

The plan of study

- * Statement about your project:
 - * Interesting, worthwhile, feasible, specific research question
 - * Brief discussion of the literature surrounding that question (i.e., demonstrate that it hasn't been done to death) - include appropriate citations, especially for SSHRC
 - * Level-appropriate discussion of how you're going to go about answering that question

The plan of study

- * Level-appropriate plan:
 - * MA II - "here's my question and a very rough sketch of how I'm going to address it in my MA"
 - * PhD I - "here's my question and a slightly more detailed sketch of how I'm going to address it"
 - * PhD II and beyond - "here's my question, my dissertation chapter outline, and how this plan will answer this question"

The plan of study

- * Statement on importance of your project:
 - * DO NOT say "saving the world"
 - * Discuss how you see your project as addressing big questions, debates, gaps, lacunae in your discipline or field
 - * Discuss the timeliness of the project
 - * Discuss "knowledge mobilisation" if you think your project might have real-world relevance or applications

The plan of study

- * Plan for completion:
 - * Again, level-appropriate - more advanced students should have clearer sense of what they will be completing and when; early year students should demonstrate project's feasibility
 - * Be as specific as possible - not dates necessarily, but definitely demonstrate that you can get it done
 - * If travel is involved, discuss this and why it's important to your project

The plan of study

- * Discussion of your preparation to pursue the project:
 - * Topic preparation
 - * Specialised training
 - * Language preparation (if required)

The plan of study

- * Overall considerations:
 - * Have and communicate a clear sense of why your project is worth doing and worth funding
 - * Have and communicate a clear sense of the project's feasibility
 - * Be jargon-free
 - * Think about dramaturgy: tell a good story about the project - one element should flow into the next

The review process

- * What we look for in the application (generally):
 - * Completeness - missing elements can weaken an application
 - * Appraisal letters that say something meaningful about the quality of your work, your preparation to pursue this project, and the relative merits of your proposed project
 - * Clear and clean writing
 - * Averages

The review process

- * What we look for in the plan of study:
 - * A solid research question and a sense of why that research question matters for the field or discipline(s)
 - * Explanation of the key issues, concepts, theoretical perspectives at work in the project and why they matter beyond (y)our little world
 - * A plan for addressing that research question that is appropriate for level of applicant
 - * Level-appropriate sense of what the project will look like

Random considerations

- * Do not be afraid to “toot your own horn” - play up your experience and expertise
- * Include awards, scholarships, publications, presentations, conference organising experience, work done for journals, etc. - they demonstrate preparation and commitment to the academic enterprise
- * Get feedback from your peers, especially if they’ve been successful in OGS/SSHRC competitions

Random considerations

- * Managing your advisor (and other referees):
 - * Finish your plan of study early - this gives you time to get your advisor's feedback on it and to revise it (and you should revise it)
 - * Request your letters of appraisal early - at least three weeks before the application is due
 - * Send your plan of study to your other referees so they can comment on it in their letters
 - * Pick referees who can provide you with strong, substantive letters
 - * Be patient - it's grant season for us, too...

Random considerations

- * Once your application is in, forget about it (in other words, do everything you can to make your application undeniable up front, and then realise it's out of your hands)
- * Don't fret if your application is unsuccessful
- * Take the feedback you get during the various stages of the process into account when working on your thesis

Other resources

- * The SGPS website: http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/funding_opportunities.htm
- * "What to Include in a SSHRC Fellowship Application," *University Affairs*: <http://www.universityaffairs.ca/what-to-include-in-a-sshrc-fellowship-application.aspx>
- * SSHRC, "What's in an application?": http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/tips-astuces/masters_scholarships-bourses_de_maitrise-eng.aspx
- * Your peers
