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(FORUM 3)

THEME » **Securing GRA and GTA in Canadian Universities**

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Background

This discussion focuses on Master's programmes (Course-Based and Thesis-Based) as well as internal scholarships (GRA and GTA). However, there are other external scholarship opportunities available for the taking. There are basically three kinds of funding opportunities (internal scholarships) available for graduate study, and their monetary values vary across different departments.

- **GRA (Graduate Research Assistantships)**; which is exclusively for Thesis-Based Masters (Master's by research).
- **GTA (Graduate Teaching Assistantships)**; available for both Course-Based and Thesis-Based masters.
- **GSA (Graduate Service Assistantships)**.

Note that Canadian schools rarely fund masters by Coursework, rather they mostly fund masters by research.

Stepwise Procedure for Getting Admission

- ✚ Search for schools that offer your course of study.
- ✚ Check the School website. (Read everything on their admission process and their selection process.
- ✚ Once eligible, Search for a potential supervisor. This is done by visiting the **school website**, navigating all the way through the **Faculty website** for the faculty/staff tab. There, you would have the opportunity of exploring the profiles of potential supervisors, their research interests and contact details (i.e. their email address). Be sure to contact a supervisor whose research interests aligns with

yours, and once a supervisor is gotten, they will personally follow up with your application up until getting the admission as well as the scholarship/funding.

Requirements for Admission

The following will be required for admission: **Academic Transcript, Curriculum Vitae, Degree Certificate**, an **Application Fee** (cost depends on school of choice), an **SOP** (Statement of Purpose), any **other document** which can boost chances of being selected for admission. it is strictly advisable to get a supervisor before paying an application fee.

Also, make sure that your SOP is solid and free from grammatical errors. A good SOP will at least contain the following elements:

- Background information about yourself (Name, previous education, school and most importantly what you finished with (i.e. CGPA)).
- Previous research you have conducted or worked on either individually or as a team. (include the outcome of that research work).
- What you intend to work on if given the chance.
- The concluding part should state the admission term you wish to apply for.

Generic Questions and Answers

Q. Is TOEFL or any other test required for the application and what are the minimum scores?

A. A **standard English test result** (proof of English proficiency) is **not required** by most schools, but there are a few exceptions. If such is needed, it will be clearly stated as part of admission requirements on the school website. Also the attendant minimum score requirements for such tests will be provided.

Q. What is the nature of the GRA, GTA and GSA funding, does it cover tuition fees and living expenses?

A. The funds vary, my own GRA, to use an example, covers my tuition with some extra change left, while my GTA is for my living expenses.

Q. Are the GTA and GRA also applicable to PhD?

A. Yes, PhD applicants even stand better chances.

Q. After studies in Canada, is one allowed to stay back?

A. Absolutely, yes!

Q. Is admission automatic upon getting a potential supervisor?

A. with 90% chance, yes. However, not in all cases.

Q. I have my BSc in view, and my transcript will be ready in few months, can I still apply?

A. A temporary result slip with a letter (displaying the assurance of graduating soon) should suffice. However, the original transcript and degree certificate will be required eventually.