

Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Applicant perspective on  
Graduate Funding Applications  
**SSHRC**

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



# Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton!

*Family, community work, & Research*

- M.A. Individualized Studies, Concordia University
- B.A. First Peoples Studies, Concordia University

Research: Indian Day Schools in Kahnawà:ke



**Wolf Clan**

**Kanien'kehá:ka from Kahnawà:ke**



# Program & Funding

## Ph.D (ABD) Educational Studies

Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE)

- Tomlinson Fellow (2019-2020)
- Vanier Scholar (2020-2023)
- Trudeau Nominee (2020)
- Offered a SSHRC 2020 (declined)
- Held a SSHRC & offered FRQSC as an MA student

Vanier profile: [https://vanier.gc.ca/en/scholar\\_search-chercheur\\_recherche\\_2020.html](https://vanier.gc.ca/en/scholar_search-chercheur_recherche_2020.html)



# Tips for applying

- Check the deadline on Graduate Funding web pages
  - Doctoral – 01 October
  - Masters – 01 December
- Start early
- Plan your application process and work backwards from the McGill submission deadline. Create realistic deadlines for each section of the application
- Use a checklist and include every step (begin with the checklist from the application, but expand it.)
- Order all your transcripts as soon as possible
- Talk to your references and make sure they are expecting the email requests.



# Tips for applying

- Get support from different places:
  - Your supervisor
  - Department advisor or professors
  - Other students you know that are submitting an application to the same competition as you
  - Proofread every part of the application package. Get others to read it too.
  - Make sure any uploaded documents are legible. Open each uploaded document to make sure every page is there and legible.
- **\*Reading/writing groups**



# Selection Criteria

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Research Ability or Potential</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Relevant experiences and achievements obtained within and beyond academia</b>	<b>50%</b>



# Selection Criteria - Research ability and potential – 50%

## Indicators:

- Quality of research proposal
  - ❖ specific, focused and feasible research question(s) and objective(s)
  - ❖ clear description of the proposed methodology
  - ❖ significance and expected contributions to research
- Relevant training, such as academic training, lived experience and traditional teachings
- Research experience and achievements relative to the applicant's stage of study, lived experience and knowledge systems
- Quality of contributions and extent to which they advance the field of research. Contributions may include: publications, patents, reports, posters, abstracts, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, knowledge translation outputs, community products, etc.
- Demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically
- Demonstration of responsible and ethical research conduct, including honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, commitment to safety and to the dissemination of research results and adherence to the use of professional standards
- Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach
- The ability or potential to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats



# Selection Criteria - Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia 50%

## Indicators:

- Scholarships, awards and distinctions (amount, duration and prestige)
- Academic record:
  - ❖ Transcripts
  - ❖ Duration of previous studies
  - ❖ Program requirements and courses pursued
  - ❖ Course load
  - ❖ Relative standing in program (if available)
- Professional, academic and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community, such as:
  - ❖ teaching, mentoring, supervising and/or coaching
  - ❖ managing projects
  - ❖ participating in science and/or research promotion
  - ❖ community outreach, volunteer work and/or civic engagement
  - ❖ chairing committees and/or organizing conferences and meetings
  - ❖ participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies and/or clubs





# Tips for your proposal

- Your draft should begin with your objectives and flow from there
- Remember to be clear with your methodology
- Remember to discuss expected outcomes and their contribution
- Go back to the criteria and make sure to hit on as many points as you can.
- Get it reviewed by your supervisor then– checkout [Would you fund it](#) offered by SKILLSETS.
- Ask your peers and anyone else to review it as well, especially from outside your field. They should be able to understand what your research is once they have read it.
- Be open-minded to the feedback you get.



# *My experience*

- The Vanier & Trudeau application: many rounds but worth it!
- Be true to yourself, be proud of your accomplishments. No room for self-doubt
- Now is your time to shine!
- This represents you and it's your work. You do not have to accept all edits/changes.
- *Article on Indigenous Vanier Scholars in the McGill Reporter:*  
<https://reporter.mcgill.ca/meet-mcgills-indigenous-vanier-scholars/>



# 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

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**Remember: Include your McGill ID NUMBER**



**Niawenhkó:wa!**

