

Graduate School & Graduate Scholarships

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from the Office of Research Services
{with thanks to Dr. Peter Toner!}
St. Thomas University
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Special Guests



**Anna E. Johnson, BA Hons.,
Political Science, 2014**

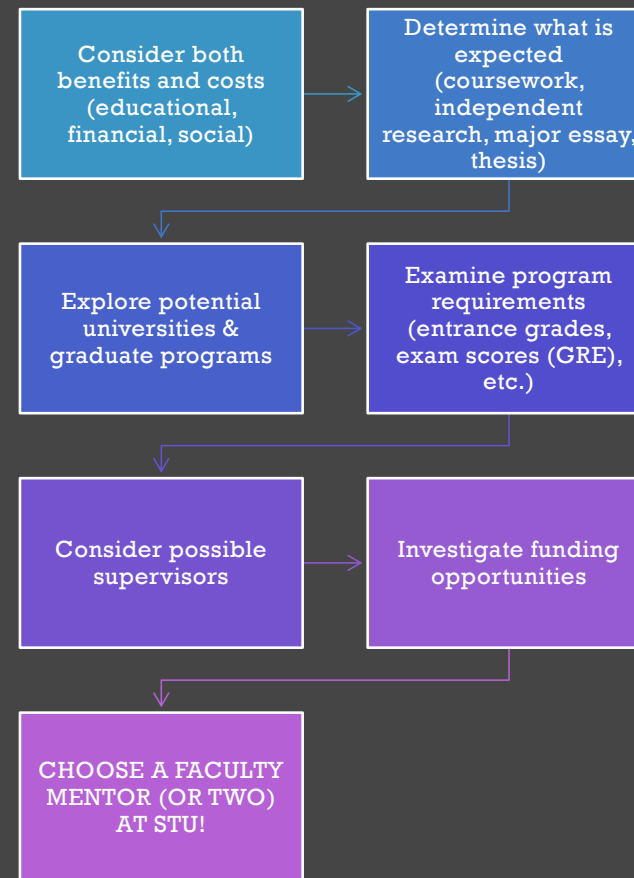
CGS-M Winner & Holder



**Kate(lyn) E. MacEwen, BA
Hons., English & History, 2021**

CGS-M Winner & Holder

Graduate School



The background of the slide features several sets of thin, curved lines in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion or orbits. A large red speech bubble is positioned on the left side, containing the title text.

Meet With Your Mentor

- A faculty mentor here at STU can help to guide you through the process.
 - Knowledge of the discipline
 - Knowledge of different graduate programs
 - Knowledge of potential supervisors
- Your faculty mentor should be a professor with whom you have already established a working relationship, and who knows your talents and capabilities.
- Your faculty mentor can also help you to craft an effective research proposal that is well-aligned with the standards of your discipline.

How to Choose a Graduate School

What are your research interests?

Are these research interests specific to a single discipline, or are they interdisciplinary?

Would you be more comfortable in a large graduate program, or a small one?

What information is available on the graduate program's website?

Who are your potential supervisors?

What is the length of the program?

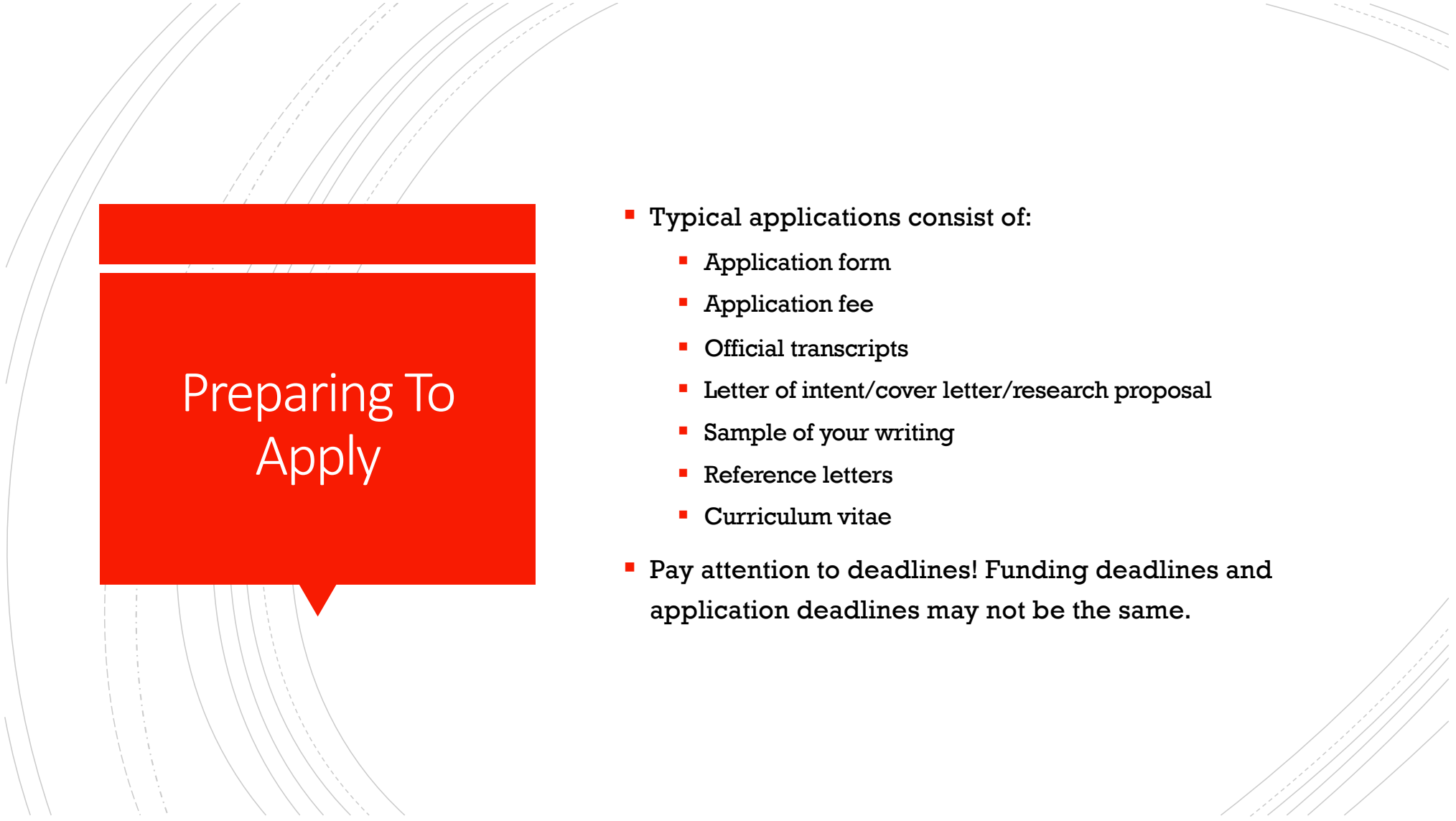
How much does it cost? What funding do they offer?

Is there a residency requirement?

Where is the university located, and where would you like to live?

Are there recent graduates that you can talk to about their experience?

Think about what makes the most sense for YOU.



Preparing To Apply

- Typical applications consist of:
 - Application form
 - Application fee
 - Official transcripts
 - Letter of intent/cover letter/research proposal
 - Sample of your writing
 - Reference letters
 - Curriculum vitae
- Pay attention to deadlines! Funding deadlines and application deadlines may not be the same.

Asking for References

Consider who would be a good reference for you.

- Academic vs. non-academic references
- Have you established a good working relationship with this person?
- Is this person in a position to supply you with a positive reference (i.e., did you do well in their courses)? What is a “good” reference?

Give potential referees PLENTY of time (at least one month before deadline)

Arrange an appointment

Provide all required information

Seek input, ask referee to be involved in the process

YOU must keep track of deadlines and provide gentle reminders

Take “no” for an answer

Securing Funding

- Internal funding
 - RA/TA jobs
 - Fellowships & awards
- External funding
 - Federal (Tri-Agency, i.e., SSHRC)
 - Provincial (i.e., Ontario Graduate Scholarships)
 - Philanthropic (i.e., O'Brien Foundation – Nov. 1st deadline!)
- Pay careful attention to deadlines!
- How to find funding opportunities
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/finance/educationfunding/scholarships.html>
 - <https://www.scholarshipscanada.com>

Canada Graduate Scholarships – Master's Program (CGS-M)

- https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/pg-cs/cgsm-bescm_eng.asp
- \$27,000 for 12 months, non-renewable
- Apply to up to three institutions (each “host” university has an allocation)
- Application deadline: December 1st 20:00 Eastern (but also check with the graduate programs to which you will be applying)
- Online application via the “Research Portal”
- Tenable only at Canadian universities; must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Key components:
 - Research proposal + bibliography/citations
 - Reference letters
 - Transcripts
 - Canadian Common CV (CCV)
- Useful resource videos from the Tri-Agencies:
 - [How to apply for a CGS-M](#)
 - SSHRC Q&A sessions on Nov. 6th, 12th (F), 14th, 18th (F) & 20th - contact research@stu.ca for meeting links (or Google)

Example

Jamie is a student who wants to do a Master's degree on her/his/their favourite art forms: anime and manga. How should Jamie proceed?

FIRST, Jamie should approach at least one professor here at STU to act as their faculty mentor, to provide advice and guidance on the whole process. Jamie chooses Prof. Jones, who taught a Cultural Studies course on anime and manga, and who did graduate research on this topic.

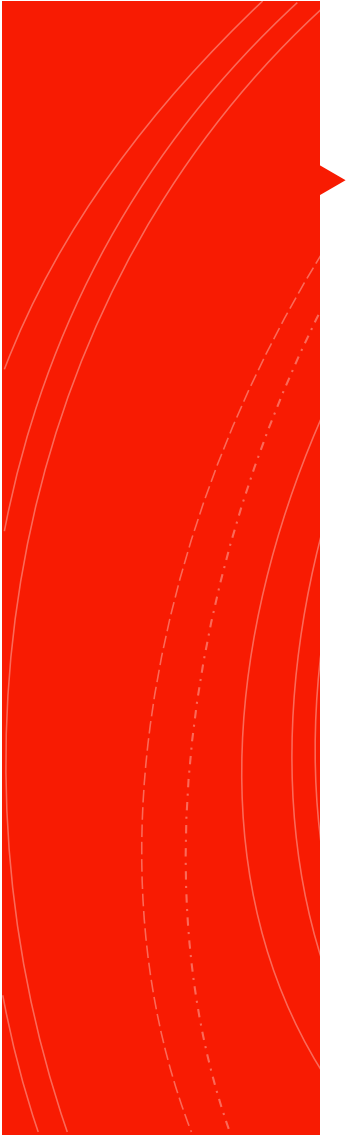
NEXT, Jamie should conduct research on graduate programs and potential supervisors in Canada where he/she/they might study. She finds:

- [MA in Asian Studies, UBC; Dr. Sharalyn Orbaugh](#)
- [MA in Film Studies, Concordia; Dr. Marc Steinberg](#)
- [MA in Communication and Media Studies, University of Calgary; Dr. Bart Beaty](#)

NEXT, Jamie should think about the size of these programs, where they are located, what they will cost, etc., etc.

NEXT, Jamie must note ALL relevant information about application requirements, funding, deadlines, etc., etc.

FINALLY, Jamie should begin to prepare her/his/their applications, as well as an application for a [Canada Graduate Scholarship](#).



Points to Remember

- Plan ahead: understand deadlines and procedures, make timelines, set goals
- Find (a) suitable faculty mentor(s)
- Ask for references EARLY
- Focusing on your applications now will pay off in the future
 - Be prepared to work on your application and revise it ...
 - Don't make it too dense; more words and more ink doesn't always make for a better application
 - Let your readers "breathe" and help them "digest" your ideas ...
- Contact the Office of Research Services (research@stu.ca) for more information
- Questions?