

External Scholarship Presentation – CGRS Doctoral



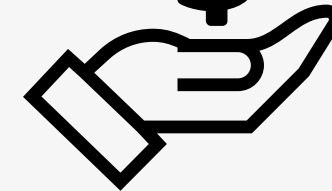
Agenda

- Why apply for scholarships?
- References
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)
- Canada Graduate Research Scholarship - Doctoral (CGRS-D)



Why Submit an Application?

It's not just about the \$



1

Recognition

2

**It's an
investment
in YOU**

3

**Experience
preparing
applications**

4

**Experience
writing
proposals**

5

**Review and fine
tune research
objectives**

Reference Tips

Start early getting to know your professors

- Build a rapport with your instructors
- Use their office hours, have discussions, get to know each other.
- You will need them for scholarship comps, grad school applications, jobs etc.

Who to ask?

- Current Advisor and/or committee member
- Undergrad or master's thesis advisor
- Instructor whose class you excelled in or had as a professor multiple time

Ask early.

- Give them plenty of warning and time to submit. (at least 3 to 4 weeks notice)
- Ensure they know the deadlines and how they will access the reference.

Reference Tips pt 2

Ask if they can give you a STRONG reference.

- If they say no, you may want to be open to some constructive feedback, if not, move on and ask someone else.

Provide them with information to work from

- research proposal
- a writing sample of work done in their class
- your transcript (unofficial from LORIS is fine)
- your resume showing work and volunteer experience, other awards won etc.

THANK THEM!

- Be sure to thank them for their time.
- Let them know the outcome of the award, job, etc.

References

All scholarship competitions require that references are submitted by the deadline date for the application to be deemed complete.

CGRS Doctoral Competitions

- You invite your referees as part of the application process and a link is sent to them right after you save the information.
 - **However, you cannot fully submit your application unless your two referees have submitted their assessments.**
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- Be sure to inform your referees of the deadlines and give them enough time to submit their assessments.

Canada Graduate Research Scholarship (CGRS) Programs

Tri-Council Federal Funding
Agencies:

Doctoral level – Awards are
\$40,000 per year for 3 years
for a total of \$120,000

NSERC – Natural Science and Engineering Research Council

SSHRC – Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

CIHR – Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) Applications



OGS is worth up to \$15,000 (per year, non-renewable); May be awarded for a minimum of 2 terms for \$10,000.



Funded by the province of Ontario.

Merit-based but you must be in good standing with OSAP to hold the award.

General Guidelines

You can only apply to one of the three Tri-Agencies each year.

You can only hold one federal OR one provincial award at a time.

Maximum of four years of federal government-funded student awards (and six years combined federal and provincial awards).

Applications completed this fall are for awards to be held during the next academic year.
(Note: eligible recipients may elect to start award as early as May or Spring term of the next year.)

You do not need to be admitted to a graduate program at the time of application. With one exception, International students must be enrolled in their PhD program to be eligible for the CGRS-D competition.

Eligibility for OGS

- ✓ Domestic and international are eligible
- ✓ You can hold the OGS up to twice at the master's level and 4 times at the PhD level (within the lifetime maximums).
- ✓ First-class average of A- (80%) in each of the last two years of full-time study or equivalent. For those entering the 3rd year or beyond of graduate studies must have an A- average in all graduate level courses.
- ✓ Only grades up to the end of August 31st in the year of application used (fall term grades not used)
- ✓ Every university has a different application process and deadline for the OGS competition

Laurier OGS

- ✓ Students who wish to be considered for an OGS award to be held at Laurier, **must** apply to their relevant Tri-Agency CGRS competition.
- ✓ Results are released by FGPS in starting in May after the Tri-Agency results are known.
- ✓ How many awards?
The Ontario Government typically releases that information in late fall or early winter.

Eligibility for Tri-Agency Funding

CGRS Doctoral (CGRS D)

- ✓ Must be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada; OR an International Student currently enrolled in a PhD program at a Canadian institution with a quota.
- ✓ Applying to pursue your first PhD (or equivalent)
- ✓ Pursuing doctoral studies appropriate to funding agency mandate
- ✓ Not have already received a scholarship or fellowship from a Tri-Council Agency to undertake PhD or a combined MA/PhD
- ✓ Within term of study limits for CGRS D which for all programs is now 36 months (or Term 9) by December 31, 2026.

Calculate your months of study correctly: One term in the program equals 4 months, and the months of study are the number completed by December 31 of the calendar year you are applying. For applications in Fall 2026:

Start Term	Fall 2026	Spring 2026	Winter 2026	Fall 2025	Spring 2025	Winter 2025	Fall 2024	Spring 2024	Winter 2024
Months	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36



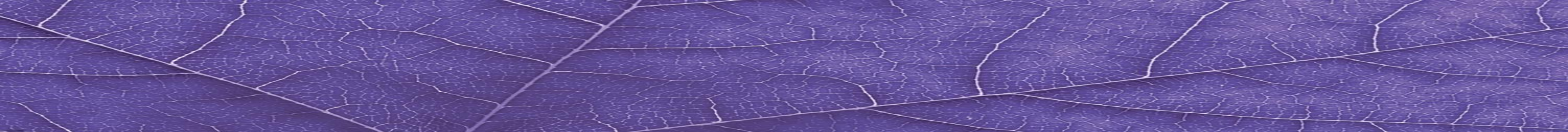
If you will be starting your program in January 2027, May 2027 or September 2027, you will put "0" (zero) for the months of study.



If you took a leave from the program since you started, those terms will not count towards your months of study. If you have questions, please ask.

Tri-Agency CGRS D Program Harmonization

- One common landing page for the CGRS Doctoral Program; however, there is still a separate online application system for each agency
- Applicants still complete one application for the agency under which their research aligns
- Applicants who are or were registered at an institution in the calendar year of application apply through their institution's quota.
- WLU receives Quotas for each competition cycle.
 - CIHR: 3 (three)
 - NSERC: 7 (seven)
 - SSHRC: 18 (eighteen)
- One common deadline for Tri-Agency Doctoral Awards applicants
- Results are released by April 30th.



NEW!

Starting with the 2025-2026 application cycle:

Applicants can apply a maximum of three (3) times to the new doctoral (CGRS D) program.

This eligibility restriction starts with the current (2025-2026) competition cycle and will not be applied retroactively.

Currently, only those applications that are forwarded to the national competition will count against the three (3) times rule.

Deadlines:

Laurier's Internal Deadline:

**Monday, October 5, 2026
by 11:59pm**

Those applying directly to the tri-agencies:
October 17, 2026

Submitting through the incorrect path can result in your application not being considered.



All students who are currently registered at Laurier during the 2026 calendar year will apply through Laurier's quota regardless of whether they plan to hold the award here or not.



Applicants who have not studied at Laurier or any other institution during the 2026 calendar year can apply directly to the tri-agencies.



If you are not sure where you should apply, please contact us for advice.

Self-Identification for EDI purposes

All applicants are asked to fill out the voluntary self-identification questions. While there is a “I prefer not to answer” option for all questions, we encourage you to fill this out and check off consent for use of that info by the tri-agencies.

Why?

- Indigenous applicants at the doctoral level can elect for their application to be forwarded to the national competition over and above our quota numbers.
- There are also additional Indigenous Scholars Awards and potentially, an additional supplement over and above the CGRS D at the doctoral level.
- For domestic applicants that self-identify as Black, there are an additional 10 CGRS Doctoral awards to be awarded across the tri-agencies.
- Funding could become available to support other groups of students as well.

If you do self-identify as indigenous you may choose to engage with Indigenous Student Services and go through the [voluntary self-identification and verification process](#).

Priority Research Areas (PRA)

- Advanced digital technologies (including AI, quantum, and cybersecurity)
 - Health, including biotechnology
 - Clean technology and resource value chains
 - Environment, climate resilience, and the Arctic
 - Food and water security
 - Democratic and community resilience
 - Manufacturing and advanced materials
 - Defense and dual-use technologies
-
- NSERC and SSHRC applicants will indicate their alignment with a PRA on their application Form
 - CIHR applicants will automatically align with the PRA for *Health, including biotechnology*
 - Committee members evaluate applications based on the selection criteria.
PRAs are not part of the selection criteria.

Evaluation Criteria for Tri-Agency Doctoral Awards

- ✔ **50% - Research ability and potential**
- ✔ **50% - Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia**



Research Potential (50%)

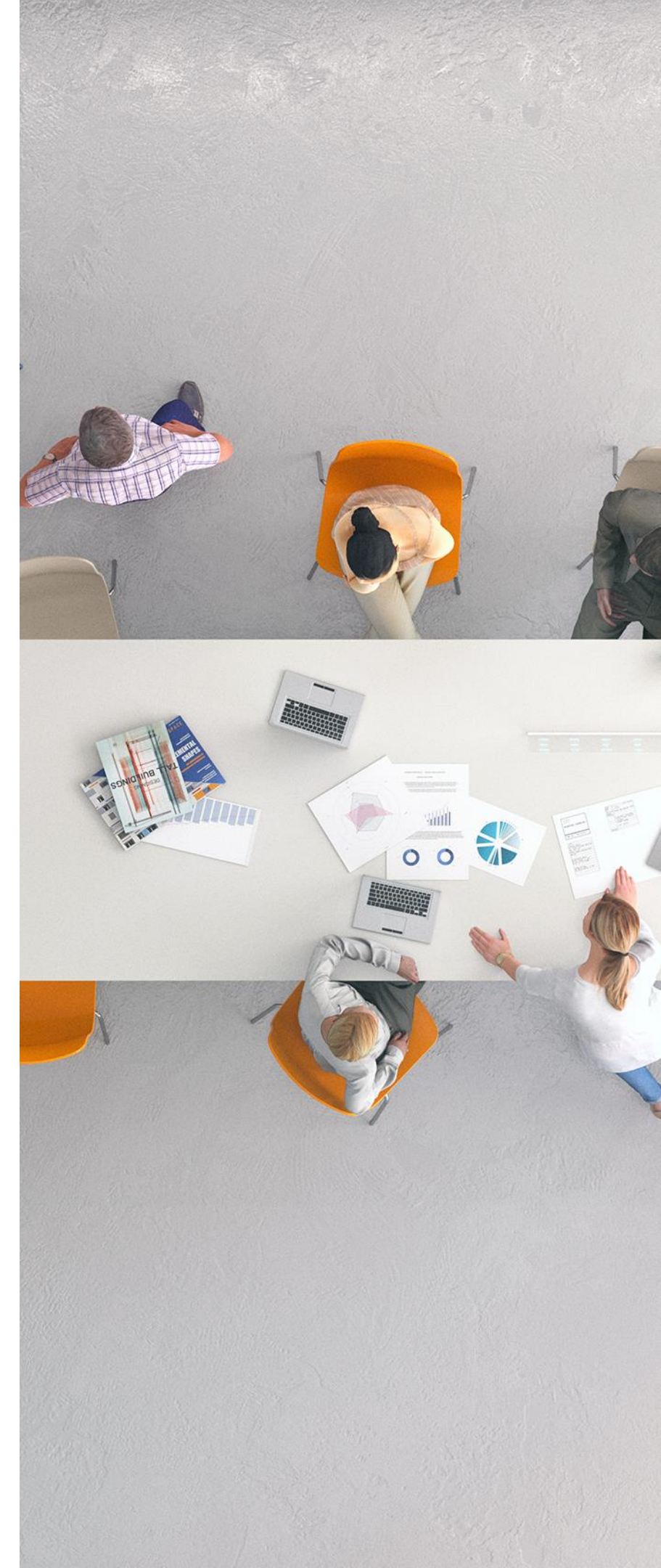
- quality of research proposal:
 - specific, focused and feasible research question(s) and/or objective(s)
 - clear description and soundness of the proposed methodology
 - significance and expected contributions to research
- demonstration of potential to carry out proposed research relative to the stage of study, lived experience and knowledge systems
- quality of contributions and extent to which they advance the field of research—contributions may include publications, patents, reports, posters, abstracts, monographs, presentations, creative outputs, knowledge translation outputs, community products, etc.
- demonstration of sound judgment and ability to think critically
- demonstration of responsible and ethical research conduct, including honest and thoughtful inquiry, rigorous analysis, commitment to safety and dissemination of research results and adherence to professional standards
- demonstration of originality, initiative, autonomy, relevant community involvement and outreach
- ability to communicate theoretical, technical and/or scientific concepts clearly and logically in written and oral formats

• Source: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_eng.asp#a7

Relevant experience and achievements obtained within and beyond academia (50%)

- relevant training, such as academic training, lived experience and traditional teachings
- scholarships, awards and distinctions (amount, duration, and prestige)
- academic record:
 - transcripts
 - duration of previous studies
 - program requirements and courses pursued
 - relative standing in program (if available)
- professional, academic, and extracurricular activities, as well as collaborations with supervisors, colleagues, peers, students and members of the community, such as:
 - teaching, mentoring, supervising and/or coaching
 - managing projects
 - participating in science and/or research promotion
 - participating in community outreach, volunteer work, and/or civic engagement
 - chairing committees and/or organizing conferences and meetings
 - participating in departmental or institutional organizations, associations, societies and/or clubs

Source: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/PG-CS/cgrsd-besrd_eng.asp#a7





A COMPLETE APPLICATION REQUIRES...

Each agency has its own list of requirements for the doctoral level applications.

- CIHR and SSHRC require the Canadian Common CV (CCV) and SSHRC CV as part of the application whereas NSERC has you enter similar information as part of the application itself.
- NSERC and SSHRC require PDF attachments for many items including the Research Proposal, Transcripts, Contributions, Bibliography etc. where as CIHR includes it in the application and only requires attachments for Transcripts and other allowable inclusions.

Therefore, it is imperative that you read through the applicable agency's instructions before proceeding:

[CIHR](#) [NSERC](#) [SSHRC](#)

Not sure if you understand the instructions, there are folks available to assist.

- You can contact myself, Deborah Russell, drussell@wlu.ca.
- You can reach out to the Tri-Agency's support and Help emails as listed on their respective websites.

Helpful Links

[CGRS-Doctoral](#) - Landing page for the CGRS Doctoral competitions

Here you will find a thorough overview of the program and requirements.

Applications systems and instructions for each agency:

- CIHR: [ResearchNET](#) and [instructions](#)
- NSERC: [Online system](#) and [instructions](#)
- SSHRC: [Registration and login](#) and [instructions](#)

[Tri-Agency Research Training Award Holder's Guide](#) - if you are successful in the competition, this is the award holder's guide which you'll need to follow

Things to keep in mind for your research proposal



- Write your proposal in clear, plain language. Avoid discipline-specific jargon, acronyms and highly technical terms. Your application will be reviewed by members of a multidisciplinary selection committee, not all of whom will be familiar with your area of research.
- **Guidelines for Research-Creation Support Materials**
 - If, in their application, applicants identify their proposal as a “research-creation” project, they may include a website link to provide samples of work that illustrate their qualifications and/or the nature of the proposed research-creation.
 - Reasonable efforts will be made to view or listen to support material; however, due to technical challenges, the tri-agencies cannot guarantee that samples will be accessed. Applicants should consider that reviewers will have limited time per application to view, read or listen to samples of work.
- If your proposed research overlaps with areas supported by other federal research funding agencies, justify why you are submitting this proposal to SSHRC rather than to CIHR or NSERC etc.

Research Proposal Considerations

Currently enrolled in a doctoral degree program:

- ☐ clearly state your current level of graduate study;
- ☐ indicate at what stage you are in your thesis/research project;
- ☐ provide the name of your supervisor of doctoral studies, if known;
- ☐ provide an outline of your thesis or research project, including, for example, the research question(s), context, objectives, methodology, significance and expected contributions to advancing knowledge; and
- ☐ describe what you hope to accomplish during the award tenure and what will remain for you to complete to obtain your degree.

Not currently in a doctoral degree program:

- ☐ clearly state your current level of study;
- ☐ give the title and a brief description of your master's thesis or research project, if applicable;
- ☐ identify the degree program you will pursue, including any relevant courses, and explain why you chose this program; and
- ☐ provide a plan for your doctoral thesis or research project, including the research question(s), context, objectives, methodology, significance and expected contribution to advancing knowledge, as well as your special interests in the proposed research area.

Presentation Standards

- On each section of the applications, you will find instructions and tips on how to complete your application. These instructions could include:
 - Font size
 - Page limits
 - Margins
 - File size
- Attachments must be in PDF format.
 - Documents that have been password protected cannot be read and, therefore, cannot be attached. Do not password protect documents you plan to attach to your application.
- The filename of a document should be fewer than 15 characters long and cannot contain special characters (excluding the underscore).
- Any section that is not used for its intended purpose may be redacted or removed from the application.
- You are responsible for submitting a complete application that conforms to the standards.
 - Incomplete applications and applications that do not meet presentation standards may be rejected or may be at a disadvantage in comparison to those that are complete and respect the presentation standards.



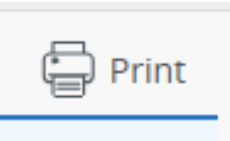
Transcripts

- **You must include transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies.**
 - All programs of study listed in the *Academic background* section of the application, even if a degree was not completed, must be accompanied by appropriate transcripts.
 - Transcripts are an integral part of the material evaluated by review committee members.
 - Applications must include all complete and **up-to-date transcripts** to be considered.
 - If a transcript includes transfer credits from another institution, the grades for these credits must be shown. If the grades are not shown, the original transcript from the other institution must be included in the application. This includes international exchange programs. Exception: Canadian college and CEGEP transcripts are not required (even if they contain transfer credits).
- **If you started or are registered in a degree program in the fall session of the year of application, you must provide a transcript that demonstrates registration in your program.**

Laurier will accept UNOFFICIAL transcripts such as the Unofficial Academic Transcript available through LORIS.



Steps to Download your Unofficial Academic Transcript from LORIS

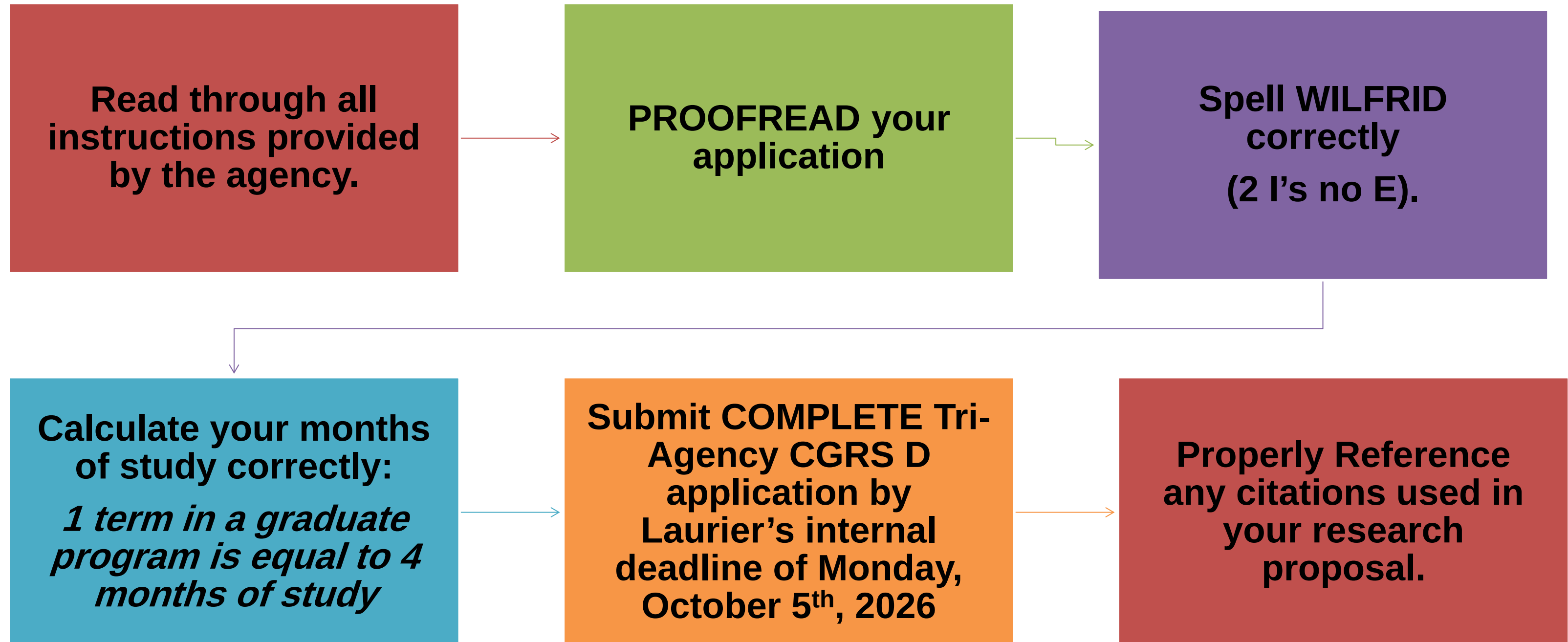
1. Login to loris.wlu.ca
2. Select Student Services
3. Select Student Records
4. Select Official Final Grades
5. Ensure the transcript level = All Levels and the Transcript Type = Official Transcript
6. Click on Submit
7. On the right side of the page there will be a print icon 
8. Depending on your browser, this should bring up a PDF view of your transcript that will say “Wilfrid Laurier University Unofficial Academic Transcript”.
9. You can either choose the download icon to download and save the PDF or Select your browser’s print menu and change the printer to Save as PDF or Print to PDF.

The printed PDF document is now ready to be combined with PDF copies of your other transcripts.

When combining your transcripts, we recommend that you order your transcripts in chronological order with the most recent academic work first.

You must include a legend for each transcript as well. (Email drussell@wlu.ca if you need a copy of WLU’s legend).

Final Tips



Final Tips pt. 2

Ensure you have reviewed any Joint Initiatives as there may be additional supplements and awards that could be added on top of the CGRS D

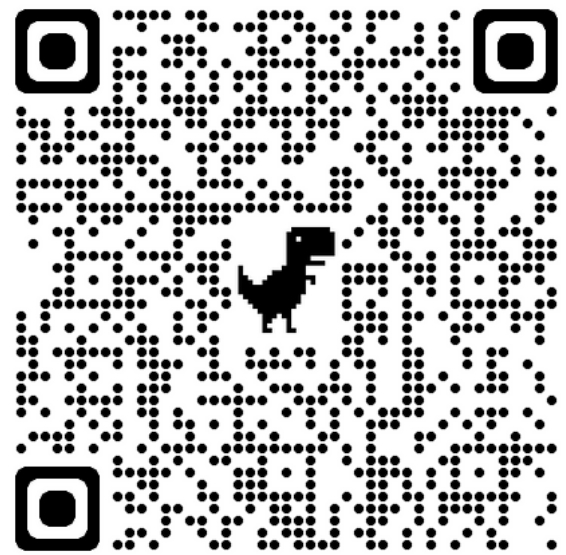
PROOFREAD your application

Remember to Save each page as you go along. SSHRC also requires you Verify each page as well.

Sometimes other lists or boxes will not open until you save the prior information first.

Submit COMPLETE Tri-Agency CGRS D application by Laurier's internal deadline of Monday, October 5th, 2026

Other Opportunities



[External
scholarships
and awards](#)

Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarships

- Applications are typically due in November each year.
- Applicants apply directly to the foundation; there is no vetting at the Laurier level
- Open to domestic applicants as well as international applicants that are studying at a Canadian institution.

W.L. MacKenzie King Memorial Scholarships

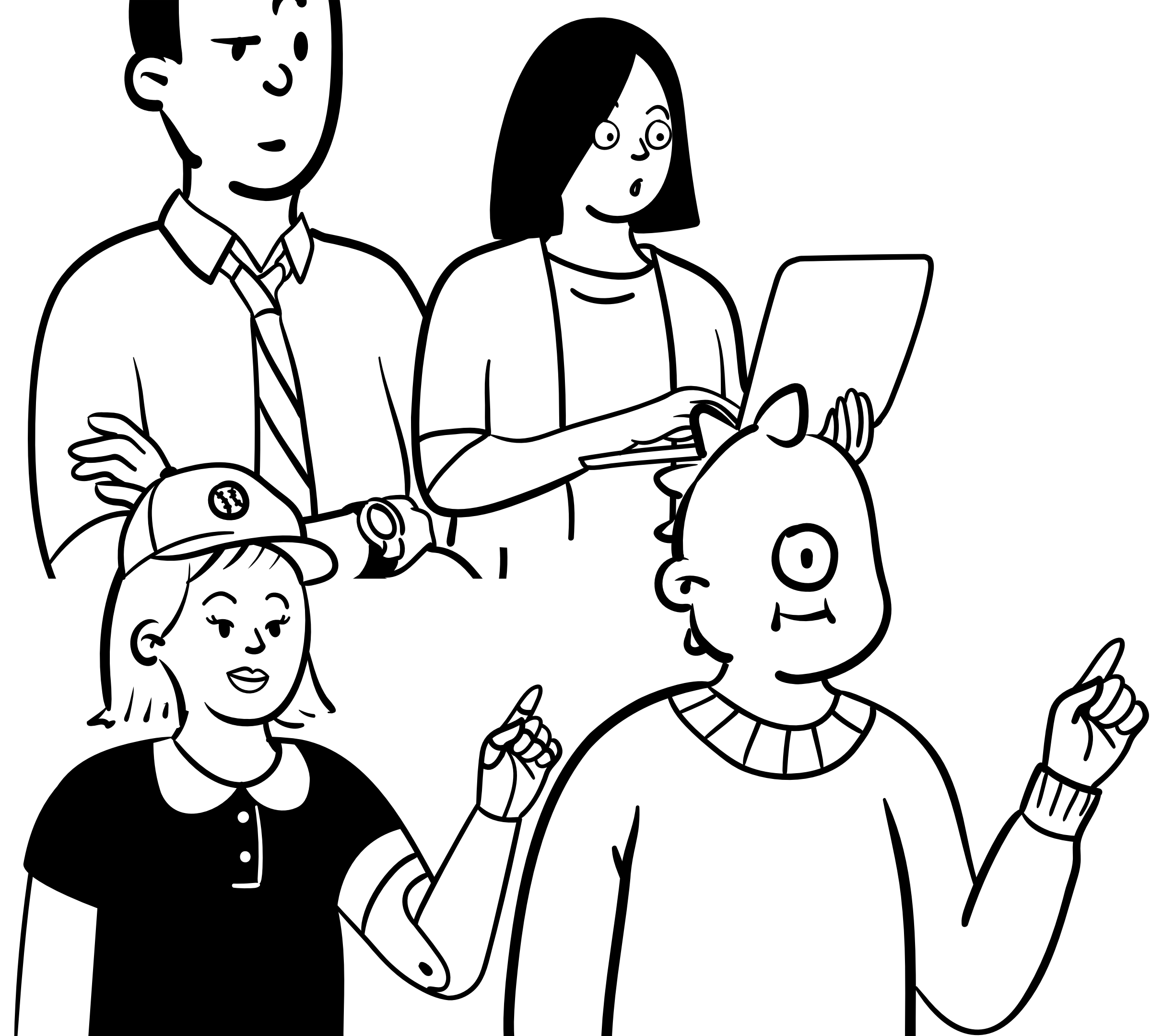
- Graduate students studying at Laurier would be eligible to apply to the Open Scholarship only.
- Applications are due in February each year and Laurier will only forward one (1) applicant to the open competition as there is only 1 award to be granted nationally for that award.
- If you are considering studying in the field of international relations or industrial relations in the US or the UK, you can apply for the Travelling Scholarship. Again, applications are vetted through Laurier, but we can forward more than one to that competition.

Ontario Women's Health Scholar Awards (OWHSA)

- Graduate students doing research related to Women's Health may apply for these scholarships by December 1st each year.
- Laurier vets the applications and the top two applications from Master's students and the top two applications from doctoral students are forwarded to the Provincial competition.

Autism Scholar's Awards

- Graduate students doing research related to Autism that will translate into improved health for children, more effective services and products for children with Autism and increase the provinces capacity in diagnosis and assessment of autism and a strengthened treatment system.
- Identical to the OWHSA application with regards to vetting and due date of applications.



Additional Scholarship drop-in Q&A sessions:

**Canada Graduate Research Scholarship –
Doctoral (CGRS D) Programs** – applications
due Monday, October 5th at 11:59pm (ET).

Friday, August 14, 2026

2-3pm - [Zoom](#)

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

3-4 pm - [Zoom](#)

Friday, September 25, 2026

2-3pm - [Zoom](#)

Tuesday, September 29, 2026

3-4 pm – [Zoom](#)

Questions?

Contact Information

Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (FGPS) (fgps@wlu.ca)

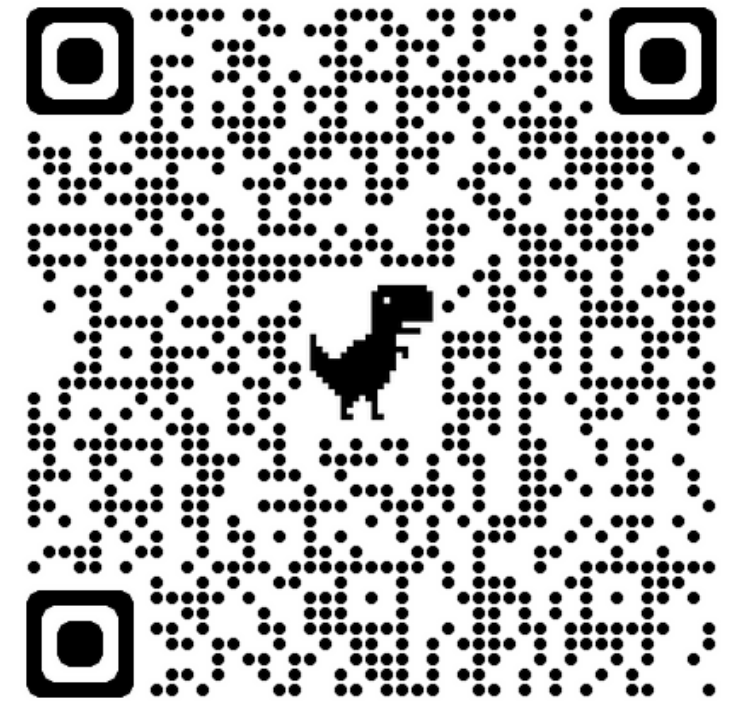
Deborah Russell (drussell@wlu.ca) Financial Aid & Awards Officer

Matt Blake (mablake@wlu.ca) Funding & Awards Administrator

OGS questions (ogs@wlu.ca)

Scholarship Writing Workshops: Writing Services (studentsuccess@wlu.ca)

[Scholarship Proposal Workshops in August](#)



[External scholarships
and awards page](#)