APPLYING SUCCESSFULLY FOR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

UBC

Fall Competitions

- Vanier Scholarships
  – 6 September

- Tri-Agency / Affiliated Doctoral Scholarships
  – mid- to late September

- Tri-Agency / Affiliated Master's Scholarships
  – 1 December

What should I apply for?

Eligibility

- Citizenship
- Months of study
- Research area (subject matter)
- Degree program
- First-class academic standing

Competitiveness

- Value of learning to apply

When and where do I submit?
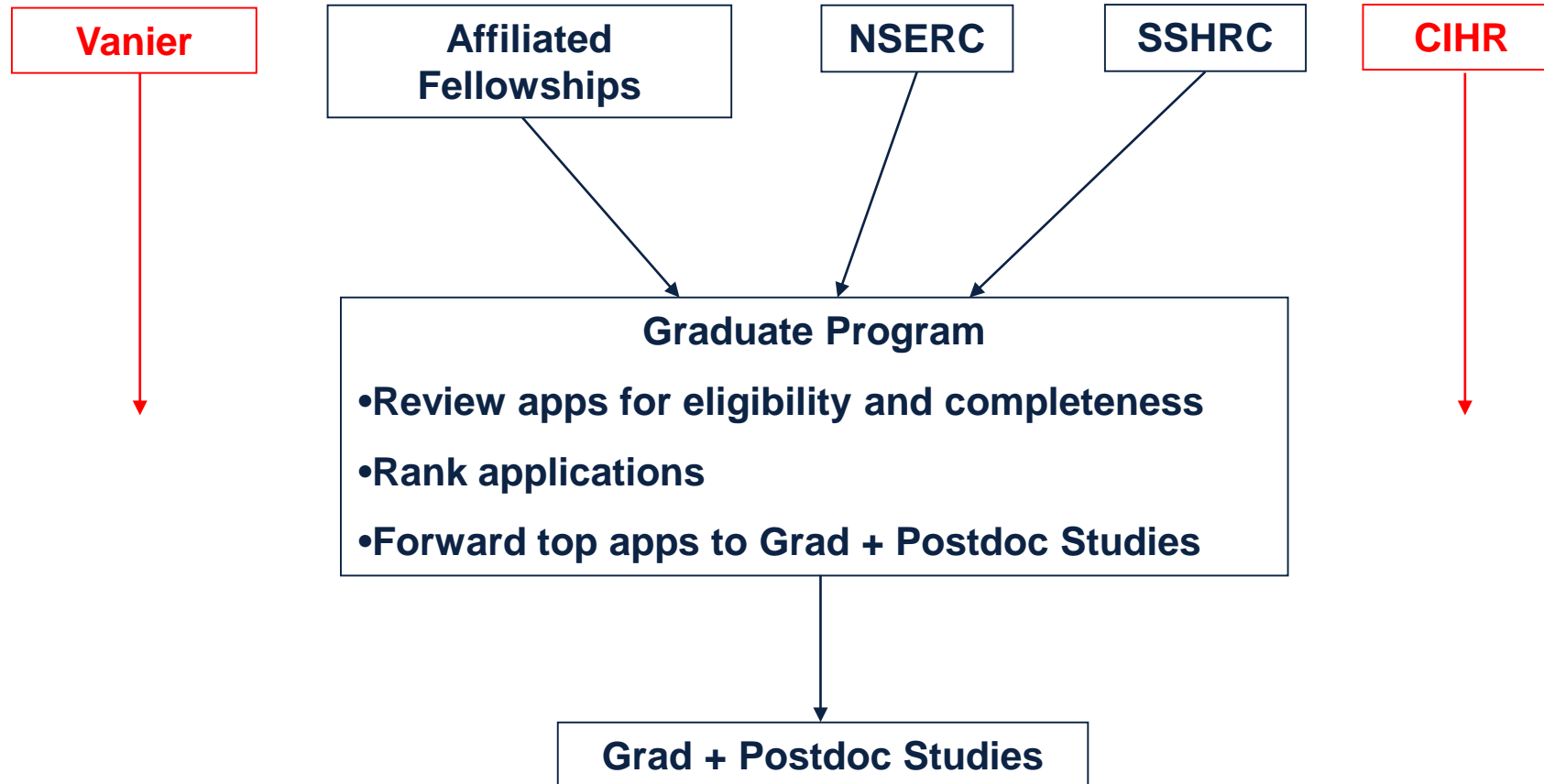
Deadlines are strict

- For referees
- For applicants
- For graduate programs
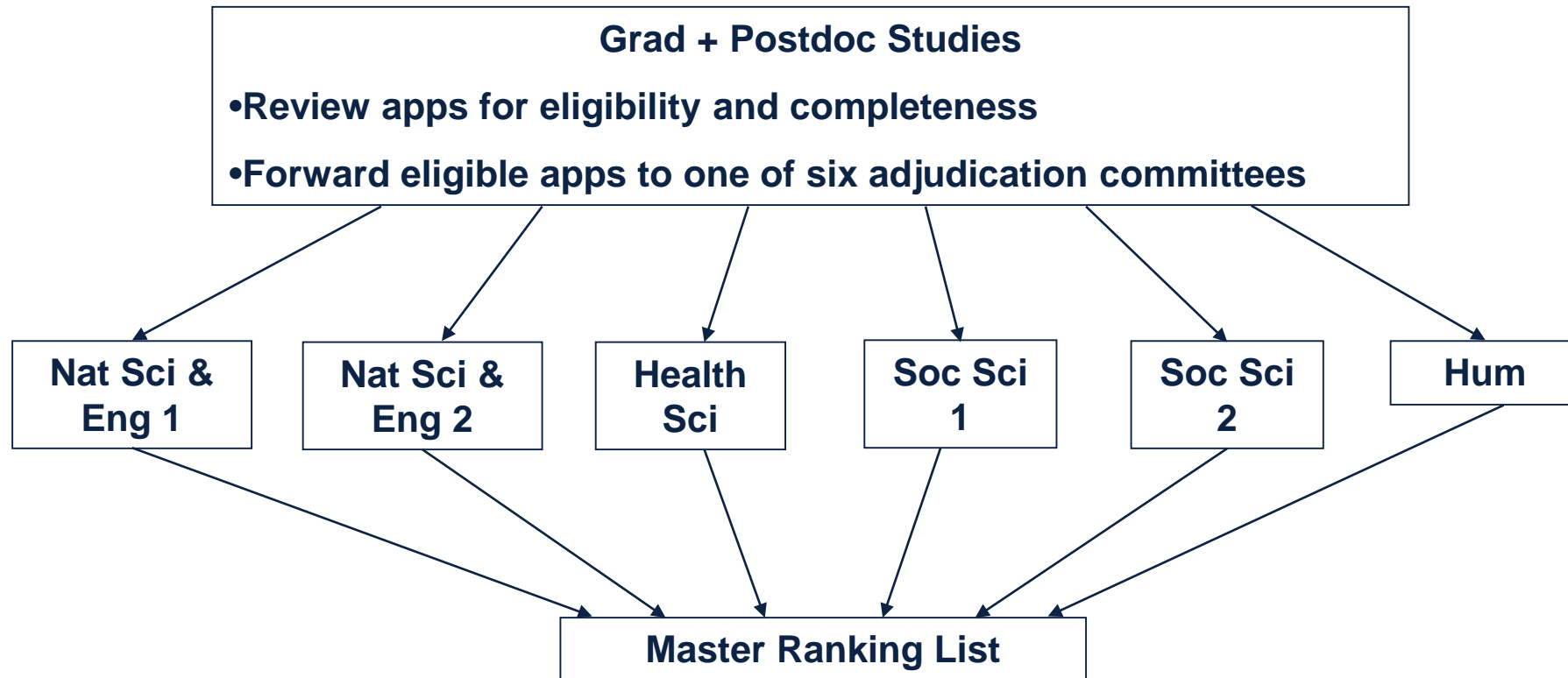- For universities

Where to submit

- Online vs. hard-copy submission
- Grad program vs. G+PS vs. funding agency
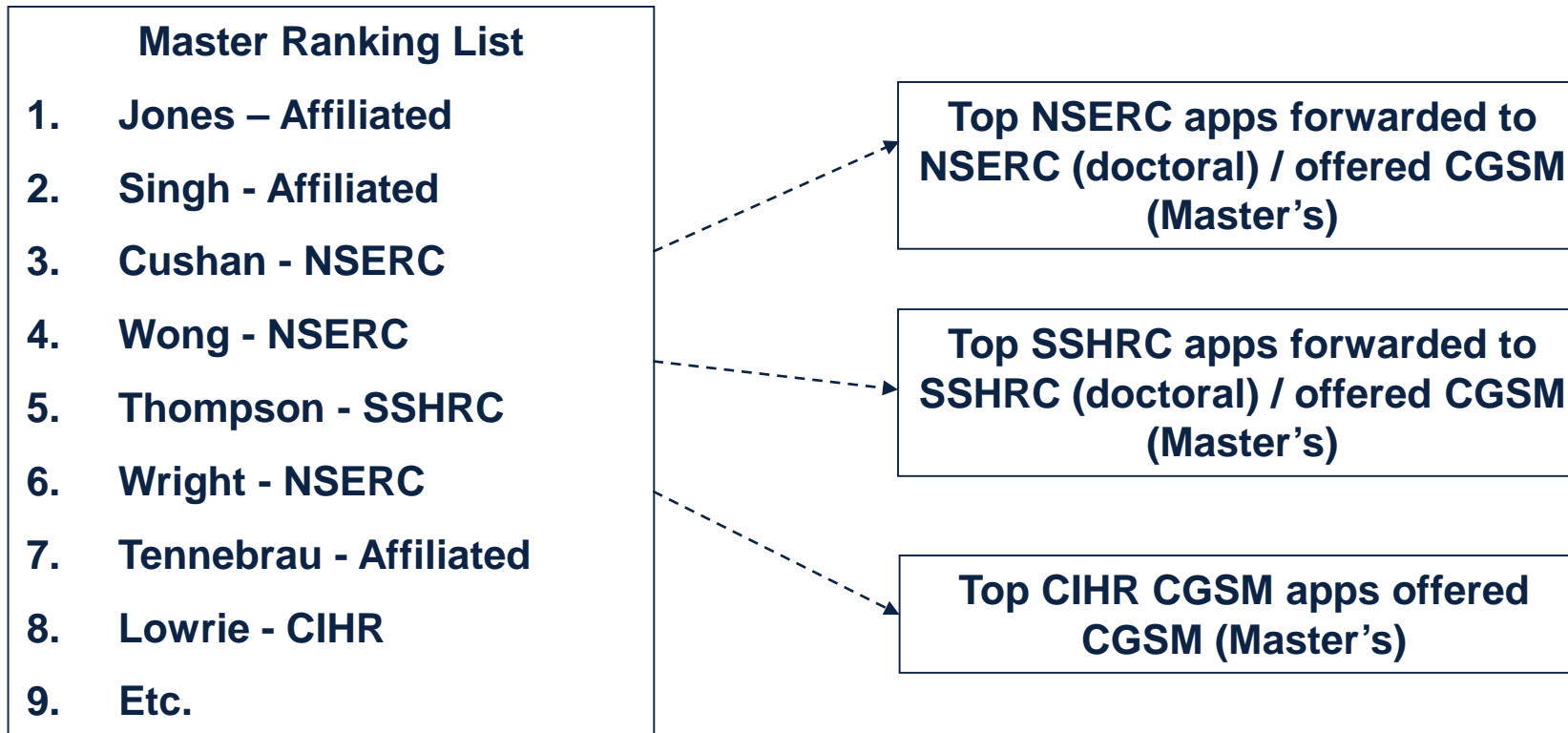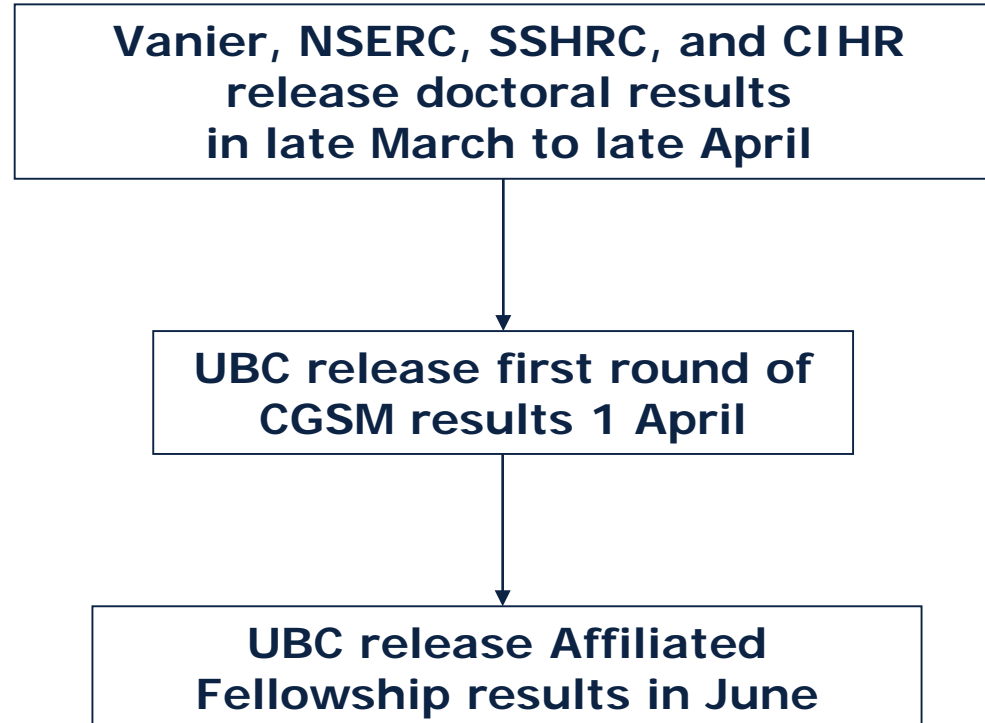
Competition Overview

Vanier

Affiliated Fellowships

NSERC

SSHRC

CIHR

Graduate Program

- Review apps for eligibility and completeness

- Rank applications

- Forward top apps to Grad + Postdoc Studies

Grad + Postdoc Studies

UBC

Competition Overview

Grad + Postdoc Studies

•**Review apps for eligibility and completeness**

•**Forward eligible apps to one of six adjudication committees**

| Nat Sci & Eng 1 | Nat Sci & Eng 2 | Health Sci | Soc Sci 1 | Soc Sci 2 | Hum |

Master Ranking List

Competition Overview

Master Ranking List

1. **Jones – Affiliated**

2. **Singh - Affiliated**

3. **Cushan - NSERC**

4. **Wong - NSERC**

5. **Thompson - SSHRC**

6. **Wright - NSERC**

7. **Tennebrau - Affiliated**

8. **Lowrie - CIHR**

9. **Etc.**

Top NSERC apps forwarded to NSERC (doctoral) / offered CGSM (Master's)

Top SSHRC apps forwarded to SSHRC (doctoral) / offered CGSM (Master's)

Top CIHR CGSM apps offered CGSM (Master's)

Competition Overview

Vanier, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR
release doctoral results
in late March to late April

UBC release first round of
CGSM results 1 April

UBC release Affiliated
Fellowship results in June

Application Materials

- Application form
- CCV
- Research Proposal
- Transcript
- References

Transcripts

- All post-secondary studies

- Official vs. original transcripts

- Must be up-to-date

- Often need to show fall term registration

- Include transcript key

- Talk to your graduate program about which transcripts they can provide (don't assume)

Ethics and Integrity

- Application must be an accurate picture of applicant
  - Beware of hyperbole and embellishment
  - Give credit where credit is due
  - Review Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/framework-cadre/)
- Who should write the research proposal?
  - Applicant alone?
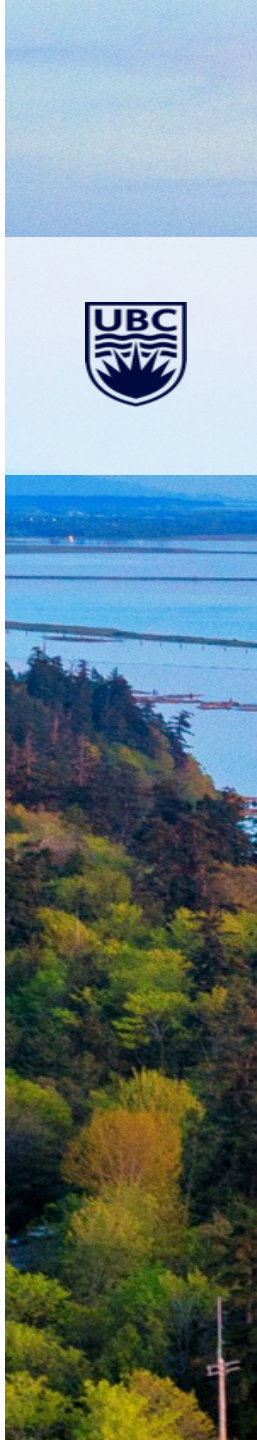 - Applicant together with supervisor?
- Consequences

JULIAN DIERKES
ASSOC DEAN, FUNDING, G+PS

PREPARING EXCELLENT APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION AS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

- Adjudication is what we do in science, parallel to peer review for publications, etc.
- Process designed to ensure fairness/consistency
- Selection of excellence from pool of eligible applicants
- Large pool of applicants, small number of recipients

INTERDISCIPLINARY/INTERCULTURAL

Expectations of excellence vary across disciplines

- Provide that context in applications

    E.g. conference invitations/proceedings vs journal publications

Expectations of excellence vary internationally

- Some markers of excellence do not translate well

    E.g. competition for entry into institutions, positions with public service

Language around excellence varies

- Excellence is described very differently, offer examples/metrics and encourage reference writers to do so

    E.g. US enthusiasm vs German and Japanese reticence

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Academic Excellence

- Research Ability / Potential

- Communication, interpersonal and leadership abilities
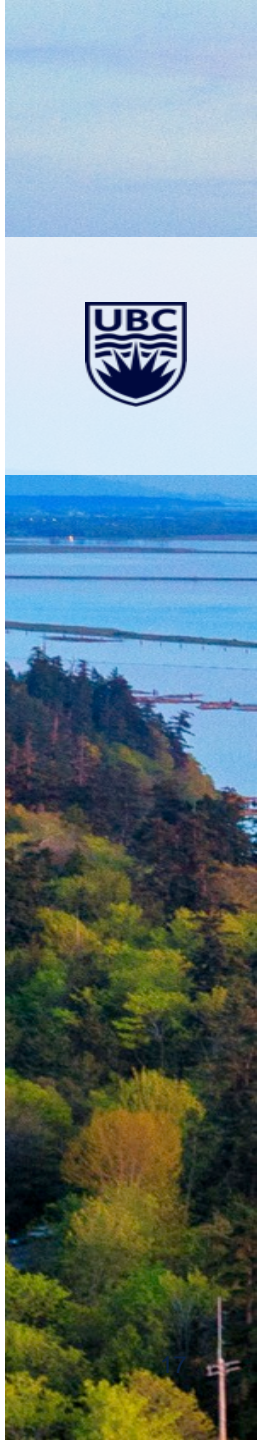
- Weightings vary by competition

FOLLOW GUIDELINES/SELECTION CRITERIA

- Instructions are carefully and deliberately worded
- If there is something you disagree with in instructions, ask questions, but follow guidelines
- If guidelines specify criteria, speak to all of these criteria in your application

PREPARING APPLICATIONS

- Think/plan ahead
- Work backward from deadlines to include
  - Time for references (if needed)
  - Feedback from peers
  - Considered revisions
- Share your drafts/ask for others' applications
- Seek out feedback beyond your immediate specialization
- Does your application generate enthusiasm?

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS: PROPOSED RESEARCH

- **Must** be easy to read, including in its use of technical, (sub)discipline-specific terminology
- Clear discussion of objectives of research/hypotheses
- Highlights contributions to be made
- Must be do-able in terms of methods, time, other resources
- Detailed proposals beat out vague plans
- Will readers share your excitement about your research?

THINK ABOUT FORMATTING

Application forms specify formatting parameters, but

- Use (sub)headers to structure text
- Think about reminders to adjudicators when they review an application
- Consider some **bold** or *italics* to highlight aspects
- Be obvious by mirroring application instructions: If criterion is "Research", why not have a subheader, "Research: [insert your topic here]"?
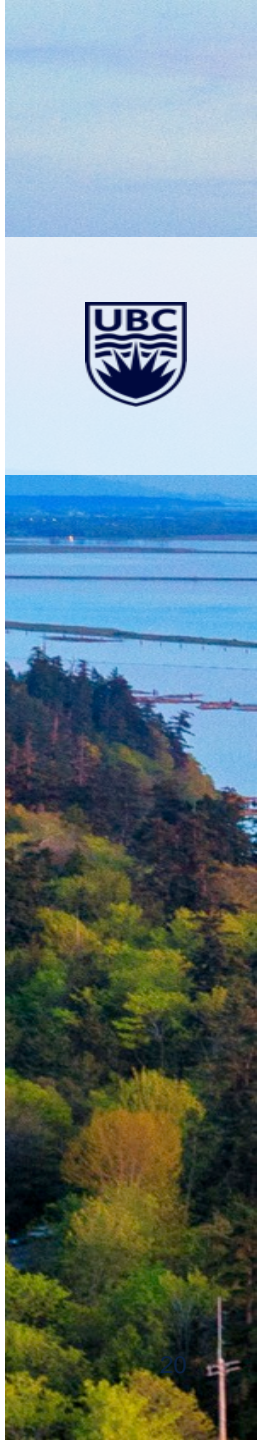
SPECIFIC ELEMENTS: CV

- Think about narrative (selection of research topic, events/breaks in progress)
- Not all entries are automatically meaningful to all audiences

Kinds of publications, rates of productivity, positions, incl academic positions, etc

- Define and highlight your personal contributions, esp in collaborations

"I designed the experiment…"

"While we designed the study jointly, I focused on identifying the research site…"

SPECIFIC ELEMENTS: REFERENCES

- Plan ahead
- Developing a "stable" of references vs not overburdening referees
- Be strategic in selection
- Give (gentle) instructions, including elements to highlight, address, etc.
- Do legwork for referees and provide them with complete information/drafts of application

OTHER CRITERIA

- What are selection criteria? Speak to them!
- Always be specific, give examples
- Let referees know about non-standard criteria
- Clarify role

In organizing grad conference, did you set the agenda,

select papers, or handle logistics?

As a volunteer, what exactly did you do?

If dissemination of results will rely on "a website" how
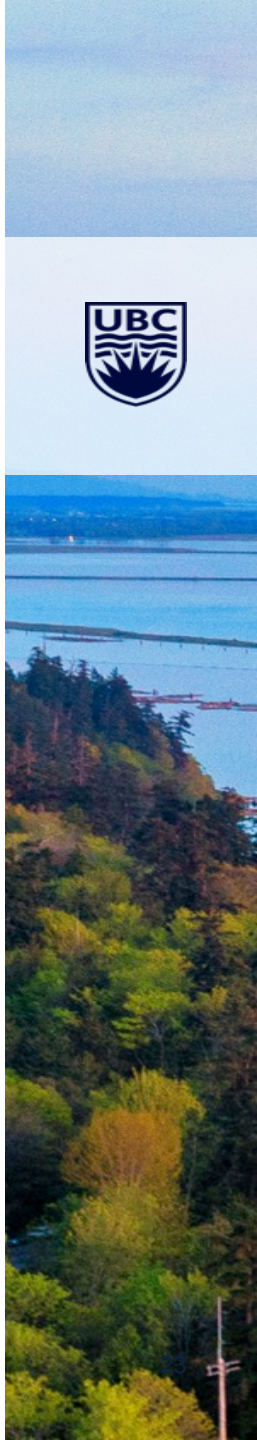
will you find audience/audience find you?

Further Resources

www.grad.ubc.ca/awards

⬇

Resources for Award Applicants

Contact Info

Faculty of Graduate and
Postdoctoral Studies
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