

## Internal Awards Adjudication: Information Sheet

Department of Psychology

**Assessment criteria:** The criteria for assessing applicants are based on weightings used by the Tri-Council agencies. For MA awards, the criteria are Academic excellence (50 points), Research potential (30 points), and Personal characteristics and interpersonal skills (20 points). For Doctoral awards, the weightings are adjusted to 30, 50, and 20 points, respectively, to give more weighting to research potential. Specific elements of the application that apply to each of these criteria are indicated in the link below:

[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)

### **Applications can be improved by highlighting the components listed above:**

Consult the selection criteria for Tri-Council awards indicated above under Assessment Criteria. In addition, you may:

1. Improve Academic Excellence:
  - a. Participate in additional (online) trainings and seminars (i.e., GradProSkills, Udemy).
2. Improve Research Potential:
  - a. Work with your research supervisor to have a manuscript or conference presentation in the works (or, if possible, under review).
  - b. Improve aspects of your research proposal, make sure a layperson can understand it!
3. Improve Personal/Interpersonal skills:
  - a. Join a student-run or department-run committee.
  - b. Volunteer with a community organization.
4. Ask your supervisor, program director, or peers for advice and feedback on each of the 3 criteria!

**Ranking process:** Each application receives raw score ranks from 3 faculty members on the scholarships ranking committee. Members of the committee independently provide numerical rankings for their assigned applications to the chair of the awards committee. The scores of each faculty member are converted to z-scores. The three z-scores for each application are averaged, and the final ranking is based on those averages.

**Committee membership:** Faculty membership on the internal awards selection committee is routinely determined by the department chair across the different research areas and funding agencies in the department. Membership on the committee is typically for 2 to 3 years to provide some continuity of membership.

**Conflict-of-interest considerations:** The random assignment of faculty members to evaluate particular applications is adjusted to avoid the evaluation of applicants by their supervisor. If a student has a substantial concern about a conflict of interest on the part of a particular faculty member reviewing their application, they should communicate the faculty member's name to the PhD Graduate Program Director who can adjust ranking assignments. The student's concern will remain confidential.

**EDI considerations:**

Scholarship ranking committee members, as all other faculty members, have received training in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion ([https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Resources\\_Ressources\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/EDI-EDI/Resources_Ressources_eng.asp)) and also are expected to view the Tri-Council training module on the effects of unconscious bias (<https://www.chairs-chaire.gc.ca/program-programme/equity-equite/bias/module-eng.aspx?pedisable=false>).

The Department uses part of our allocation of Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Fellowship Entrance awards to advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.