

Sharing experiences as a student, then as a supervisor and reviewer, on writing effective scholarship applications

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Plan

1. Structure and review of a scholarship application
2. The project part
3. These other parts
4. Final tips

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Why applying for a scholarship?

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Selection criteria

- ▶ **Selection criteria for CGRS-M**
- ▶ **Selection criteria for CGRS-D**
- ▶ **Selection criteria for OGS**

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 - ③ Engage the reviewer, in particular from the first paragraph!

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- 5 Determine who can write reference/support letters for you and contact them ASAP.

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② Label these questions, say (A), (B), (C) to refer to them later.

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 - 2 Typically a short paragraph while much more space is devoted to the related works and methodology.

Put yourself in the shoes of a reviewer

- ▶ Make it easy for the reviewer to find key information:
 - ① Use headings like **Overview**, **Background**, **Objectives**, **Related work**, **Methodology**, **Impact**.
 - ② Apply boldface or underlined text strategically, but do not saturate the text with highlighted words.
 - ③ Be clear, succinct, scholarly but understandable
 - ④ Do not hesitate to use figures, tables: sometimes a diagram can be clearer than a convoluted explanation.
 - ⑤ Be straight forward, emphasize the strengths of your proposal (not a time to be shy).
 - ⑥ Follow formatting standard.

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- ▶ Hence the authors of the reference letters should better be former supervisors, rather than course instructors.

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- ▶ Criteria like **quality and originality of contributions to research and development**
research experience and achievements will be evaluated here, as well as in the reference letters.

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- ▶ Do not miss these things because some applicants are very good at presenting this type of achievements.

List of publications, list of awards and scholarships

- ▶ Be very precise with publications:
 - ① Cite each publication **accurately** : order of authors, title venue, publisher, number of pages. I recommend to use **DBLP**
 - ② Be clear about the **type of venue** : journal paper, conference paper, technical report, thesis, etc.
 - ③ Be clear about the **status of paper** submitted to a venue: submitted, accepted, in-press or published
 - ④ Papers published in arXiv or HAL only should be as technical reports
- ▶ Be very precise with awards and scholarships
 - ① Limit to **university level** achievements (being an Olympic champion does not count here)
 - ② Limit to **competitive scholarships** (NSERC rule)
 - ③ Cite each award **accurately** : year, institution/agency, program, amount (if any)

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- ▶ **Tips for Writing a Successful Scholarship Application (MacMaster)**