

Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Reviewer perspective on Graduate Funding Applications

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

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A 3D maze made of light-colored concrete blocks. A small figure of a person in a blue suit stands in the center of the maze, looking towards the entrance. The maze has several paths leading away from the center. The text labels are placed around the maze, each pointing towards a different path.

When-where?

How?
Application process

What?
Main components

Selection criteria

Resources?

Deadline: where and when?

- Where: application through McGill University (your academic unit), NOT directly to SSHRC
- When: Check with your academic unit for internal deadlines
- **PhD:** Academic unit, University, Agency
MA: Academic unit, University
- Note for indigenous applicants



Application process

- Start as early as possible
- Inform and consult with your research supervisor
- Determine if you should apply at the MA or PhD level
- **Read instructions carefully**
- Make sure SSHRC is the appropriate agency
- Guidelines for selecting the appropriate federal granting agency:
 - https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html?OpenDocument

Selection criteria (MA)

- **Academic excellence (50%)**

(Academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions)

- **Research potential (30%)**

(Contributions to research, relevance of work experience and academic training to proposed research, significance, feasibility and merit of proposed research, critical thinking, ability to apply skills, autonomy, research experience and achievements)

- **Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills (20%)**

(Work and leadership experience, project management, ability to communicate clearly in written and oral formats, involvement in academic life, volunteerism, community outreach)

Selection criteria (Ph.D.)

1. Research ability and potential (50%)

- Quality of research proposal
- Relevant training, experience and achievements
- Quality of contributions
- Critical thinking, ethical research conduct
- Enthusiasm for research, originality, initiative
- Ability to communicate in written and oral formats

Selection criteria (Ph.D.)

2. Relevant experience and achievements (50%)

- Scholarships, awards and distinctions (amount, duration and prestige)
- Academic record (transcripts, previous studies)
- Professional, academic, and extracurricular activities
- Collaborations (supervisors, colleagues, students, community):
 - teaching, mentoring, supervising
 - managing projects
 - community outreach, volunteer work
 - organizing conferences and meetings
 - participating in institutional organizations, associations

Main sections of the application

- **Research project -proposal**

- the research question
- context
- objectives
- methodology
- significance and expected contributions to advancing knowledge
- indicate at what stage you are in your project

Main sections of the application

- **Research contributions, relevant experience and activities**

1. Research contributions

- Group by category
- Refereed or not?
- Role
- Status (published, submitted...)

2. Applicant's statement

- Relevant experience
- Relevant activities



Other documents

- All transcripts
- Two letters:
 - Enter the email address of each referee
 - The system will automatically generate an email to each person, inviting them to complete a Letter of Appraisal form
 - Inform your referees that they will receive an email
 - ***in advance***
- Official letter to confirm part-time study and/or leave of absence
- Allowable inclusions (if applicable)

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**

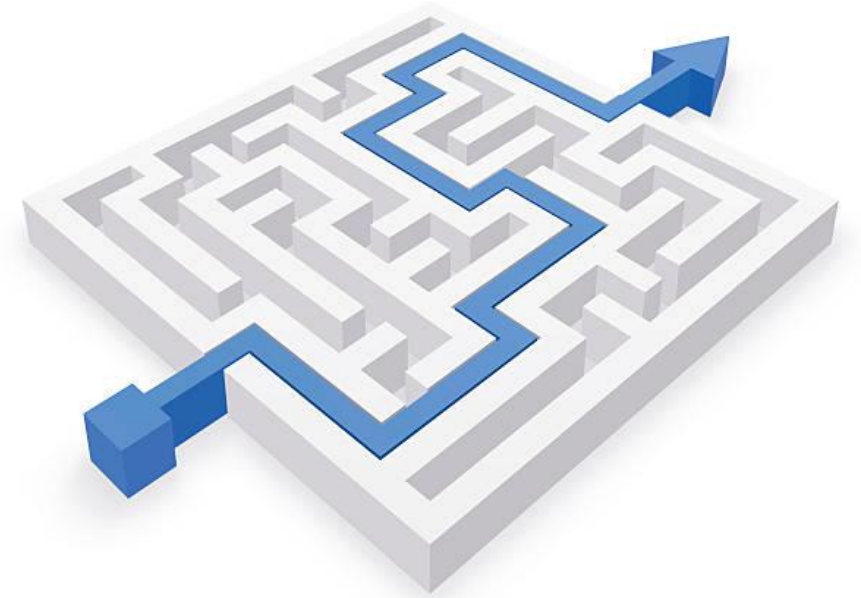
- Suite of workshops designed for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to complement research training
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/skillsets>

- **Tips for writing a research proposal**

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

Take home message

- Start the process as early as possible
- Read all instructions carefully
- Read all criteria carefully
- Work in collaboration with your supervisor
- Believe in yourself and in your project... and be kind to yourself!
- Persistence is the key to success!



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.

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Remember: Include your McGill ID NUMBER