Workshop for NRES Graduate Students

1. Scholarships, Awards and Internal Grants Presentation

- on behalf of Harpreet Kaur –Scholarships, Awards and Internal Grants Officer
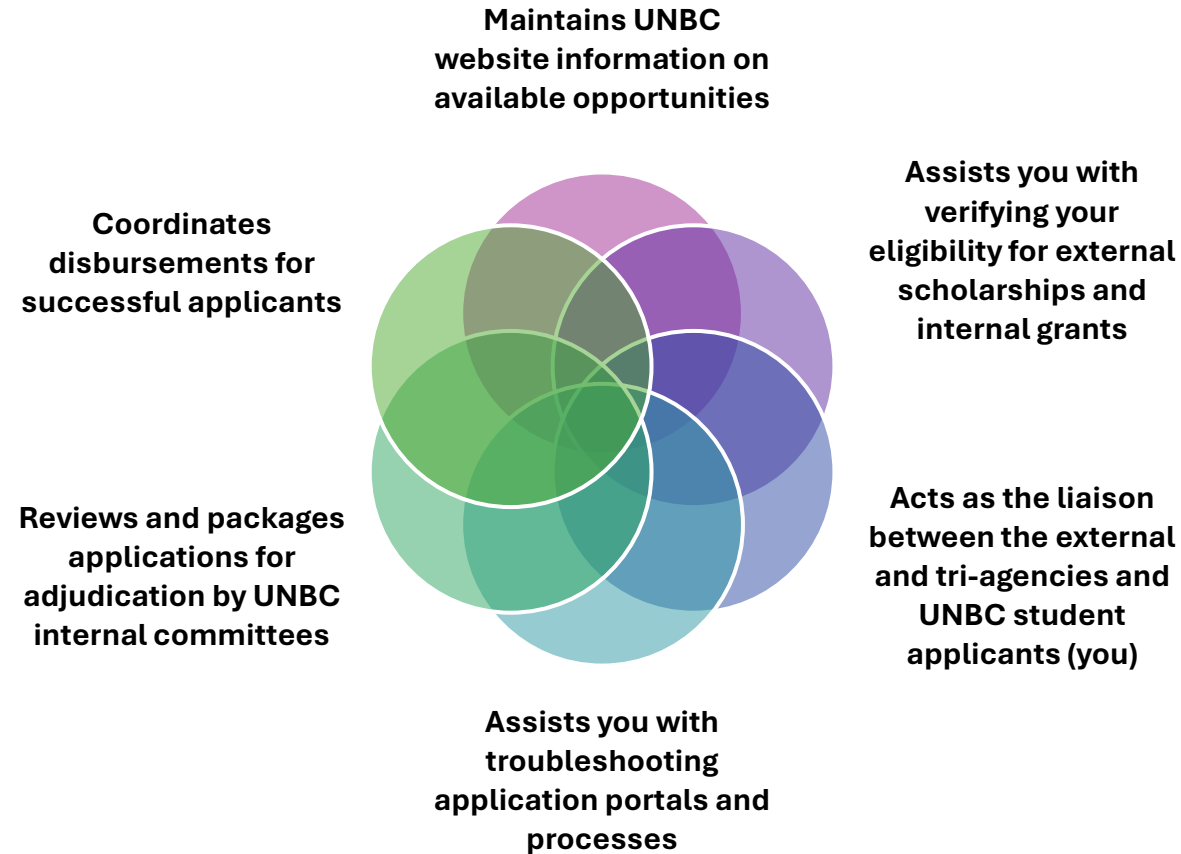
2. Scholarships and Research Grants – How to write a winning proposal

Harpreet Kaur

Scholarships, Awards and Internal Grants Officer

Overview: how my role supports you

Maintains UNBC website information on available opportunities

Assists you with verifying your eligibility for external scholarships and internal grants

Coordinates disbursements for successful applicants

Acts as the liaison between the external and tri-agencies and UNBC student applicants (you)

Reviews and packages applications for adjudication by UNBC internal committees

Assists you with troubleshooting application portals and processes

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Internal Funding Opportunities

- **Graduate Student Travel Award**
- **Deadline:** Jan 1, Apr 1, Jul 1, Oct 1 (Every Year)

- **Research Strategic Initiatives Grant (RSIG)**
- **Deadline:** Jan 1, Apr 1, Jul 1, Oct 1 (Every Year)

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Internal Funding Opportunities

- **International Student Research Award (ISRA)**
- **Deadline:** February 23 (Every Year)

- **Undergraduate Research Experience Award (URE)**
- **Deadline:** November 15 (Every Year)

- **BC Real Estate Foundation Partnering Fund**
- **Deadline:** April 15 (Every Year)

Federal and External Funding Opportunities- Undergraduate

- **NSERC - Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)**
  - **Funding:** $6,000 + supplement
  - **Deadline:** February 23, 2025

- **Northern Scientific Training Program**
  - **Deadline:** TBD, November 2025

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Federal and External Funding Opportunities-Master's

- **Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS-M)**
  - **Funding:** $27,000 (1 year)
  - **Internal Deadline:** TBD
- **Weston Family Awards in Northern Research**
  - **Funding:** $20,000 (1 year)
  - **Deadline:** January 16, 2025

- **Mackenzie King Memorial Scholarship**
  - **Funding:** Up to $13,500
  - **Internal Deadline:** February 1, 2025

- **Rhodes Scholarship**
- **McCall MacBain Scholarship**

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Federal and External Funding Opportunities- Doctoral

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship
- **Funding: Discontinued**
- **Deadline: Discontinued**

Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS-D)
- **Funding:** Up to $40,000 per year (3 years)
- **Internal Deadline :** TBD,

Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation Doctoral Scholarship
- **Funding:** Up to $40,000 per year (3 years)
- **Deadline:** TBD, November 2025

Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement
- **Funding:** Up to $6,000
- **Internal Deadlines:** June 1 and October 1 annually

Harpreet Kaur
Scholarships, Awards
and Internal Grants Officer

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Scholarships and Research Grants How to write a winning proposal

Sharleen Balogh
Jacqueline Dockray

Office of Research and Innovation

Outline

Scholarship versus Research Grant applications

- What is the difference?
- What are the major components of each?
- Which aspects are shared?

Before putting pen to paper

- The "must do's"

Proposal writing

- How to craft a convincing and feasible request
- Common mistakes to avoid

Tips for other sections in the application

- Writing an effective plain-language summary
- Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in the Research
- Describing your research contributions

Resources available on the Office of Research and Innovation webpage

Scholarship vs. Research Grant Applications – What are you trying to achieve?

Scholarship Application	Research Grant Application
• Win funding for self (stipend) $ (Yippee! I can afford to live!)	• Win funding to cover the costs of conducting research, which may also include stipends for student trainees (Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP)). • University researchers in Canada are not usually paid from Research Grants.

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Scholarships Vs. Research Grant Applications – What's the difference?

Scholarship Application

- If you are successful, you will have a stipend to live on while you do your Master's or PhD.

- If you are a Post-doctoral Fellow and you win a fellowship, you will have a stipend of your own to live on during your post-doc.

Research Grant Application

- The funding awarded for a successful research grant application provides the researcher with the funding they need to conduct the research study. This may include stipend support for HQP.

Scholarship vs. Research Grant Applications – Main Components

Scholarship Application

- Proposal
  - Must be well-planned and feasible
  - Based in the current literature
  - Methodology must be present
- References/bibliography
- CV or description of research contributions
- Official transcripts
- Reference Letters

Research Grant Application

- Proposal
  - Must be well-planned and feasible
  - Based in the current literature
  - Methodology must be clear and appropriate
  - Criteria must be addressed
- References/bibliography
- Budget & Budget Justification
- Team Composition/Excellence of the Researchers/CV
- Most Significant Contributions
- HQP Training Plan

Scholarship vs. Research Grant Applications – Which components are shared?

Scholarship Application

- Proposal
  - Must be well-planned and feasible
  - Based in the current literature
  - Methodology must be present
- References/bibliography
- Plain language summary of proposal
- EDI considerations in research process (if applicable)
- CV or description of research contributions

Research Grant Application

- Proposal
  - Must be well-planned and feasible
  - Based in the current literature
  - Methodology must be clear and appropriate
  - Call criteria must be addressed
- References/Bibliography
- Plain language summary of proposal
- EDI considerations in research process (if applicable)
- CV and/or description of research contributions

Scholarship vs. Research Grant Applications – Which components are <u>not</u> shared?

Scholarship Application

- Reference Letters
- Official transcripts
- Proposed location of tenure (may require justification)
- May require proof of eligibility, e.g.,
  - Proof of registration
  - Proof of citizenship or permanent residence

Research Grant Application

- Team Composition/EDI in Team
- Excellence of the Researchers
- HQP Training Plan/EDI in Training
- Budget & Budget Justification
- Security Plan
- Data Management Plan
- Letters of Support
- Sometimes Letters of Reference are required (larger institutional grants)

Before Putting Pen to Paper – Key Considerations

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS! (and read them again)

Make sure you are ELIGIBLE to apply

Make sure you are answering the request

Gather together all the resources you need to prepare your proposal

Make a PLAN

Make sure you are ELIGIBLE to apply – we might be repeating ourselves!!

Proposal Writing Tips

Start early!

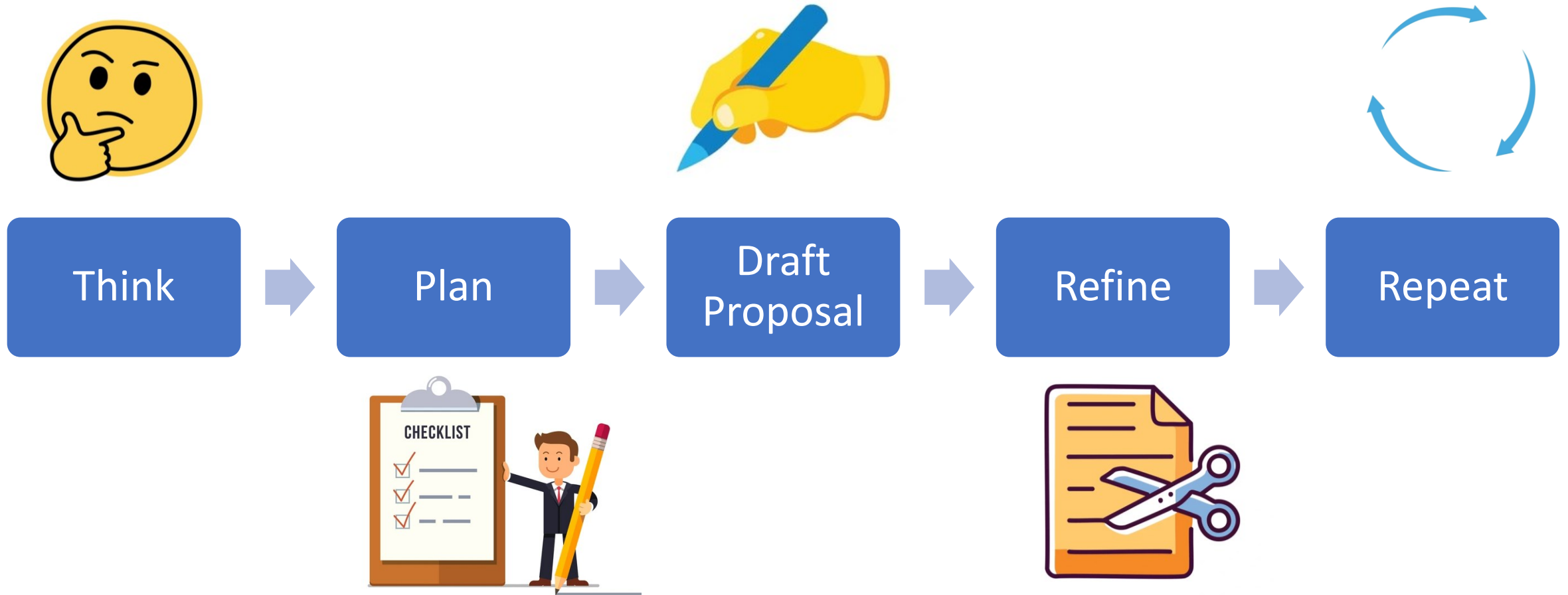Read the instructions (and read them again)

Ensure you are clear on the Request for Proposal/Scholarship criteria

Respond to the Request (what are they looking for?)

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Proposal Writing Tips

Think → Plan → Draft Proposal → Refine → Repeat

Proposal Writing Tips

Your methodology must be sound and based in the current literature

What resources are needed to conduct the research?

Prepare a clear, well-justified budget (if applicable)

What you are proposing must be realistic and feasible

You must be able to describe the potential impacts of the research

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Proposal Writing Tips

Follow the formatting guidelines

Use simple and clear language

Avoid acronyms and use non-technical language

Care about how the application looks – Presentation matters!

Proposal Writing Tips

Review → Edit → Review → Edit → Ask others to review* → Edit
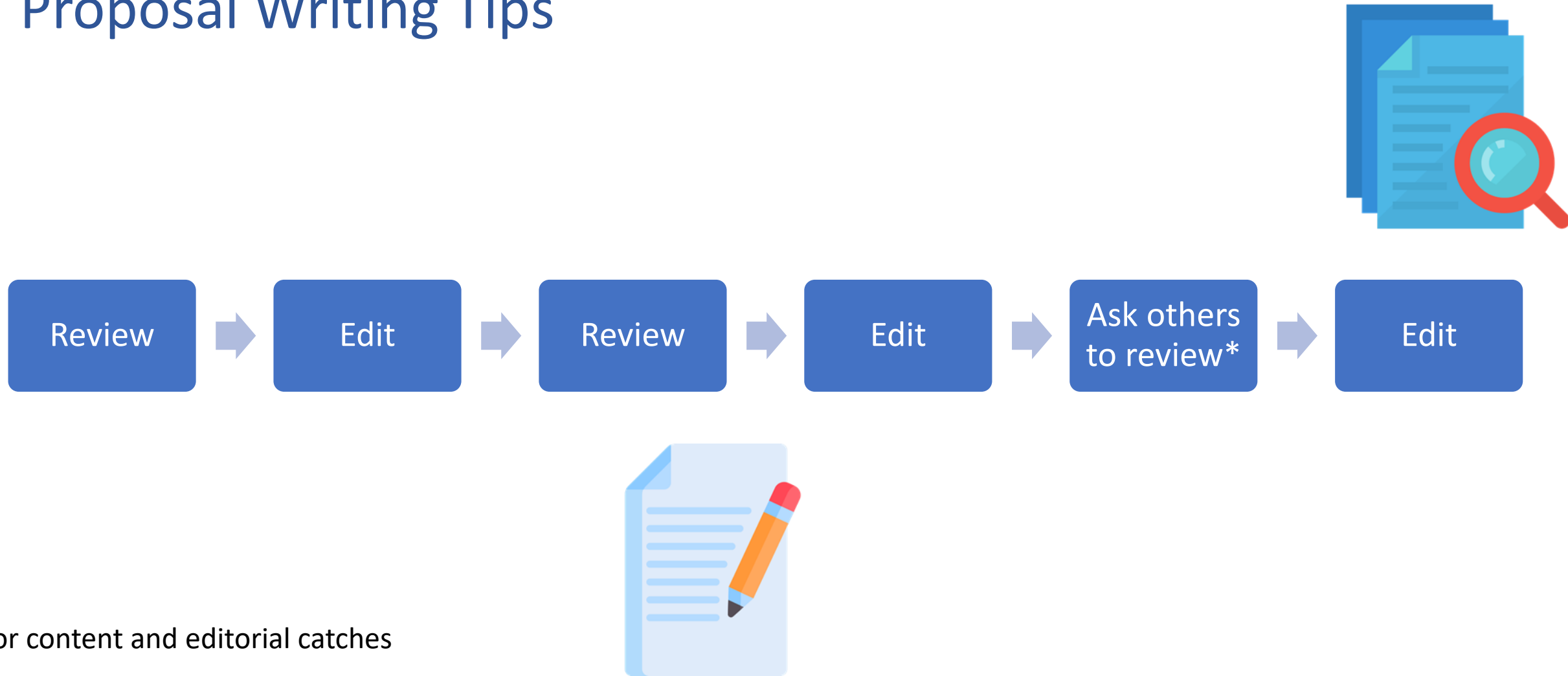
*For content and editorial catches

Proposal Writing Tips

Ask yourself if you have addressed the criteria and if you have been persuasive

Remember that you are trying to convince them to give you money, so don't skip any of the requested information

Proposal Writing Tips –Tailoring Proposals to Specific Grants/Scholarships

Read the mandate of the funder and ensure that your proposed research is in alignment

- For Tri-agency applications , see "Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency"*

If the funding call has a particular focus, ensure that your proposal addresses this

Read the instructions for each section and ensure that you are addressing <u>everything</u> they are asking for

Check the eligibility criteria and ensure that what you are requesting is eligible from the funder

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*https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/selecting-appropriate-federal-granting-agency

Proposal Writing Tips – Common Mistakes to Avoid

Trying to do too much

Unclear objectives

Unclear or vague methodology

Lack of details about the availability of necessary resources

Inconsistent budgets or timeframes

Proposing to engage with Indigenous communities without an established relationship

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Writing an Effective Plain-language Summary

The plain-language summary should be understandable to the general public, not just to someone in your field of research

Avoid jargon and abbreviations/acronyms, if possible

If you must use abbreviations or technical terms, these need to be clearly defined and explained in their first usage

Include information about what you are doing (background and research objectives), why you are doing it (potential impacts) and how you will do it (methodology)

Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in the Research Process

Consider whether your research could benefit from including diversity considerations at any or all stages of the research process

Diversity considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Sex
- Gender
- Age
- Ability
- Experience
- Cultural background
- Socioeconomic status

Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in the Research Process
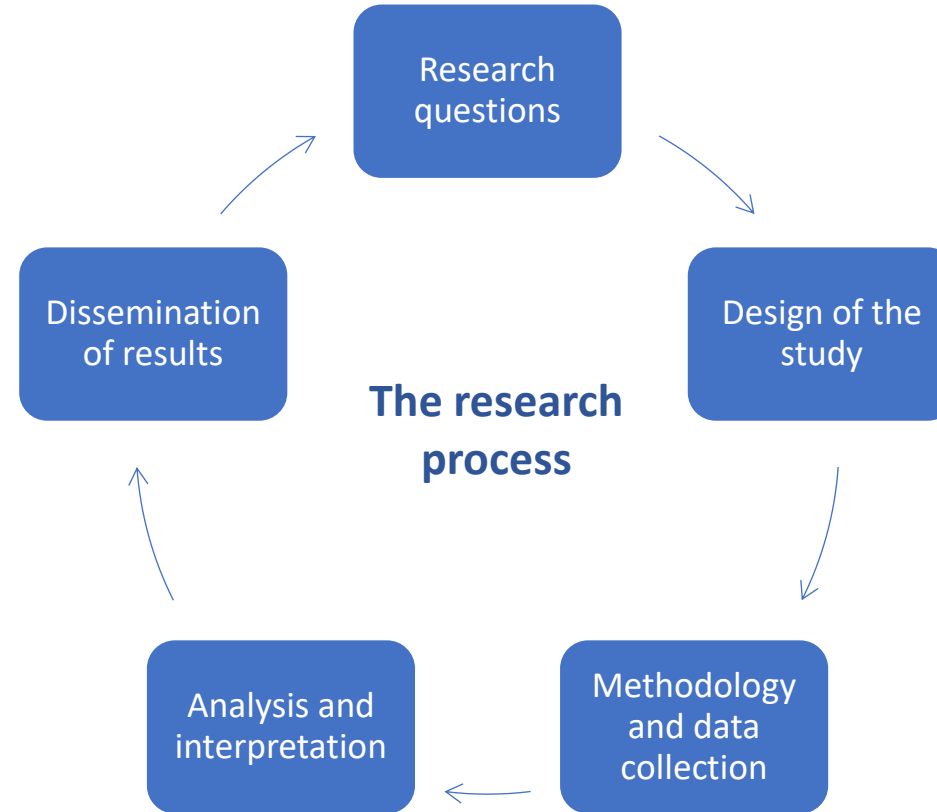
Addressing Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in the Research Process

Research studies where EDI has not been considered have led to incorrect outcomes

Crash test dummies in auto safety testing[1]

- Used standard models based on male body shapes, scaled for different heights and weights
- Female bodies are not just scaled-down male bodies
- From 1998-2008 in the US, female drivers were 47% more likely to be severely injured in a crash after controlling for weight and body size

Describing your research contributions

Focus on impacts, not metrics

Why was the research important, and who was it important to?

Highlight how the research has led to advancements in your research field and/or benefits to society

Be factual, and provide evidence of impacts if possible

This is not the time to be modest, this is your opportunity to show the reviewers that you have the capacity to do great research!

Check out the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) at https://sfdora.org/ for additional guidance.

SUBMIT

And then…

Office of Research and Innovation

UNBC appoints two Research Chairs in partnership with Rio Tinto

Learn More

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Awards and distinctions

Research finance

Research institutes, facilities and forests

Research support +

Research funding −

External granting agencies

External scholarship opportunities

Graduate entrance research scholarships

B.C. Graduate Scholarship Program

Upcoming funding opportunities

Internal funding opportunities

Responsible conduct of research, ethics and safety +

Community and industry partnerships

NSERC - Undergraduate Student Research Award - Federal

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRAs) aim to foster interest and develop potential for research careers while encouraging graduate studies through research experience in academic settings. USRAs are valued at $6,000, with a required supplement from the host institution, and support 16 weeks of full-time research experience from May to August. In addition to the NSERC online application students will also be required to submit a 1 page research proposal to grad-scholarships@unbc.ca

Deadline: February 23, 2025

Apply

Northern Scientific Training Program

The Northern Scientific Training Program, administered by Polar Knowledge Canada, aims to promote interest in northern research and provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to obtain experience and professional training in the North. If after reading the program overview you are interested in this opportunity please also review the information manual before applying.

Deadline: TBD, November 2025

Student Research Opportunities

The research opportunities listed below are available to students of all disciplines. UNBC encourages all eligible students, including Indigenous people, visible minorities, diversely-abled people, women, and people from the LGBTQ2S+ communities to apply.

Please contact researchers directly for more information on a specific research opportunity or to submit an application.

To post a research opportunity please contact Nicole Balliet at nicole.balliet@unbc.ca or Sharleen Balogh at sharleen.balogh@unbc.ca and provide the information requested below.

Available Positions

Climate Education in Teacher Education (CETE) Research Assistant

Location/Campus: UNBC, Remote work available and meetings with research team are via Zoom
Discipline: Education
Level of Study: Graduate student
Paid, Volunteer, or Credit Positions: Paid, $25/hour, approximately 10 hours/week
Start Date of Position: March 2025 (until June 2025, with the possibility of extension)
Job/Project Description: Position Description (pdf)
Application Deadline: Applications accepted until position is filled
Name of Researcher: Dr. Hart Banack
Contact Information: hart.banack@unbc.ca

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- Consider your target audience (the sponsor and the reviewer)

- Respond to the request for proposals (be persuasive)

- Avoid acronyms and use non-technical language (reviewers may not be experts in your field)

- Presentation matters!

- Prepare a clear and feasible budget that is well justified

9. Review and edit, review and edit again, and again, and again...

10. Seek peer review (through your colleagues or through the Office of Research and Innovation)

11. Participate in a grant development workshop

Office of Research and Innovation Supports

1. Research Guide

2. Romeo

3. **Internal review** by Research Project Officers: In addition to ensuring that the highest quality applications are submitted by UNBC researchers, the internal review is necessary to ensure that the legal obligations and requirements of UNBC, the funding agency, and other stakeholders are met. As an institution, we endeavour to conduct research activities in accordance with the highest standards of professionalism, safety, and ethics.

4. **Peer Review**: If you wish to have your grant application peer reviewed(i.e. to receive an expert opinion on the content), the Office of Research and Innovation would be pleased to seek such expertise. Please allow 6 weeks for a peer review. Please also consult your unit for any process that is in place to enhance your success in the grant competition.

Resources

Related

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- Giving
- Research Data Centre

Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Wood-Adams, Dr. Paula

Vice-President, Research and Innovation

Phone: 250-960-6110
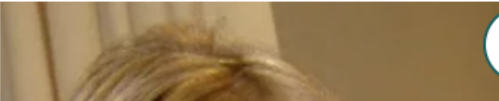**Email:** paula.wood-adams@unbc.ca
Office: CJMH-2050

Full profile

Associate Vice-Presidents

Banner-Lukaris, Dr. Davina

Thank you for your attention.

Any Questions?

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