

Nigel Marriner, PhD

Assistant Director

Honors College

My Experiences

- Liaison
- Administrator
- Adjudicator
- Researcher

Why find funding for Research?

- Research is costly
- Faculty budgets seldom provide for undergrads
- Their budgets are often set before you come along
- To prepare for future competitive funding processes
- The breadth and depth of your endeavour may be improved i.e. statistical significance or the inclusion of additional populations

3 Most Important Aspects to Funds at this Level

- Strong letter of Support from Faculty
- Thorough and Concise Research Plan
- Comprehensive and Accurate Budget

Strong letter of Support from Faculty

Letter of recommendation ideally containing:

- Length of time together
- Your intellectual skills
- Your personal characteristics
- Your ability to complete the research
- Where it fits in the discipline
- Nature of the relationship – where is it in the continuum
 - Is your project closely tied to their research to them serving as mentors or sounding boards?
- Letters of access

Thorough and concise Research Plan

- Write for your audience
- Illustrate your grasp of the material
- Place your research in context- give it a past, present, and future
- Explain who will benefit from your research
- Ensure that your research is “just right,” that the issue is not too complicated or simplistic to be worthwhile
- Keep it simple- pare down what you are asking for
- Clearly justify what you are asking for
- Use citations from reliable and applicable resources
- Show your enthusiasm

Comprehensive and Accurate Budget

- Make it clear and concise (Use an Excel Spreadsheet)
- Provide justifications of what you are asking for
- Provide multiple quotes – due diligence
- Double check that the math in your budget is accurate
- Can it be done more inexpensively?
 - Saving the money for other areas of your research
 - Failure to do so may cause adjudicators to pause

Additional Tidbits

- Read other Applications that have been accepted in the past to get a “feel” for what has worked in the past
- Have peers and professors look over your application prior to submission
- Provide a Curriculum Vitae/ Resume/ Statement of Experience
 - Concentrate on relevant experiences such as class and lab work
 - Include a listing of applicable coursework on your listing of experiences.
- Obtain letters of access (if applicable) for things like laboratories, museum or library holdings, etc.