

University of Manitoba  
Graduate Students' Association

Innovation, Stewardship and Excellence Awards

2007-2008

Application Deadline to the GSA Office: Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2007

Department Deadline:  
Please contact your Department for deadline information

Please submit your application to your department.  
Only one application for each award category from each department will  
be accepted for review by the GSA Awards Committee.

## **GSA INNOVATION, STEWARDSHIP AND EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

The Graduate Students' Association Innovation, Stewardship, and Excellence Awards (GSA ISE Awards) were established as a peer-to-peer recognition of the skills, research, and scholarship of individuals not currently recognized by the University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship or other national awards. The awards are made possible by the generous contribution of Dr. James Burns, a universal graduate student levy approved through a GSA referendum, and a contribution made by the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative.

### **I. Value**

Two awards of \$20,000 each are being awarded for 2007, in competition, to graduate students who have demonstrated innovation, stewardship, and excellence. One award is offered to a student pursuing a Master's degree and the second award is offered to a student pursuing a Doctoral degree. In addition, one award of \$5,000 is offered to a part-time graduate student for the year 2007.

### **II. Eligibility**

Students submit their applications to their department. Each graduate department will be eligible to nominate one candidate for the Master's level award, one candidate for the Ph.D. level award and one candidate for the part-time award.

The Master's level award will be offered to a student who:

(1) Is enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba in the Master's (not pre-Master's) program as a full-time student;

(2) Does not hold any major fellowships (including, but not limited to, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC), Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), Manitoba Health Research Council (MHRC), University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowships (UMGF);

(3) Is not an acting Executive of the Graduate Students' Association;

(4) Has demonstrated evidence of innovative ideas within their field, stewardship of community, and excellence in their program of study.

The Ph.D. level award will be offered to a student who:

(1) Is enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba in the Ph.D. program as a full-time student;

(2) Does not hold any major fellowships (including, but not limited to, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC), Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR), Manitoba Health Research Council (MHRC), University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowships (UMGF);

(3) Is not an acting Executive of the Graduate Students' Association;

(4) Has demonstrated evidence of innovative ideas within their field, stewardship of community, and excellence in their program of study.

The award for part-time study will be offered to a student who:

(1) Is enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba in either the Masters or Ph.D. (not pre-Masters) program as a part-time student;

(2) Does not hold any major fellowships (including, but not limited to, SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, MHRC, UMGF);

(3) Is not an acting Executive of the Graduate Students' Association;

(4) Has demonstrated evidence of innovative ideas within their field, stewardship of community, and excellence in their program of study.

Recipients must be registered in the academic session for which the awards are tenable in order to accept the award. The awards will not be renewable for a second year but a recipient at the Master's level may apply and be considered again at the Ph.D. level of study. Normally, the starting date of the award is September. The award may be deferred for one term only (four months).

### **III. Process**

The Graduate Students' Association will distribute application information to all graduate departments. Applications require a one-page letter of intent, which will demonstrate the suitability of applicants' for the award based on the principles of innovation, stewardship, and excellence. Applications will also require a one-page essay, one academic letter of reference (preferably from the supervisor), a second letter of reference from a professional or community member, and data relating to work and community experience.

For purposes of these awards, innovation is defined as the development of novel ideas, research, work, or techniques, which include new ways of looking at a problem, issue, or challenge to enhance discovery and contribute to the furtherance of knowledge and understanding. Stewardship is defined as responsibility to society by demonstrating social consciousness and the responsible use of resources whether they are natural resources, time, talent, or community, and further, to improve the quality of life and assist in the economic, social, and cultural development of the province, country, and world. Excellence is demonstrated through engaged, responsible, and superior performance in the approach to all aspects of graduate studies.

### **IV. Funding Limits**

The GSA ISE Awards cannot be held with the GSA ISE Bursary.

Members of the GSA Executive and the GSA Awards Committee will not be eligible for the GSA ISE Awards due to their role in the association and on the selection committee.

## **V. Selection and Announcement**

The selection committee will consist of 12 members of the University community. Six members will review the applications from master degree students and 6 members will review application from both doctoral degree students and part-time students. The committee will consist of twelve members who are named by the President of the GSA and will include the Vice-Presidents of the GSA, the Executive-at-large of the GSA, and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (or designate).

### **Selection Criteria**

#### *1) Letter of Intent (45%)*

“Describe how you demonstrate in both spirit and practice, the principles of innovation, stewardship and excellence, using examples from your professional, collegial, community and academic work.”

#### *2) The Essay (25%)*

The essay allows the applicant to demonstrate their ability to reason, to argue, and to communicate their ideas in a concise and coherent manner. The questions will always relate to academic goals. Respond to one of the following three questions (in one page, single space, with 12 point font and one inch margins):

(1) The University of Manitoba’s mission is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge; respond to this statement with reference to your academic and professional goals.

(2) Knowledge is power; respond to this statement with reference to your academic and professional goals.

(3) How will your scholastic achievement in your academic field lead you to contribute in a meaningful way to communities outside the University?

#### *3) Reference Letters (5% each)*

(2 letters, half a page each, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins)

Two are required

Each letter should be typed or neatly hand-printed on the form provided.

Letter #1 must be academic, preferably from the supervisor.

Letter #2 can be either academic, or from a professional or community member who has experience with the applicant.

#### *4) Work Experience (10%)*

#### *5) Community Experience (10%)*

**Graduate Students Association Innovation, Stewardship and Excellence Awards  
GSA Deadline: December 7<sup>th</sup> 2007**

**Application**

**Part 1**

**Applicant Information**

Name:	Department:	
Student Number:	Year of Study:	Phone:

Mailing Address:

**Work Experience**

Provide your five most notable and recent work experiences. List the nature of your position, current contact information, and the dates employed.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

**Community Experience**

Provide five most notable and recent volunteer or community work experiences. List the nature of the work, current contact information for the place of work, and the dates they involved with the particular group or programme.

1.

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Application

Part 1

2.

3.

4.

5.

References

Sealed reference letters are to accompany this application. Letter #1 must be academic, preferably from the supervisor. Letter #2 can be either academic, or from a professional or community member who has experience with the applicant.

Name:

Phone:

Name:

Phone:

Checklist

- Completed Application Form
- Contacted referees and obtained sealed reference letters
- One page letter of intent
- One page essay

Signature of Applicant:

Date:

## **Part 2 - Letter of Intent**

In one page, single spaced, 12 point font: Describe how you demonstrate in both spirit and practice, the principles of innovation, stewardship and excellence, using examples from your professional, collegial, community and academic work.

### **Part 3 - The Essay**

Respond to one of the following three questions (in one page, single space, with 12 point font):

- 1) The University of Manitoba's mission is to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge; respond to this statement with reference to your academic and professional goals.
- 2) Knowledge is power; respond to this statement with reference to your academic and professional goals.
- 3) How will your scholastic achievement in your academic field lead you to contribute in a meaningful way to communities outside the University?



**Part 4**  
**To be completed by Referee**

Name of Applicant	
<p>Letter #1 must be academic, preferably from the supervisor. Respond to the following five points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) In what capacity have you worked with this student?</li> <li>2) Describe the merits and limits of this student's programme of study/work.</li> <li>3) Based on your experience with this student, please outline the potential this student has to achieve excellence in their studies and in their field.</li> <li>4) Based on your experience with this student, please outline the progress they have made to this point in the programme of study or work.</li> </ol> <p>Based on your overall experience as a professor and supervisor, please rank this student on the scale below.</p>	
<p>This student is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Below average    <input type="checkbox"/> Average    <input type="checkbox"/> Good    <input type="checkbox"/> Very good    <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent    <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding</p> <p>In comparison to the other graduate students I have taught or supervised.</p>	
<p align="center">The letter of support should be typed in black, as the material must be duplicated for the peer review process.</p>	
Name of Respondent	Signature
Position	Institution

**To be completed by the Referee**

Name of Applicant	
Letter #2 can be either academic or from a professional or community member who has experience with the applicant. Respond to the following two points: 1) In what capacity do you know the applicant? 2) Why do you feel this student should win an award for Innovation, Stewardship and Excellence?	
The letter of support should be typed in black, as the material must be duplicated for the peer review process.	
Name of Respondent	Signature
Position	Institution