



Western
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Preparing Master's Scholars for National Doctoral Scholarship Success

Monday, July 11, 2016 IGAB Atrium 1:30PM

Tri-Agency Doctoral Scholarship Competitions: timelines, deadlines and application

**Paula Menzies Cameron
Tri-Agency Scholarship Liaison Officer**

Timelines and Deadlines

- [CIHR Doctoral Scholarships](#)
 - Closes midnight September 4
- [NSERC Doctoral Scholarships](#)
 - Fall deadlines vary by graduate program
- [SSHRC Doctoral Scholarships](#)
 - Fall deadlines vary by graduate program

Application

- CIHR Doctoral Scholarships
 - Completely online in [ResearchNet](#)
- NSERC Doctoral Scholarships
 - Completely online in [NSERC Online System](#)
- SSHRC Doctoral Scholarships
 - [Web-based application](#) but paper submission

Selection Considerations:

- [CIHR Reviewers' Guide](#)
 - [Strategic Initiatives](#)
- [NSERC Selection Criteria](#)
 - [Award Supplements](#)
- [SSHRC Manual for Adjudication](#)
 - [Plus Imagining Canada's Future](#) and
 - [6 future challenge areas](#)
 - [Effective research training](#)

Agency Resources

- [CIHR Doctoral Scholarships](#)
- [NSERC Doctoral Scholarships](#)
- [SSHRC Doctoral Scholarships](#)

Western Resources

- [Preparing for Competition](#)
- [Research Western](#)

**Nothing succeeds like
success:
how to compete for doctoral
scholarships**

**Peter J. Simpson
Associate Vice-Provost**

Transitions: from Master's to PhD

- Becoming a creator of knowledge
- Developing a higher degree of originality
- If relevant – knowledge mobilization
- Becoming a leader & taking initiative
- A great Master's level application may not win at the doctoral level

Moving forward:

- Be confident: there are ~17000 universities in the world and Western ranks in the top 2%
- Ask yourself: what contribution do you want to make in the world?
- Henry Ford said: you can't build a reputation on what you are planning to do.

Some application specifics:

- At the doctoral level there is much greater emphasis on research and less on grades
- Your application will be reviewed by people who are not specialists in your field! Aim for clarity, and edit repeatedly
- Don't just list accomplishments, explain why they are important
- Demonstrate how you will make an impact

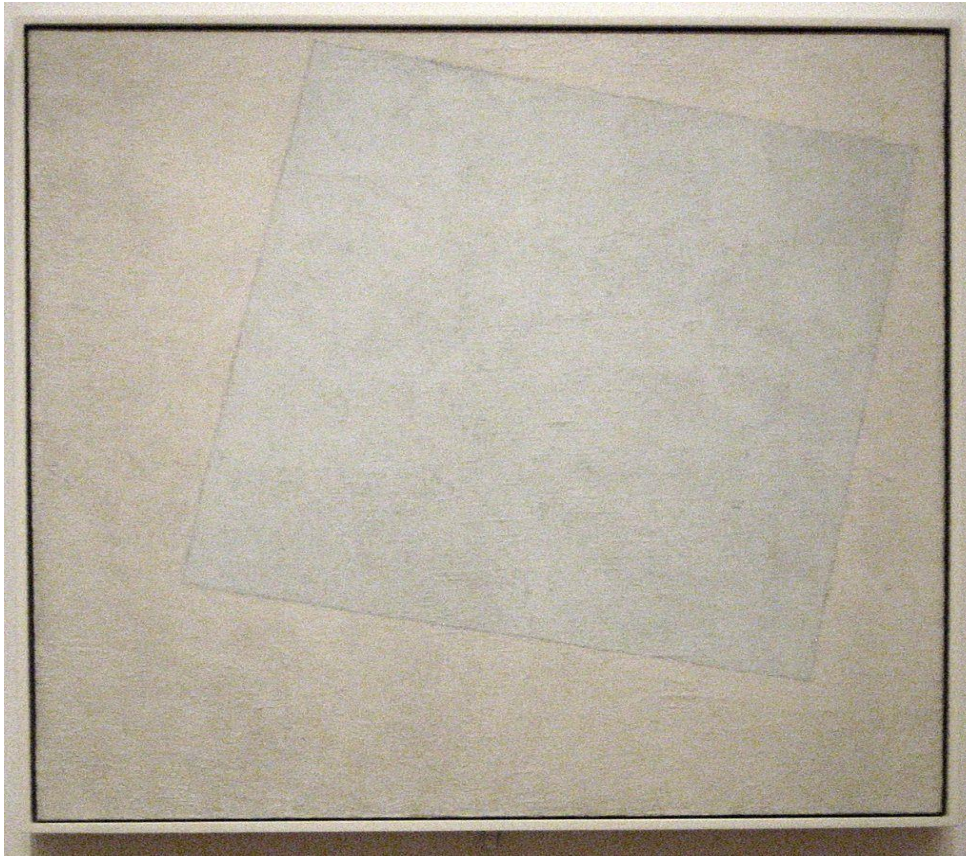
More application specifics:

- Don't apologize (i.e. don't say "I would have done more but the spectrometer broke")
- You need to score high in all categories (grades, research, leadership)
- Help your referees by reminding them of your accomplishments

Sense of proportion:

- We tend to discuss various aspects of our work in proportion to how much time we spent on them. Revise that to focus more on results and their impact, and less on technical details of how you got there.

White on White, Kazemir Malevich (1918)



Is it art? Yes – but you need the context to know why it is important.

You need to provide context and an explanation of why your work is meaningful. Without context it's just white paint!

What's the best way to win a scholarship? Be a good student!:

- Take responsibility for your project
- Don't view your PhD as a journey that follows a roadmap provided by your supervisor
- Read the literature (context again!)
- Plan ahead to avoid wasted time
- Develop your writing skills
- Be self-aware and act on your deficiencies
- Work hard, but take time off so you don't burn out



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