

# **APPLYING TO OGS/SSHRC AWARDS: MA & PHD**



Sociology and Anthropology Graduate  
Programmes 2024-25

# OGS & SSHRC

1. Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS):
  - up to \$15,000 for one year (\$5,000 per term; up to three consecutive terms)
  - Jointly awarded by Province of Ontario and Carleton
  
2. Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)
  - 2.1. Master's students: \$17,500 for 12 months (non-renewable)
  
  - 2.2. SSHRC doctoral fellowships: \$20,000 per year for up to 4 years; Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Doctoral Scholarships: \$35,000 per year for up to 3 years (offered to top ranked applicants applying to SSHRC)



# WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY

- More money!!!
- Good to have on your CV. (Grants beget future grants).
- Helps you focus your research project
- Helps you practice writing funding proposals



# THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Not winning an award does not indicate that your research is not interesting or strong
- Awards are very competitive (set quota); takes considerable time to craft a strong research statement
- Great if you win an external award; but don't let winning or not winning an award define your worth



# THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND (CONT'D)

- You have some, but not full, control over how strong your application is perceived to be
  - Factors that are to some extent within the applicant's control include crafting a strong research statement; whom to select as referees; making sure that the application includes relevant information related to presentations and publications ...etc.)
  - Assessments of award applications have a subjective component beyond the applicant's control (who are the reviewers? Their views regarding the topic, theoretical perspective and/or methodology ...etc.)



# 1.0. WHO CAN APPLY TO ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS (OGS)?

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents, international students (a small quota) with valid student permit
- GPA of at least 10.0 (A-) in each of the last two years of full-time study regardless of level of study
- Planning to study full-time (some exceptions might be granted)
- Currently in a graduate program at Carleton (full-time) OR 4<sup>th</sup> year undergraduates planning to do graduate work at Carleton next year



# WHO CAN APPLY TO OGS (CONT'D)?

- Students who are or will be extending their program (going on an extension term) not eligible
- Students who are expected to finish before Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year are not eligible to apply (no one term awards)
- MA students can receive OGS award for a max. of 2 years; PhD students for a max. of 4 years
- Students can't exceed 6 years of government-funded graduate awards
- Students who are not planning to do graduate work at Carleton should apply to the university they wish to attend
- For more information, see <https://gradstudents.carleton.ca/ogs/>



## 2.1. WHO CAN APPLY TO SSHRC CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS (CGS)?

- Canadian citizens, permanent residents
- GPA of at least 10 (A-) in each of the last two years of full-time study regardless of level of study
- Enrolled in or will apply for full-time admission to a graduate program
- Have completed no more than 12 months of full-time study in their MA program by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of application in the case of MA applicants
- Have completed no more than 48 months of full-time study in their doctoral program by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of application in the case of PhD applicants
- For more information, see:
  - [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp)
  - <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/fellowships/doctoral-doctorat-eng.aspx>





# DEADLINES & HOW TO APPLY

- SSHRC Ph.D.
  - Deadline: September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:59PM (EST)
  - Apply through Tri-agency portal

<https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/fellowships/doctoral-doctorat-eng.aspx#5>

[https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en\\_CA](https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en_CA)

- OGS (MA & PhD)
  - Deadline: November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:59PM (EST); Referee deadline is Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Apply through Carleton Central (under Awards and Financial Assistance, Graduate Online Application Forms)



# DEADLINES & HOW TO APPLY (CONT'D)

- SSHRC (CGS) MA
  - Deadline is Dec. 1, before 8:00 pm (ET)
  - Apply via Research Portal

[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/CGSM-BESCM_eng.asp)

<https://portal-portail.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/>

## Important to remember:

- For SSHRC, very critical to register & enter required data early (well before deadline)
- Your referees must have completed the recommendation letters before you can submit your application



# PROCESS - OGS

- Students complete applications by deadline; Referees submit recommendation letters;
- The department calculates GPA and reviews/ranks all eligible applications;
- Set quota regarding number of applications that can be forwarded to faculty level committee; some applications are not forwarded
- Faculty level committee reviews/ranks applications; limited number of OGS awards
- Applications are either successful in first round or waitlisted; **some** waitlisted applicants do get OGS awards
- Notified of winning the award in February for first round; after February for **some** waitlisted applicants



# PROCESS - SSHRC

- Students submit applications by deadline
- The department calculates GPA and reviews/ranks all eligible applications; applications are forwarded to the faculty level
- In case of PhD applications, faculty level committee reviews applications and forwards top applications to SSHRC for review by members of multidisciplinary committee of academics from across different universities
- In case of MA applications, university level committee makes the final decisions
- Applications are either successful, waitlisted or unsuccessful
- Notified in April



# CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT – SSHRC DOCTORAL

Criteria: Research ability & potential (50%) + Relevant experience within & beyond academia (50%)

- **Research ability & potential based on:**
  - Quality of research statement
  - Relevant training and lived experience
  - Research experience and achievements
  - Quality of contributions (publications, reports and presentations ...)
  - Demonstration of sound judgement, critical thinking, ethical research conduct, rigorous analysis, enthusiasm for research, originality, autonomy, oral and written communication skills



# CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT – SSHRC DOCTORAL (CONT'D)

Criteria: Research ability & potential (50%) + Relevant experience within & beyond academia (50%)

- **Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia:**
  - Academic record (transcript, GPA ...)
  - Scholarships, awards and distinctions
  - Professional, academic and extracurricular activities as well as collaborations with supervisors and peers and community (teaching, mentoring, community outreach, volunteer work, helping in organizing conferences, participating in departmental organization, societies ....)



# CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT – OGS & SSHRC MA

- Academic excellence (50%); Research potential (30%); Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills (20%)
  - Academic excellence: transcripts, awards, scholarships ...
  - Research potential: quality of research statement, relevant research experience and academic training, quality of contributions to research, critical thinking, sound judgment, initiative and autonomy, research skills ...
  - Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills: work experience, leadership experience, helping in organizing conferences and meetings, oral and communication skills, involvement in academic life, community outreach
- Takes into account whether applicant is first year MA student, first year PhD student or upper year PhD student (OGS)



# CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT

- GPA/ transcripts - straightforward
- List of awards and publications, Presentations, posters
  - Make sure that you list your awards and/or any publications: some graduate students don't!
  - Distinguish between refereed work and non-refereed work
  - Can include work accepted for publications but not work that was only submitted
  - Can include work in which you are a co-author (but make this clear on your CV)
  - What about presentations cancelled due to COVID?





# CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT (CONT'D)

- You can include a short, concise paragraph in your research statement referring to your relevant research experience, research contributions, relevant academic outreach. Also, your referees can address many of the indicators listed for research potential and personal characteristics and interpersonal skills.
- Recommendation letters: Referees are asked to include:
  - Assessment of academic excellence
  - Assessment of research potential
  - Assessment of communication skills, interpersonal skills, leadership ability and community engagement



# WHOM TO ASK FOR RECOMMENDATION LETTERS?

- 2 academic referees
- Choose professors with whom you did well in their courses, who know you well & whom you believe will give you strong recommendation letters
- Supervisors (undergraduate thesis, MA thesis)
- How to ask?
- Send your referees your research statement; CV/ resumé; transcript(s) ...etc.
- Give them plenty of time [solicit their feedback on your research statement]
- Each referee will be sent a link to complete the recommendation letter online
- Send friendly reminder one week before deadline and (if needed) a few days before



# THE RESEARCH STATEMENT/PROGRAM OF STUDY

- Things to keep in mind
  - Your voice: the component where you can make the biggest impact (in the “now”)
  - Crafting a strong research project takes time, skill and multiple rounds of editing
  - Reading/ engaging with literature is critical to formulating good research questions
  - Reviewers are from across different departments/ disciplines: write clearly and avoid jargon but show you are well versed in the field
  - Your aim is to write the strongest possible statement now, not solve all the problems of your research project in a page or two. (You can do that later!)



# RESEARCH STATEMENT (CONT'D)

- Things to keep in mind
  - Need to keep research statement within page limit (e.g., max. 3,950 characters with space for OGS; for MA SSHRC: one page + bibliography; for PhD SSHRC: two pages + bibliography)
  - Use subheadings
  - Get some feedback from professors, classmates, ....
  - Edit, edit, edit....



# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT?

- Context
- Objectives, Research Questions & Relevance
- Theoretical Framework
- Methodology
- Why you are a strong candidate to do this project



# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT? (CONT'D)

- Context
  - Introduce/situate your research project and make sure that you refer to the importance/relevance of the topic/ issue at large
  - Refer to important academic work that addressed this topic



# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT? (CONT'D)

- Objectives, Research Questions & Relevance
  - Try to frame your specific research around an intellectual problem, paradox, puzzle, gap for which you can come up with interesting and convincing contributions
    - E.g. , *Little attention has been paid to this specific issue, particularly in the context of ....*
    - *Previous studies have examined this issue using a certain theoretical framework/ methodology; however, in my research ....*
    - Point out flaws, inconsistencies, conflicting evidence in the current literature, but you need to be very careful and measured so that you don't overreach (your research should be capable of attending to at least some of these flaws)



# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT? (CONT'D)

- Objectives, Research Questions & Relevance (cont'd)
  - State clearly your objectives or research questions
    - *In this research, I examine the following research questions OR my research addresses ...*
  - Discuss why these research questions are important and how they would contribute to the academic literature/ conversation about issue X OR the policy implications of your research
  - Use an engaging style (not to lose the readers) and use your best (convincing) spin [aim is to convince reviewers to fund your research]





# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT? (CONT'D)

- Theoretical Framework
  - Specify the theoretical frameworks that will guide your research; explain why/how they are useful
  - Shouldn't be an afterthought
  - Ask professors, classmates for advice



# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT? (CONT'D)

- Methodology
  - How do you plan to investigate your research questions?
  - Why is this methodological approach appropriate? Must be convincing
  - Data collection/ analysis/ methods
  - How will you address potential challenges/ ethical issues?
  - Methodology must be feasible and reasonable



# WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH STATEMENT? (CONT'D)

- Why are you well-equipped to do this research?
  - Your relevant experience & training
  - Supervisor's and committee members' experience and expertise
  - Carleton as a "suitable place"
- Should demonstrate research potential
- Highlight accomplishments such as publications or conferences

