

Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Reviewer perspective on
Graduate Funding Applications
FRQSC

<https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding>

Advantages of the FRQSC

- \$21,000 a year for up to 4 years (12 sessions), up to end of 5th year of PhD!
- \$17,500 a year for up to 2 years (6 sessions) (MA)
- Direct online application – no Unit or McGill pre-selection
- Open to Quebec residents *and some International Students Verify on the FRQSC web page and attend the webinar given by GPS for more eligibility criteria*
- Can **complement** a SSHRC or other sources of funding
- More flexible on GPA and international transcripts
- NO LETTERS OF REFERENCE!!!
- Can be written in English, but translated title *obligatory*
- ***Once submitted, please send the application number to your Graduate Program office / Academic unit.***

Evaluation of FRQSC Applications

Committee includes profs from different disciplines

- They read dozens of applications in a short time – CLARITY IS ESSENTIAL
- Leave out the jargon

Four areas of evaluation plus a Global assessment of the application

- Quality and scientific value of the project
- Quality of the training environment
- Excellence of the academic record
- Skills and experiences

To be recommended for funding by the committee, an application must score 70% or higher

Evaluation of FRQSC Applications

Master's Criteria

- University Record (30 points)
- Interest and potential in research (50 points)
- Social mobilization (15 points)
- General presentation of the file (5 points)

Evaluation of FRQSC Applications

Doctoral Criteria

- Academic Record (30 points)
- Research project (45 points)
- Social mobilization (20 points)
- General presentation of the file (5 points)

Quality and scientific value of the project

You control the project proposal portion of your application so make it count!

- Follow the guidelines
- Respect the formatting requirements such as margins, font size, number of pages.
- Explain your methodology

Most common errors

- Too much literature review
- Too personal
- Doesn't look feasible

Quality of the training environment

- Advantages of McGill, your department & your supervisor
 - Without being arrogant!
- Access to training
 - Courses in your programme, professional development offered at McGill
- Access to research networks
 - RAships, membership in research networks with your supervisor
- Mention if location helps your feasibility

Excellence of the academic record

- Transcripts and CPGA play an enormous role
 - If you can, offer justification for less than favourable grades but be careful!
 - Health issues, family or personal crisis, child bearing or caring, are all reasonable.
 - “I didn’t like my program” is not impressive
 - If the low grade was a long time ago (10 years or more)
 - Being away from study for long time is worth a mention and minor gaps in study or part-time status can also be addressed
- Scholarships and award are important too

Skills and experiences

- Publications often make or break an application
 - You don't need a lot – quality over quantity
 - Academic publications & presentations most important
 - But include professional publications & presentations
- Emphasize academic and professional work experiences
 - Don't include the “survival jobs” we all do unless you are arguing it relates to your project
- DO include volunteer experiences
- If you have a limit, focus on the ones most related to your topic or to research

Required documents

- Applications missing required documents will be deemed incomplete
- All documents must be legible, right side up, and in the correct place in the application.
 - If it can't be read then it is not there.
- The Canadian Common CV is no longer required (PhD and Master's)
- No reference letters are required (PhD and Master's)

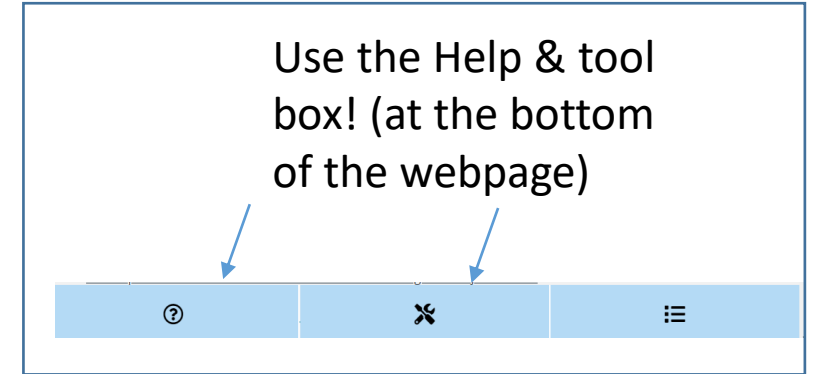
The application

How to find the application: [FRQS homepage](#)

- Select “Society and Culture”
 - From the menu, select Scholarships and grants
 - Advanced search:
 - Funds = Society and Culture
 - Program = Scholarships and training courses
 - Research status = Student
 - Year = 2022-2023
 - Partners----leave this alone
- Click “SEARCH”

[Doctoral Research Scholarships \(B2Z\) Scholarships for re-entering the Research Community / Doctoral \(A2Z-D\) 2022-2023](#)

[Master's Research Scholarships \(B1Z\) and Scholarships for re-entering the Research Community / Master's 2022-2023](#)



And PhDs.. if at first you don't succeed...

try, try again!

- Increased chances in 2nd, 3rd year of your program
- Your project will be more refined
- You are likely to acquire more experience & publications

Remember that you're applying at the doctoral level

- Everyone is at a high academic level
- Refusal doesn't mean it wasn't a good project
- Good experience writing these translates into skills for writing other grants.

Resources

- **Workshops and Webinars**

- Offer support in all aspects of the external funding application process and help maximize your chances
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/maximize-my-chances>

- **SKILLSETS**

- Suite of workshops designed for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to complement research training
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/skillsets>

- **Tips for writing a research proposal**

- <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/research-tracking/proposals>

Graduate Funding Team



External team:

Ester Di Cori, Fellowships Officer

Jan Walker, Fellowships Administrator

Phoebe Zamanuel, Student Affairs Coordinator

Internal funding team:

Lilia Eskildsen Torres, Fellowships Officer

Hannah(Shuhua) Hu, Adm. & Student Affairs Coord.

Quinter Faith, Student Affairs Coordinator

graduatefunding.gps@mcgill.ca

Remember: Include your McGill ID NUMBER

Questions?