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GENERAL INFORMATION ON SSHRC
AND CIHR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
September 20 2012

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SSHRC: one paper copy of the application is due to Vivian Hansen by <u>October 22nd</u>
CIHR Master's: <u>December 12th</u> to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Office via *ResearchNet*
CIHR PhD: <u>October 15th</u> directly to CIHR via *ResearchNet*

You many submit only <u>one</u> application per academic year to NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR. Some research proposals may overlap the interests of the three agencies. Applicants should consult the guidelines of each agency to select the appropriate one to consider their application. If not clear, applicants should contact the agency best suited to confirm that their research does in fact fall under that particular agency.
Tips for success: http://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tip_for_success

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SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL (SSHRC)

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The U of C information page: http://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tricouncil
The SSHRC information page: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx

The information sessions have already been offered but these resources are available online:
Resources for Master's Scholarships:
http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/masters_scholarships-bourses_de_maitrise-eng.aspx
Resources for Doctoral Awards:
http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/doctoral_awards-bourses_de_doctorat-eng.aspx

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CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)

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The U of C information page for MA CIHRs: http://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/tricouncil

The CIHR home page: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/193.html

CIHR Information page on PhD CIHRs: http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/vwOpprtntyDtls.do?prog=1573&view=currentOpps&org=CIHR&type=AND&resultCount=25&sort=program&all=1&masterList=true

The Faculty of Graduate Studies **Scholarship Office** will likely be holding **CIHR information sessions** for students and staff towards the end of September and these dates will be circulated once they have been announced.

CIHR Workshop for Students
October 23, 2012 at 10:00am to 11:30am in Mackimmie Library Tower, MLT 215

A link on the peer review process: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/39380.html

Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health Topics for SSHRC

New guidelines regarding subject matter eligibility for health-related research came into effect in 2009. The following are considerations when preparing or assessing the eligibility of the subject matter of applications related to health:

- Investigators whose proposed research is health-related should consult CIHR's mandate **first** to explore eligibility. CIHR has policies and procedures in place to adjudicate the full range of social science and humanities research proposals related to health research. Research eligible under the mandate of CIHR will not be considered by SSHRC.
- The use of social science or humanities theories, methodologies and hypotheses is, in and of itself, not sufficient to make a proposal eligible at SSHRC.

Ineligible for SSHRC Support

Social science or humanities research that is primarily intended to improve and/or increase knowledge of health, health care and health-care systems in Canada or internationally is not eligible for support from SSHRC. Examples of ineligible research include:

- socio-economic and cultural determinants of health, including theoretical and empirical research on the social construction of health, sickness and health behaviour;
- health promotion (e.g., healthy eating, disease prevention, health and sexual education);
- education and psychology research related to health service delivery (e.g., clinical/practical competencies, supervision, curriculum development);
- health behaviour (e.g., fitness, psychomotor learning, psychophysiology and kinesiology; addictions, sexual activities, etc. as they affect health status);
- clinical research (e.g., treatment, prevention or diagnosis of a condition or disease; testing the impact of medication or medical aids);
- therapy (e.g., counselling, psychotherapy, rehabilitation and occupational therapy, validation/testing of diagnostic tools), including the use of performing/visual arts as an element of therapy;
- knowledge translation research related to health (e.g., research that informs health policy, treatment and/or services);
- health policy, management and law (e.g., care practices and service provision, training of health professionals, access to and quality of care, cost management in health care, liability of practitioners, health insurance, health record systems, evaluation of health programs and/or services);
- public health (e.g., workplace, food and water safety as they affect health status); and
- humanities perspectives on health, including health ethics.

Eligible for SSHRC Support

Proposals may be eligible if there is no intent to directly or indirectly impact health, or if health is a subsidiary element in a study intended to increase our understanding of individuals, groups and/or societies. Eligible research may include, for example:

- comparative studies in which health is not the primary object of study (e.g., social/developmental constructs such as theory of mind in normal development and autism);
- use of physiological methods and/or approaches to improve learning, teaching and curriculum development, or to investigate social/cultural processes and behaviors;
- historical and/or archaeological research where there is no intent to influence health (e.g., biographies of health practitioners or health scientists; health and hygiene in ancient civilizations);
- economic or management analysis unrelated to improved health or health care (e.g., the impact of the health-care industry on national or local economies; the impact of epidemics on the profitability of insurance companies);
- cinematic or other artistic portrayals of illness in which health promotion is not a central aim; or
- religious and/or cultural research related to dietary or other practices (e.g., fasting, vegetarianism), in which health is not the central focus of research.

Graduate Student Writing Workshop
CIHR Peer Review Manual for Grant Applications

September 20 2012
Prepared by Jean E. Wallace

Source: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/4656.html#s3_7_2

7.2 Evaluation Criteria

The exact criteria for each funding opportunity are described in the funding opportunity details. All applications for **Operating, Catalyst, Teams** and **Emerging Teams** grants are evaluated against the five criteria indicated below. These five criteria are further elaborated and defined by specific factors to be considered under each criterion, although it should be noted that not all factors are necessarily relevant to every grant application. The criteria are not listed in order of importance: the relative weighting of each criterion will vary depending on the objectives of the funding opportunity, as defined by CIHR. The review of the application should be structured to justify the overall rating based on the relevant criteria.

Criterion #1: Research Approach

- Clarity of the research question.
- Completeness of the literature review and relevance to study design/research plan.
- Clarity of rationale for the research approach and methodology.
- Appropriateness of the research design.
- Appropriateness of the research methods.
- Feasibility of the research approach (including recruitment of subjects, project timeline, preliminary data where appropriate, etc.).
- Anticipation of difficulties that may be encountered in the research and plans for management.

Criterion #2: Originality of the Proposal

- Potential for the creation of new knowledge.
- Originality of the proposed research, in terms of the hypotheses/research questions addressed, novel technology/methodology, and/or novel applications of current technology/methodology.

Criterion #3: Applicant(s)

- Qualifications of the applicant(s), including training, experience and independence (relative to career stage).
- Experience of the applicant(s) in the proposed area of research and with the proposed methodology.

- Expertise of the applicant(s), as demonstrated by scientific productivity over the past five years (publications, books, grants held, etc.). Productivity should be considered in the context of the norms for the research area, applicant experience and total research funding of the applicant.
- Ability to successfully and appropriately disseminate research findings, as demonstrated by knowledge translation activities (publications, conference presentations, briefings, media engagements, etc.).
- Appropriateness of the team of applicants (if more than one applicant) to carry out the proposed research, in terms of complementarity of expertise and synergistic potential.

Criterion #4: Environment for the Research

- Availability and accessibility of personnel, facilities and infrastructure required to conduct the research.
- Suitability of the environment to conduct the proposed research.
- Suitability of the environment (milieu, project and mentors) for the training of personnel (if applicable).

Criterion #5: Impact of the Research

- Research proposal addresses a significant need or gap in health research and/or the health care system.
- Potential for a significant contribution to the improvement of people's health in Canada and the world and/or to the development of more effective health services and products.
- Appropriateness and adequacy of the proposed plan for knowledge dissemination and exchange.

Additional factors to be considered under each criterion may also be described in the funding opportunity details. Please contact your committee coordinator if you need further guidance on how to apply the individual criteria.

PEER REVIEW CHECKLIST FOR PROPOSAL REVIEWS
Graduate Student Writing Workshop
Prepared by J.E. Wallace
October 4 2012

Remember two key things to ask yourself in reviewing a proposal:
1. *is the project worth doing and*
2. *is it doable?*

The Research Question and the Proposed Study
- ✓ Is the research question clearly presented and presented early on in the proposal?
- ✓ Is the rationale for the research approach and methodology clear?
- ✓ Are the research design and data collection approaches appropriate for answering the research question?
- ✓ Is the description of the proposed study easily understood and presented in non-technical, jargon-free language?

Originality of the Research Question/Proposed Study
- ✓ What is new or original about this study and why is it important?
- ✓ Does the proposed project address a significant need or gap in the literature or field of inquiry?
- ✓ How is the proposed research original (in terms of the hypotheses/research questions addressed, theoretical approach, methodology, sample/data source)?
- ✓ Is it clear how this project will yield a notable advancement or innovation in the discipline?

Study Feasibility and Success
- ✓ Does the applicant seem qualified in terms of their training, coursework, and experience such that they should be successful in carrying out the proposed study with the proposed methodology?
- ✓ Is the project doable within a reasonable time frame for an MA/PhD student (including recruitment of subjects, project timeline, data collection, data analysis, etc.)?
- ✓ Is the project doable with limited external funds for an MA/PhD student (e.g., does it entail equipment, travel, recruitment incentives, software, etc.) that are not covered by a CIHR or SSHRC grant?
- ✓ Are there any potential difficulties that seem likely and are they addressed in the proposal (e.g., access to subjects/recruitment, ethics approval)?