APPLYING FOR A CGS-M (MASTER’S) SCHOLARSHIP - COMPETITION DETAILS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

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Outline
• Overview of CGSM
• Applying
• Stress and Wellness
• Overview of Competition Structure
• How Applications Are Assessed
• Application Materials
• Ethics and Integrity

CGSM Overview
• $17,500 stipend for one year
• Award start dates: May 2021, September 2021 and January 2022
• Can hold only one CGSM award
• Apply up to three universities via single application
• Remember to apply for admission to institution

Should I apply?
Eligibility
• Citizenship – must be Canadian or permanent resident as of December 1
• Months of study – no more than 12 months as of Dec 1 in the program for which you are requesting funding
• First-class GPA – in the last 2 full-time years of study
• Program - must have a significant research component (ex. thesis-based Master’s degree)

Should I apply? (cont’d)
Competitiveness
– Typically UBC receives 900+ CGSM applications each December 1, of which about 240 are funded (exact amount varies per year)
– However, applying for awards is a skill you develop, and your applications will improve from the experience even if you do not win an award on the first try

When and where do I submit?
Deadline (is strict)
• For referees
  • It’s up to applicant to monitor and (gently) remind
• For applicants
  • 5:00 pm PST / 8:00pm EST on Tuesday, 1 December 2020
  • Deadline for all parts of the application including references
  • Allow time for technical glitches (do not submit a few minutes before the deadline)
Where to submit
• Online via Research Portal
  • https://portal-portail.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/e/login.aspx
Stress and Wellness

- Plan ahead
  - Request references early
  - Start planning your transcript package early (ex. If you need to order new transcripts)
  - Don’t submit your application a few minutes before the deadline
- Be methodical
  - Double check application instructions to ensure you don’t miss anything
- Don’t do it alone
  - Ask for help from supervisor and grad program

Competition Overview

University A - UBC Graduate Program
- Review apps for eligibility and completeness
- Ranks applications
- Forwards top applications to university-wide competition

Faculty of Graduate + Postdoctoral Studies
- Reviews apps for eligibility and completeness
- Forwards eligible apps to one of six adjudication committees

Master Ranking List
1. Jones – SSHRC
2. Singh - CIHR
3. Cushan - NSERC
4. Wong - NSERC
5. Thompson - SSHRC
6. Wright - CIHR
7. Tennebrau - NSERC
8. Lowrie - CIHR

Top 74 NSERC apps offered CGSM
Top 113 SSHRC apps offered CGSM
Top 56 CIHR apps offered CGSM

How will applications be assessed?

- Selection criteria set by CGSM
  - Academic Excellence – 50%
  - Research Potential – 30%
  - Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills – 20%
Application Materials

- Application form
- CCV
- Research Proposal and Bibliography
- Transcripts
- References

Application Materials

Application form
- Spell check content
- Select UBC as one of your 3 “Proposed Host Organization” in order for UBC to review your application
- Follow the instructions
  - Instructions within application system

Application Materials

Canadian Common CV
- Select correct CCV type

Application Materials

Canadian Common CV
- Submitting, reference numbers and PDF

Application Materials

Canadian Common CV
- The CCV offers many sections that you can fill out
- You are not expected to fill out every section; some sections may not be relevant to your specific history
- Make sure you list your “in-progress” degree under “Degrees” even if you just started at UBC in Sept 2020.

Research Proposal and Bibliography

- Make sure that you follow CGSM’s page limits and presentation standards (ex. font size – 12 pt)
- If the documents do not follow the CGSM requirements, the portion that exceeds the page limit will be blocked off from view in the university-wide stage of the award competition.
Research Proposal and Bibliography

• Content:
  • Refer to CGSM’s detailed guidance for instructions on what to include in your proposal and bibliography.

Transcripts

• Package must be complete; it is not possible to revise/add to your transcript package after the application deadline
• Transcripts for all post-secondary studies, including transfer credit courses and exchange terms, should be provided
• Must be official transcripts (ex. watermark background, registrar’s signature)
  • UBC transcript can be obtained from your graduate program

Transcripts (cont’d)

• Must be up-to-date
  • List degree conferral (if graduated)
  • Show fall term registration (if currently enrolled)
• New UBC students (ie. started in September 2020) should provide their UBC transcript
• Include transcript key
• Talk to your UBC graduate program about which transcripts they can provide and which ones you will need to order (don’t assume they have all of your transcripts)

References

• Two required
  • Refer referees to CGSM selection criteria
  • Plan ahead and request early
  • Monitor submission and follow up as needed
• Same deadline: 1 December 2020 at 5:00 pm PST (but should be submitted earlier)
  • You will not be able to submit your CGSM application without both references submitted
  • Not possible to submit after the deadline

Ethics and Integrity

• Application must be an accurate picture of applicant
  – Beware of hyperbole and embellishment
  – Give credit where credit is due
• Who should write the research proposal?
  – Written by applicant, but can get input from supervisor
• Consequences
  – Potential removal from competition

Contact Info

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