

Applying for Grants

Main opportunities for young mathematicians (it is normally expected that you will apply if you are at a research university):

- In Canada: Assistant Professors (NSERC individual (Discovery) grants)
- In US: postdocs and Assistant Professors (NSF individual grants)
- Most other countries have national scientific granting agencies

Other opportunities (Canada): CIHR, SSHRC, MITACS, special government programs, internal university funding, industrial grants.

Important considerations for young grant applicants:

1. Track record:

- publications (consideration of both quantity and quality, as measured by journal reputation)
- evidence of ability/potential as an independent researcher

2. Proposal:

- clear description of what you plan to do and how it relates to your past work.
- importance of your work (how does it fit within your subject area?)
- importance of your subject area (how does it fit within the big picture of mathematics?)

NSERC Discovery Grants

- Supports research in broad variety of areas of science and engineering
- Allows great flexibility in performing research
- Long duration (1-5 years, usually 5 years)
- Higher rates of success and smaller amounts of funding, compared with NSF.

Criteria for selection:

1. Excellence of Researcher (***)
2. Merit of Proposal (**)
3. Contributions to training of HQP (highly qualified personnel)
4. Need for funds

Grant Selection Committees (GSC):

- GSC = panel of experts in a *broad* area of mathematics (or other science, engineering)
- GSC relies on referee reports from experts in your /em focused research area

*** Therefore, proposal must be addressed to two audiences. ***

Deadlines:

- Letter of Intent (August 1)
- Application Deadline (November 1)

Application Forms:

- Letter of Intent (Form 180): title, suggested GSC, suggested referees
- Personal Data (Form 100): a form + a 5-page CV: personal data, education, experience, list of recent work, description of recent work, prizes, previous grants, previous HQP training
- Proposal (Form 101): a form (including budget) + a 5-page proposal: set out the problems you plan to attack.
- samples of contributions (reprints, preprints)

Obey page limits and margins.

Resources:

- NSERC website:
- NSERC grants information sessions on campus
- Other workshops on campus
- Your faculty mentor (supervisor)
- Your department chair