Graduate Funding Panel-NSERC, an applicant perspective

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Getting started

There is a lot to do before submitting an NSERC application. Start NOW!!!

1. Get your transcripts from all the universities you have credits from, even exchanges and single courses
2. Talk to your advisor about your subject, start writing your research proposal.
3. Talk to potential referees. You need 2 of them!
4. Talk to your department about how and when to apply. Each department has different policies and deadlines.
5. Ask questions! Make sure you understand the process and read the updated rules on the NSERC website.
6. Create/retrieve a login for the Research Portal
## Application sections

**CGS-M**
- Transcripts
- Two reference assessments
- Application form
  - Research Proposal (one page)
- Canadian Common CV (CCV)

**PGS-D / CGS-D (one application)**
- Transcripts
- Two reference assessments
- Application form
  - Research Proposal (two pages)
  - Contributions and statements
  - Academic, research and relevant work experience
  - Awards
Sections: Research Proposal

Put your research into context:

- How is it relevant to the average Canadian?
- Is it applicable in the industry?
- Is it an active field of research?
- Why did you decide to study this?
- What are your planned contributions?

Find a few papers that will reflect where your field is and what is needed now.

Explain any jargon terms- the reviewers may be in a different field of study than you.
Sections: Contributions

Part I: Contributions to research and development
  • Any publications accepted/submitted/published, **including co-authorship**
  • Journal articles, conference presentations, posters, technical reports
  • **Related or not** to your field of research

Part II: Most significant contributions to research and development
  • Show how you made a difference in some of the papers/contributions/collaborations listed above

Part III: Applicant’s statement (**research experience and relevant activities**)  
  • How does it all come together? List leadership, volunteering, mentoring. Share your story!  
  • Special circumstances (illness, children, leaves of absence, degree extensions)

Get creative to fit as much as possible while maintaining clarity

E.g. ¹Use **line breaks** ²numbered **subscripts** ³**bold font for key words**
Sections: Experience

Research:
- Undergraduate research? Summer work in a lab? Field assistant?
- Thesis/final projects?

Academic:
- Teaching assistant or lecturer positions?
- Peer tutoring?

Other relevant work experience:
- Industry internship or coop work term?
- Full or part-time job in government/museum/industry or another field?

Your brief descriptions should make clear what skills you gained i.e. technical, leadership, science communication, policy development
Academic, research, leadership, communication awards:

If limited on space, choose recent ones and/or the ones you are most proud of

- Awards you accepted (i.e. CGS-M, entrance awards)
- Awards you declined (i.e. because of another award)
- Awards with monetary value (i.e. best poster presentation)
- Awards without monetary value (i.e. Faculty plaque, association awards)

Don’t be shy!
They want to know how good you are!!!
Get familiar with these NSERC webpages

- Research Portal
- Application instructions
- The many guides and useful links found within the instructions page

Follow the guidelines with care.

Don’t wait until the last minute. Start the application process TODAY!

Believe in yourself! You are awesome!