Scholarship Application Tips

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SSHRC – Evaluation Criteria – Solely Academic Merit

• past academic results, as demonstrated by transcripts, awards and distinctions;
• the program of study and its potential contribution to the advancement of knowledge;
• relevant professional and academic experience, including research training, as demonstrated by conference presentations and scholarly publications;
• written evaluations from referees; and
• the departmental appraisal
Writing Tips

• Avoid jargon – must be accessible to fields other than education
• Avoid acronyms
• Write in the present tense if possible
• Be clear and direct
• Write a concrete realizable plan – convince the reviewers that you are a good bet to get the research done
• Don’t be shy about your talents or accomplishments – advocate for yourself and your research
• Consider using white space, headers – make it easy to read
What I look for...

• a “catchy” beginning – what is the problem?
• Replace words that appear “tentative” with words that show “confidence”
• A solid final statement – how will your research contribute.
• Ease of Reading - Paragraph breaks and white space
• Make the reviewer want to read it...
More tips

• Sentence structure, grammar, spelling
• Literature review
• Proper citations
• Cohesiveness
• Can I understand what you intend to do and why?
• Are you leaving out important details?
• Think about the reviewer
PhD - In your SSHRC Program of Study (2 pages) include:

• Clearly state your current level of graduate study
• Indicate what stage you are at in your thesis.
• Provide the name of your supervisor of doctoral studies, if known
• Provide an outline of your thesis proposal including the research question, context, objectives, methodology and contribution to the advancement of knowledge
• Describe what you hope to accomplish during the award tenure (1-3 years for SSHRC) and what will remain to be done before you obtain your degree
How to structure your proposal

• Use Heather Brown’s Templates available at:
  http://www.edu.uwo.ca/Research/Brown-HowtoStructureanOGSorSSHRCProposal.pdf
HELP!!

• Binder of successful applications in the Research Office
• Ask your supervisor, ask your peers, ask your roommate... to read your proposal and provide feedback
• Send your reasonably final draft to Karen for feedback by the deadline
• Consult the Experts (SGPS) Sessions – all dates will be on Graduate Student Blog
Most Importantly

• Follow the instructions or guidelines provided by OGS, CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC or any other granting agency to which you may be applying
• Use the correct font, margins, etc.
• Correct all grammatical and spelling errors
• Start early
ROLES

Graduate Office (1131)
• Application Form completion
• Help with errors on forms
• Questions about / problems with application form
• Transcripts
• Letters from Referees
• Eligibility (Grades)

Research Office (1163)
• Research Plan / Statement of Interest/ Plan of Study
• List of scholarships
• List of Publications/ Presentations
• List of Academic Accomplishments
• To see successful applications
Questions?
Consult the FAQ page on the Graduate Programs Website:
Also information on the Graduate Student Blog:
http://westerngradresearch.wordpress.com/