

Fall 2012

AWARDS SEMINAR

Funding is an important part of academic career

Developing funding application skills early on will lead to academic success

Funding proposals can and do help in achieving career milestones and shaping one's research

MESSAGE

Dr. Marina Gavrilova spent 3 years on NSERC Scholarship for Science and Engineering Committee (reviewing over 1,000 applications) and 2 years on UofC Grants review committee (over 100 applications)

She is an Associate Professor and Chair of NSERC Scholarship for Science and Engineering Committee for 2012-2013 overseeing NSERC grant application as well as André Hamer M Postgraduate Prize nomination

She currently supervises two Ph D students chosen to apply for Vanier scholarship from UofC

ABOUT PRESENTER

FUNDING – WHY IMPORTANT

- ✘ Provides researchers and student salaries
- ✘ Allows to disseminate knowledge through conference/summer school participation
- ✘ Allows to support unique programs (international exchange, new laboratories, innovative research)

WHICH SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL

- ✘ Topic: not too broad, not too specific
- ✘ Know your audience!
- ✘ Don't overstate your achievements
- ✘ Never include any statements that are questionable or not verifiable
- ✘ Writing proposal sometimes as important as performing research itself!

EVALUATION

- ✘ depends on program
- ✘ Have been changed recently – NSERC committee is split
- ✘ applications go to external referees or committee members
- ✘ committee deliberates and chooses applications for awards
- ✘ NSERC video “Demystifying NSERC process” explains what happens after submission

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ✘ variety of application formats
- ✘ generally three criteria
 - + Candidates record (GPA, publications)
 - + Proposal
 - + Outreach/leadership

CANDIDATE RECORD

- ✘ demonstrate that you are worthy of a scholarship
 - + GPA and transcripts
 - + References
 - + work/research experience
 - + Publications
 - + Awards
 - + Abstract for public release
 - + Leadership evidence
 - + Summary of previous thesis
 - + Most important contributions

THE PROPOSAL

- ✗ written document, usually has page limit
- ✗ consider your audience
 - + the key to any good writing
 - + who reviews scholarship applications?
 - + Must consist of certain parts:
 - + objectives, methodology, outcomes, references

MAIN SOURCE OF FUNDING IN CANADA

- Natural Science and Engineering Research Council
- primary source of federal funding in Canada for Science and Engineering
 - Discovery grants
 - Strategic grants and other programs
 - no overhead



OTHER FEDERAL SOURCES

- NCE
 - networked centres of excellence
 - e.g., IRIS, GEOIDE
 - university-directed research
- SSHRC
 - social sciences and humanities research council
- CHIR
- Canadian institutes for health research

OTHER GRANTING AGENCIES

- ✘ PIMS – Pacific Institute for Mathematics
- ✘ MITACS -The Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems
- ✘ iCORE – Informatics Circle of Research Excellence
- ✘ University Research Services and Graduate Student Association

DEADLINES

- ✘ NSERC has moved to a fully electronic on-line scholarship application process in 2011. The deadline for COMPLETE applications to the **Faculty of Graduate Studies is: 4:30 pm on Tuesday, October 9, 2012.**
- ✘ Applicants must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada as of the application deadline except for Vanier scholarship.
- ✘ You must get your transcripts uploaded to your application by the **final deadline of: 4:30 pm on Monday, October 1, 2012.**

USEFUL LINKS

- ✘ Refer to the following documents for instructions on submission through the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

<http://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tricouncil>

- ✘ There are Resource Videos on the NSERC website at:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Tutorial-Tutoriel/Tutorial-Tutoriel_eng.asp

NEW THIS YEAR

The Faculty of Graduate Studies has appointed a University Designate responsible for uploading transcripts to applications. Please indicate on your application form the following University Designate:

- ✘ University Designate: First Name: **Cameron** Last Name: **Vanderwey** E-mail: gsaward@ucalgary.ca

NEW THIS YEAR

- ✘ The NSERC online application will automatically generate an e-mail request and the student will be notified once the request has been fulfilled.
- ✘ Applications will have to have transcripts and two reference letters attached before they can be submitted through the NSERC Online Services Portal.
- ✘ No late applications will be accepted.
- ✘ Referees must have submitted their reports before you will be allowed to submit your final application.

INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS

- ✘ The Department of Computer Science scholarships committee will review applications and make suggestions as to how to improve them if you submit an electronic (PDF or word format) copy of just the application (Form 201) and the free-form sections, i.e. the attachments consisting of the research proposal, contributions to research and development etc. to Lorraine Storey (CPSC Grad Program Administrator) at storeyl@cpsc.ucalgary.ca
Do not submit references or transcripts.
The FINAL deadline is Monday, Sept. 24 at noon

INTERNAL REVIEW PROCESS

- ✘ Should students receive confirmation of a new publication, award etc after their application has been submitted (but before it is forwarded to the national competition), they will be able to supply this new information to the Graduate Scholarship Office.
- ✘ The new information will be added to the application when it is ranked high enough to be forwarded to the national level competition.

SUMMARY

- ✘ Funding is indeed a very an important part of academic career as it allows to advance research and take risks
- ✘ Writing funding application is a skill that can be developed: follow guidelines, proof read:
- ✘ Practice, Practice, Practice!
- ✘ Funding proposals do help in achieving career milestones and shaping one's research!

SOURCES

- ✘ NSERC web site
- ✘ Experience in evaluating and writing proposals
- ✘ Lorraine Storey e-mail on NSERC application process