

Review Criteria (DRA)

1. Achievements and Activities of the Candidate

- a. Publication Activity
- b. Other Research Activity
- c. Academic Performance

24 marks
~33%

2. Characteristics and Abilities of the Candidate

- a. Critical thinking
- b. Independence
- c. Perseverance
- d. Originality
- e. Organizational skills
- f. Interest in discovery
- g. Research ability

28 marks
~39 %

3. Research Training Environment

- a. Training Program for the Candidate
- b. Scientific Activity of the Supervisor
- c. Research Resources available
- d. Training Record of the Supervisor

20 marks
~ 28%

1. Achievements and Activities of the Candidate

- a. Publication Activity
- b. Other Research Activity
- **c. Academic Performance

24 marks
~33%

Evidence of accomplishments in the first 12 months of your program or in your MSc is ESSENTIAL.

- Presentations at meetings
- Published abstracts
- Publications
 - if submitted - include letter from the journal saying it is under review
 - if accepted - include letter from journal
- **if a favourable decision is sent to you during prior to the applications being reviewed (end of December/ early January), fax a copy to the person overseeing the program with an explanation.
- Explain contribution to collaborative efforts
- Involvement with patents
- Role in core facilities

2. Characteristics and Abilities of the Candidate

- a. Critical thinking
- b. Independence
- c. Perseverance
- d. Originality
- e. Organizational skills
- f. Interest in discovery
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Select your sponsors carefully - and provide them with sufficient material (CV, abstracts) to allow them to write strong letters on your behalf.

High rankings **MUST** be substantiated in the written part of the letter.

Reviewers have only a little "wiggle room" in the evaluation of the letters.

3. Research Training Environment

20 marks
~ 28%

- **a. Training Program for the Candidate
- b. Scientific Activity of the Supervisor
- c. Research Resources available
- d. Training Record of the Supervisor

Training expectations: The strengths of the training program should be linked to the goals of the trainee.

Goals should be genuine !

Should reflect academic, research and translational components

Indicate if lab is part of a Group, Centre, Network Centre of Excellence

Lay summary is your opportunity to stress the importance of your work in words that everyone understands!!

Avoid jargon

State goal of your research project

State significance of your research to health and the general public

Training program **MUST** be well described and reflect a **FOCUSED** plan

- academic component (p.5 of application)
courses, seminars, workshops
- research component (general scientific language)
 - brief background
 - logical and testable hypothesis
 - objectives
 - achievements to date
 - approaches to be used
- translational component (p.5 of application)
How will you disseminate your findings?

Activity section (% time) - should be realistic
too much TAing or course work raises flags

European Vacation or not -

Foreign training **HAS TO BE HIGHLY JUSTIFIED**

Spend **Quality Time** preparing the training module
Have your supervisor work with you!!

Supervisor and Resources

New versus Well-established

Productivity of the Supervisor

Past training successes of the Supervisor

Access to equipment or people

****Make sure the Supervisor's CV module is
COMPLETE and UP TO DATE!!!! ****

2004-2005 results

800 applications
to Doctoral Research Awards (DRA)



Canada Graduate Scholarship Awards = 83
(top ranked DRAs)
Stipend = \$30,000
Research allowance = \$5,000

Doctoral Research Awards = 86
Stipend = \$21,000 (in Canada)
\$26,000 (elsewhere)
Research allowance = \$1,000

21.1% success rate

Strategic initiatives announced in a number of areas
for 2005-2006 competition