

LING grad funding workshop

Funding

All applications available through Carleton Central.

- Donor-funded awards: Oct. 7th
- SSHRC PhD: Oct. 5th
- SSHRC MA: Dec. 1st
- OGS: Nov. 16th

Process

- Student submits application
- SLaLS-internal committee produces a joint ranking with ALDS applications
- OGS: top-ranked applications receive funding (# varies from year to year); rest are passed on to FASS-level OGS adjudication committee which re-ranks everything
- SSHRC: ranking passed on to grad-studies-level awards committee
- Domestic and international students are considered separately; quotas for international students are very low.

Process

OGS committee composition:

- 4 members: associate dean + 3 representatives from across departments in FASS
- Linguistics is under “social sciences”, so your applications are read by colleagues from psychology, geography, anthropology, sociology
- Members recuse themselves from evaluating their own students

Criteria

FASS OGS criteria

- GPA 40%
- Academic excellence 20%
- Referee reports 10%
- Research statement 30%

SSHRC grant funding criteria for grant applications

- “Challenge” (are questions posed interesting and important?)
- “Feasibility” (is the research plan realistic?)
- “Capability” (does researcher have a good track record?)

Sample research statement outline

- Attention grabber
- General background and setting
- Specific background for your research area
- Establish a “research gap”: what is unknown and in need of investigation
- State research question(s) and (usually) your hypotheses
- Say what you will do
- Explain how what you will do will fill the research gap
- Explain why you are able to do it

Common problems

- Vagueness
 - Failure to state a specific problem or question to be addressed
 - Failure to describe methodology in a concrete way
 - Failure to place your research in a broader context, and to explain its importance
 - Grandiose and non-specific claims about the importance of the research and its consequences
 - A research statement is not the same as “statement of purpose” on a grad school application!
- Unclarity
 - Jargon, too many assumptions about what the audience knows
 - Missing steps in the explanation
 - Incoherent organization
 - Lack of signposting, connecting one idea to the next