How to Write NSERC Research Proposals

Karen Meagher

Department of Mathematics and Statistics
University of Regina
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
1. NSERC is the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
2. Fund Graduate Students and Researchers
3. Need to be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident to get the NSERC graduate scholarship.
4. Website: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca
5. U of R Deadlines: PhD Nov. 3, Masters is Dec. 1
6. Hard to write and the format has to be correct, so start early.
1. Write it yourself, sincerity helps (it is okay for it to be a little bit personal). DO NOT plagiarize!
2. Use an active voice ("I will...")
3. You can be vague, but not inaccurate.
4. Think about who is reading your proposal.
1. Write it yourself, sincerity helps (it is okay for it to be a little bit personal). DO NOT plagiarize!

2. Use an active voice ("I will...")

3. You can be vague, but not inaccurate.

4. Think about who is reading your proposal.
   4.1 They are smart, but not in your area
   4.2 They will be tired and grumpy and
   4.3 they will not read between the lines
Things to Include in a Research Proposal

1. You need to justify why your work is important and how it fits in a bigger context.
2. Read the requirements for the proposal and address each of them specifically (use the same “buzz” words).
3. They want you to have a plan that you can succeed at.
4. Be realistic and specific about your goals.
1. Set the context for research or the problem to be solved (say that the field is important),
2. Say what you are going to do and why it is important.
3. Say how you are going to do it.
4. Talk about impact and future work.

You need to make an clear argument for why your research should be funded.
Final points

1. START EARLY

2. Get people to proof-read your proposal (your writing style matters!)

3. Get your supervisor, committee members and your favourite professors to read it.

4. I am organizing professors to proof read research proposal. Send your research proposal to me 2 weeks before the deadline (or earlier) and I will try to find a professor to help you write it.

5. Email address: Grad.AssocDean1@uregina.ca