree program is an artistic creation rather than a thesis, indicate clearly the research component of your proposed work. Outline the objectives of your research and its context, methodology and contribution to the advancement of knowledge. Make sure your proposal follows the [Guidelines for Research-Creation Support Materials](#).
Key points for proposal

- **Location:** Why this research in this location?
- **Researcher expertise:** Why am I the best – the only – person able to complete this research? What is my academic and professional experience related to this research?
- **Context and knowledge of the field:** What is the research context, and what question does this work answer that has not been answered?
- **Fit between questions and method:** How will the data I collect and analyze answer the proposed questions?
- **Feasibility:** Is the project “doable” in the time of a doctoral program? Will I have the resources to do it? Will it be approved by ethics? Have you considered options for data collection in view of the pandemic?
- **Significance:** Why is this research so important it needs to be funded?
Letters of Appraisal

• A good letter of appraisal:
  • supports the information in the application;
  • focuses on the applicant’s skills and past achievements; and
  • emphasizes strengths and personal attributes.

• Send the following to each of your two referees:
  • a copy of the Letter of Appraisal;
  • a copy of your Research Contributions;
  • a copy of your Program of Study; and

• SSHRC/NSERC: normally candidates send addressed and stamped envelopes to referees, who are asked to seal the letter envelope, sign over the seal, and return the envelope to you so you can forward these unopened envelopes with the rest of your application. COVID may change this!
Questions

Time for questions specifically about what we have just gone over:

• Proposal writing
• Letters of reference
# Evaluation Criteria (all awards)

2 Main categories:
- Research ability and potential (50%)
- Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia (50%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research ability and potential</td>
<td>Indicators of research ability and potential:</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>• Scholarships, awards and distinctions (amount, duration and prestige)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Quality of research proposal</td>
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<td>• Academic record, such as:</td>
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<td>○ Program requirements and courses pursued</td>
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<td>• Relevant training, such as academic training, lived experience and traditional teachings</td>
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<td>○ Course load</td>
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<td>○ Relative standing in program (if available)</td>
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<td>• 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.</td>
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<td>• Professional, academic, and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community, such as:</td>
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<td>• Demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically</td>
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<td>○ teaching, mentoring, supervising and/or coaching</td>
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<td>• 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</td>
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<td>○ managing projects</td>
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<td>• Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach</td>
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<td>○ participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies and/or clubs</td>
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Research Ability and Potential Part 1

- **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
- **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.
Research Ability and Potential Part 2

• 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
Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia Part 1

Indicators of relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia:

• **Scholarships, awards and distinctions** (amount, duration and prestige)
• **Academic record**, such as:
  • Transcripts
  • Duration of previous studies
  • Program requirements and courses pursued
  • Course load
  • Relative standing in program (if available)
Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia Part 2

Indicators of relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia:

- **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
Tri-Agencies and Affiliated Awards Help Contacts

Tri-Agencies + Affiliated Awards Help Contacts

**SSHRC**
Email: fellowships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

**NSERC**
Email: schol@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

**CIHR**
Email: support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Departmental Help Contacts

Contact the Graduate Program Assistant in your department:

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Graduate Program Assistant</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCFI/ECE</td>
<td>Vicki Domansky</td>
<td>604-822-8638</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vicki.domansky@ubc.ca">vicki.domansky@ubc.ca</a></td>
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<td>Helen Luk</td>
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<td>Alya Zhukova</td>
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</tr>
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Open Discussion/Opportunity for Questions

• What makes an excellent program of study?
• What is the best way to prepare a program of study description? (How long will it take? What kind of feedback should you get?)
• What should you think about when selecting your referees?
• What is the best way to interact with/approach referees?
• What should you include in your description of your track record?
Online Resources

SSHRC: sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

NSERC: nserc-crsg.gc.ca

CIHR: cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Affiliated Fellowships: grad.ubc.ca/awards/affiliated-fellowships-doctoral-program