



Welcome!

Application for Research Positions: Masters, Ph.D. and Postdoctoral.

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What are research positions?

- Opportunities that are independent research focused or with intensive research activities, rather than coursework and seminars.
- They are often funded grants/projects.

Examples:

- Master of Philosophy – M. Phil.
 - Master of Research – M. Res.
 - Thesis Based Masters program (MSc.).
 - Doctor of Philosophy – Ph.D.
 - Post doctoral research.
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- **The objectives are defined from the beginning of the program or immediately after certain criteria are met.**



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Ph.D. and MSc Openings at McGill University



How can I access research opportunities?

- University websites or researchers websites/profile pages, University mailing list e.g. Curtin University.
- **Social media platform:** LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp groups.
- **Scholarship forums/websites:** HISF (<https://hotspotisf.com>), Scholarship positions, opportunity corner, opportunity for Africans (<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/>), etc.
- **Research hubs, or country dedicated websites:** ResearchGate, Science Direct, Job.ac.uk, etc.
- **Professional gatherings:** conferences, webinars, association meetings, luncheons etc.

Requirements for a research position application



- **The requirements for research positions varies, depending on the research focus/field of study.**

Essential requirements

- Demonstrated research experience in the field of the advertised position
- Experience in use of relevant Equipment/facilities or tools: Drones, GC-MS/MS, AutoCAD, GIS (ArcMap/QGIS), programming skills
- Experience in scientific writing: conference papers or journal articles.

Basic requirements

- Statement of Intent/cover letter/motivation letter etc.
- CV/Resume
- Transcript
- Certificates
- Evidence of other requirements e.g. Test score, publication, writing samples etc.

How do you make contact for an advertised position?

- Cold emailing/Enquiry email.
- Sending the required documents highlighted in the research advert through the highlighted medium.
- Filling the online form appropriately.



Structure of reminder email after initial contact with a prospective supervisor



- **Keep it short and simple.**
- **Re-introduce yourself.** *"I am X Y, a graduate student of WST School"*
- **Use a simple and friendly opening statement.**
- **Mention your interest.** *"I mailed you earlier regarding my interest in joining your lab for my Ph.D. program in Civil and Environmental Engineering".*
- **Attach your CV/Resume*.**

Don'ts

- **Do not write a long essay.**
- **Do not emphasis your research prowess or expertise.**
- **Do not send multiple emails within a short time.**

Components of CV for research positions

- Confirm if they have specific cv/resume requirement/template.
- Send an academic CV/Resume

General Indicators

- Include only **post secondary information** (minimum should be a national diploma).
- Include information on **previous research engagements**.
- Never forget to check your “**area of interest/research interest**” highlighted in your CV.
- **Use appropriate heading. Teaching Experience, Research experience, professional affiliation, etc.**
- Include **research related information** E.g. Technical skills/Laboratory experience etc. list of tools, software, equipment etc.
- Ensure to include **referee details** --- This is an advertised research position.
- Professional services/development oriented projects. E.g. journal reviewer, co-investigator in a funded project etc.

Content of letter of intent/motivation letter for a research position



- **Express your interest in the opening.** (Problem statement*)
- Discuss about your academic qualification, relevant work and/or research experience, relevant leadership roles.
- **Discuss the uniqueness of your past research experiences and/or publications.**
- **Discuss why you are the best fit for the advertised position. Things like tools, experience, demonstrated zeal/passion (this must be verifiable and quantifiable).**
- Give additional information about why you are interested in the laboratory or research team (avoid generic or vague statement here please).
- Discuss about how you intend to utilize the opportunity (this may not be always, but important).

Letter of Intent contd.

- Avoid generic or vague statement.
- Maintain a **synergy**, keep the flow/tempo of your story.
- Create a **connection for all paragraphs**, let everything be synchronized.
- Showcase your research experience with evidence.
- **Do not only quantify your experience**, present the **quality of your work**.
What problem does that particular article solved or the solution proffered.
- **Present your most relevant and quality work**. Your honors research experience could do the trick, so no experience is too small.
- Do not **beg** **PIs** but don't be too boastful.



Thank you for listening.

