



Tips for Funding & Scholarship Applications:

1. **Ensure you have a plan before you begin graduate school.** Have you have saved up money to fund your studies? Or, perhaps your parents or grandparents may be helping or funding you? Unfortunately, *hoping* to be awarded scholarships is not a plan. You should also speak to your supervisor and faculty regarding guaranteed funding that they may be able to provide to you upon the start of your studies.
2. **Be sure to search out all avenues of funding** that may be available to you. Look on the [FGSR Scholarship website](#) through each and every link we have to see where you are *fully eligible*. Scholarship applications take time and work. If you are in need of funding, you must put the time in to search out *any and all* methods of funding. Outside of the university, there also may be scholarship or bursary opportunities which may include your place of worship, your community, your workplace, etc. Be sure to search those out also!
3. **Before you begin applying for *any* scholarship, ensure you are *fully eligible*.** If you are even missing just one of the criteria, you cannot be awarded. Unfortunately, being 'close' to eligible does not count. Please know that each and every scholarship eligibility criteria is different, so *please read carefully*. It would be very disappointing for you to go through the work to apply for a scholarship, when you may not even be considered for it, so *please read carefully*.
4. **Ensure you follow full application instructions.** If you do not complete the application according to instructions or submit all documentation as requested, you will be deemed ineligible. Be sure to edit your documents to be *specific to the scholarship for which you are applying*. Please do not submit 'generic' documents to *any* application.
5. **Be sure to look well in advance of the deadlines.** You can view all eligibility criteria at any time, so you can know well in advance what you are eligible for and be ready to apply well ahead of the deadline. This gives you time to gather and create your documents early and then submit early.
6. Be sure to apply not only for larger scholarships that you are *fully eligible* for, but for smaller scholarships also. **Smaller scholarships add up too!** These ones typically have a smaller number of applicants, as opposed to the larger scholarships which have a very high number of applications.
7. When writing your **Research Proposal**, please remember that your application is being adjudicated by academics from a wide variety of fields, therefore the description of your research should be complete and **intelligible to non-specialists**. Please present your research in easy to understand language, for all reviewers. Write your research proposal *specifically for the scholarship for which you are applying*. Please read the full instructions in your Student Profile in [GAP](#), as the instructions will guide you to what we are expecting for your research proposal. **Please reach out to us at grad.funding@uregina.ca and we can provide you with more information regarding Research Proposal writing.**



8. When asked for a **Financial Statement**, we want to hear about *your financial situation*. Saying 'grad school is expensive and I need money' or "I'm an international student and Canada is expensive" does not help, as that is the story for *most* grad students. **Tell us your financial story** and what the nature of your financial need. How would these funds help you, if you were to receive funding? How would that impact your studies?
9. For **Course based students**, even though you do not have a research component, we still require you to fill in the *Research or Study Proposal* piece of your student profile. List the courses that you have taken and will take to complete your degree. For each course, list the number and title only, and briefly explain in a sentence how each course contributes to your professional and/or personal development. Explain the wider significance of your studies. How will your workplace, your community, or society be enhanced? Explain why you chose your specific area of study. What will the completion of your degree help you to achieve? Be clear and specific. Convey your passion!
10. Be sure to get your **Grade Point Average (GPA) up as high as you possibly can**. Most scholarships have a *minimum of 80%* to be eligible, but many applicants will have a GPA of much higher. **Each and every percentage point counts!** Please read the eligibility criteria carefully.
11. **Increase your Publications** where possible. Discuss this with your supervisor. Also **include your Conference Presentations and Community Reporting** in your applications.
12. **If a Letter of Support** is required for a specific scholarship, ensure you provide your letter writer with plenty of time to write, as professors are very busy. A poor/weak letter submitted reflects very poorly on your application and will often remove you from being competitive. Be sure to ask a professor who knows your academic/research ability and provide your professor with *adequate time* (minimum 2-4 weeks) to write the letter for you. Please know a professor has the right to decline your request, if you do not provide them with sufficient time, or if they do not know you well enough. You may ask a professor from a former university to write your letter, if you are new to this university. Provide your letter writer with *full information on the scholarship and also about you*, so as to help with the content of the letter. Do not assume they know or remember everything about you. These letters must come from a professor's official institutional email. If we do not receive your Letter of Support by the deadline of the competition, your application will be deemed ineligible as full documentation was not received by the deadline, *so please plan ahead!*
13. Be sure to **submit on time/well ahead of the deadline**. Do not wait until the last day/hour to submit, as 'life happens'. You may fall sick, you may have a power outage, your laptop may break down, etc. To be fair to all students, please know we cannot accept late scholarship applications.
14. **We host many Student Scholarship How To Sessions each year**. Please attend to garner as much information as you can to successfully write scholarship applications and increase your chances of success. Please visit our *Upcoming Events* page to find out when they are offered: <https://www.uregina.ca/graduate-studies-research/scholarships/upcoming-awards.html>



15. If you are not successful, **try and try again**. Please remember that if you do not try, there is no chance of being awarded.