



# APPLYING FOR FUNDING - CIHR

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# MY EXPERIENCE WITH GRADUATE FUNDING

- ❑ (2016-2018) FRSQ Master's Award
- ❑ (2019-2022) CIHR Master's Award
- ❑ (2019-2022) CIHR Doctoral Award
- ❑ (2019-2022) *Vanier Canadian Graduate Scholarship*,  
CIHR Doctoral Award

And now time for post-doc funding applications 😊 ....

# THINGS I LEARNED

- I. The application process
- II. Writing: Dos and Do nots
- III. Planning tips
- IV. What helped me the most?
  - Hint – lots of feedback!



# I. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- It is daunting! And that's ok...
  - No one is an expert at the beginning
  - Apprehension is normal
  - “Every failure is a lesson”
  
- Before commencing your application, take some time to read all of the application materials/rules/selection criteria
  - Schedule two days to get acquainted with the material and the websites (Research Net/CCV)
  - Speed reading helps no one
  - “Know thy enemy”

## II. WRITING DOS AND DO NOTS

### ☐ Clear concise writing is essential

- Every sentence must have a purpose
- Keep sentences short
- Funnel-technique (start wide and end narrow)

\*\* Assumptions are dangerous

\*\*\* Your grand-mother/parents/non-research friends should be able to understand your proposal

### ☐ You are a story teller/salesperson

- You are “selling” your idea to reviewers who (may or may not) have experience in your particular field
- Your writing must convince non-experts that your idea/your application deserves to be funded
- Why you and not someone else?
- Hold the reviewers hand and show them the sights!
- Reviewers **should not** have to read between the lines

# III. PLANNING



- Start sooner rather than later
- Set time aside each week to write/work on application materials
  - When are you at “your best”? (AM/PM)
  - Writers block – Don’t be a perfectionist! Just write.
  - Good writing takes time and lots of revisions
- Use conservative time estimates
- Plan for setbacks (e.g., issues with CCV, gathering reference letters)



# IV. WHAT HAS HELPED ME THE MOST?

## ☐ Feedback from my peers and non-academic relatives/friends

- Yes, it can be embarrassing, but it's worth it... (trust me)...
- Get comfortable with negative feedback
- A growth mindset is key

## ☐ Reading successful applications/proposals

- Do not try to reinvent the wheel
- Ask lab partners, or colleagues if they would be willing to share their successful applications
- Use these applications as templates to see what worked and compare them against yours

## ☐ Learning from my mistakes

- Considering reviewer feedback
- Objectively looking at my scores – where did I lose points? How can I improve?
- Focus on strengthening weak points for the upcoming year

E.g., it took me three attempts to secure a Vanier scholarship

QUESTIONS?

