

## Is Your CV SSHRC Ready?

When deciding if you should apply for a SSHRC grant to fund your research, one of the key questions to ask yourself is this: **is my CV competitive?** To be successful in a SSHRC competition, your research needs to be innovative and important *and* your CV must be strong relative to your career stage.

This guide describes what SSHRC deems to be a strong CV, walks you through some ways to judge whether your CV is competitive, and provides suggestions for what to do if you determine that your CV is not quite ready to go into a competition right away.

### **S** CORING OF THE SSHRC CV

SSHRC programs weigh the CV differently, though the **capability score** is never less than 30% of the overall score.

<i>Grant</i>	<i>Capability Score</i>
Insight Development Grant	30%
Insight Grant	40%
Partnership Development Grant	30%
Partnership Grant	30%
Connections Grant	30%

Reviewers look for slightly different characteristics within each SSHRC program:

**Insight Development Grant** (applying as a new scholar): Are you publishing in peer-reviewed, important journals in your field? Do you show potential as a researcher? Do you have some publications that are not tied to the work of your graduate research supervisor?

**Insight Development Grant** (applying as an established scholar): Do you have high quality/high impact publications/results that have come from previous research projects/funding?

**Insight Grant:** Do you have a strong record already in the area of research you are proposing to study? Have you published with other members of your team?

**Partnership Development Grant:** Do you have experience leading team grants? Have you established research expertise in the area of focus of the partnership?

**Partnership Grant:** Are you a leader in your field and positioned to make a significant impact? Do you have experience leading teams? What existing relationships are there between you and the other researchers/partners?

**Connections Grant:** Do you have experience in outreach and engagement activities, either within academia (e.g. organization of academic conferences or sessions) or the community? Have you demonstrated leadership in knowledge mobilization initiatives?

## SSHRC CV EVALUATION CRITERIA

SSHRC has several CV-related criteria and asks its committee members and external reviewers to use them when assessing your CV. Accompanying the criteria below are prompting questions for you to consider to see if you meet the criteria.

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### *SSHRC Instructions to Reviewers: Key questions to ask yourself:*

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Quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/ or creative outputs of the applicant and any team members relative to their roles in the project and their respective stages of career.

1. Do you have a competitive number of publications compared to others in your field and at your career stage?
2. Are your publications largely in peer-reviewed journals that are recognizable to others in the field/ important?
3. Have you produced significant results from previous funded projects?
4. Have you established a research identity distinct from that of your supervisor?
5. Does the expertise of the research team align with work the grant application proposes to do?

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Evidence of contributions such as commissioned reports, professional practice, public discourse, public policies, products and services, experience in collaboration, etc.

1. Are you active in your field?
2. Are you already or on your way to being recognized as an expert in your field of study?

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Evidence of contributions to the development of talent.

1. Are you involved in the training of graduate students?
2. Have you published/ presented papers with your graduate students?
3. Have your graduate students won awards?
4. If you do not have graduate students, how do you work with undergraduates on your research?

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Potential to make future contributions.

1. Does your CV demonstrate a clear upward trajectory or a long history of success?
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## HOW DO YOU JUDGE WHETHER YOUR CV IS COMPETITIVE?

The following tips will help you judge whether your CV is competitive and ready for a SSHRC funding competition.

1. Consult with colleagues who have been successful with SSHRC or who have served on SSHRC committees. Ask them to look over your CV and assess whether you are in a good position or not.
2. Ask a research facilitator to review your CV.
3. Look at samples of funded applications that include the CVs of the research team.
4. Gauge your CV according to the program to which you are applying. For the Insight, Partnership Development, and Partnership grant programs, the expectation is that you will already have publications related to your proposal. If you do not, this is a serious red flag.

For the Insight Development grant, the advice differs. If you are a new scholar, there is no expectation that the application be in a different field of study so you should certainly have publications that relate to your proposal. For established scholars, you have to prove that this is a new field of study for you, so you should have nothing beyond a few conference presentations or a very minor publication relating to the project.

5. Confirm that you are a "... credible applicant for the grant you request. This means showing that you have the capabilities needed for every component of your proposed project" (Aldridge and Derrington 2012, 1). Make sure that you or members of your team have publications in the field and experience using the research techniques proposed (Aldridge and Derrington 2012, 6).
6. If this is not your first grant, make sure you have published enough from your previous funded research. If you ask for more money before you show that you have produced results from your previous project, it is unlikely a committee will take the chance to fund you again.

## **O** **OTHER CV CONSIDERATIONS AND OPTIONS**

If you determine that you are not ready to apply, what can you do to build your CV (aside from "publish, publish, publish")?

### **Apply for SEED funding**

Apply for SEED funding to conduct pilot work and to build your track record. The President's SSHRC is a great resource to build your CV and accelerate your research program. Talk with your Research Facilitator about other forms of SEED funding that may be available in your field.

### **Find a Co-Applicant with a strong CV**

When you apply as a team you pool your CVs, so there can be an advantage to building a research partnership with established scholars whose CVs are stronger than yours or who have expertise that you do not. Make sure it is very clear how your co-applicant(s) will contribute. If you present a team grant, but then the research design is unclear about how the team will work together on the project, it will not be successful.

### **Be a Co-Applicant on a more established scholar's grant**

Building your research profile through working on a grant where another scholar is a PI is an excellent strategy to build your CV.

### **Apply to the right grant competition**

If you are a new scholar, you are more likely to be successful if you apply to an Insight Development Grant than to the Insight Grant or the Partnership Grant. The Insight Development Grant program reserves a percentage of the funding pool for new scholars.

## **S** **SOURCES AND SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

Aldridge J, Derrington A. 2012. *The Research Funding Toolkit*. London: Sage.

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.aspx>. Accessed March 13, 2014.