

Instructions for Applicants to the Wilson Leadership Scholar Award – Graduate Stream

Please note: as the **undergraduate** Wilson Leadership Scholar Award transitions from a 2- to a 1-year program, the **undergraduate** application process is on hold for the 2018-2019 academic year. Applications for the undergraduate award will reopen in September 2019, for students graduating in 2020.

The graduate competition closes at **11:59 EST, May 1, 2019**. Applications received after 11:59 pm EST on May 1, 2019 will not be considered.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, you must be:

- A full-time McMaster graduate student for the 2019-2020 academic year
- In any graduate degree program other than an MD-combined graduate program
- A Canadian citizen
- Expect to complete your degree work no sooner than Spring 2020
- Able to balance approximately 15 hours of time commitment to the WLSA program and activities

As the award involves a time commitment, applicants who move forward in the selection process will be asked to provide a letter of support from their supervisor or, if a supervisor is unavailable, their department's graduate chair.

Please follow the application guidelines exactly as they are described below.

A complete application consists of the following:

1. Candidate cover sheet
2. Personal statement
3. 2 letters of reference

Submitting a complete application:

1. The candidate cover sheet, personal statement and letters of reference are submitted by email to wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca no later than 11:59 pm EST on May 1, 2019.
2. The cover sheet and personal statement are submitted together as a single PDF or Word file saved as: "LAST NAME, FIRST NAME – WLSA GRAD 2019". The subject line of the email submission should be the same: "LAST NAME, FIRST NAME – WLSA GRAD 2019".

3. The letters of reference are submitted directly by their authors as PDF or Word files saved as: "APPLICANT LAST NAME, APPLICANT FIRST NAME – REFERENCE LAST NAME – WLSA GRAD 2019.pdf". The subject line of the email submission should be the same: "APPLICANT LAST NAME, APPLICANT FIRST NAME – REFERENCE LAST NAME – WLSA GRAD 2019.pdf"

Instructions for completing the candidate cover sheet:

The cover sheet is simply an administrative tool. The selection committee will not read additional information (e.g., quotes, expressions of thanks), so please refrain from including any information other than:

1. Last name, given name (preferred name)
2. Email (McMaster address if possible)
3. Preferred phone number
4. Country of citizenship
5. McMaster student number (if possible)
6. Anticipated faculty, program and degree for 2019- 2020
7. Date you started or will start your degree at McMaster University
8. Expected completion date of your degree at McMaster University

Instructions for completing the Personal Statement:

1. The personal statement should be approximately one to two pages, single-spaced.
2. The statement need not be in academic language, and can draw on personal experiences. Reviewers are looking for candidates who demonstrate honesty and integrity, passion and compassion, courage and vision, a commitment to others and a love for learning.
3. Your statement should explain why you think this award program would benefit you, and how your academic and other interests relate to one or more of Democracy, the Economy, Education, Healthcare, the Impacts of Technology, or Public Policy – all in a Canadian context.
4. Reviewers will use the personal statement to decide whether or not you will be offered an interview, so make it count.

Instructions for the Letters of Reference:

1. If you received notification from wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca that you were nominated for the Wilson Leadership Scholar Award, you need only secure one reference letter; all other applicants must provide two.
2. You can include non-academic references. Choose writers who can speak honestly to your strengths, leadership capacity, what you can gain from and contribute to the WLSA, and your character.
3. Referees should not be relatives, close friends or peers.
4. Letters submitted by the applicant for their referee will not be considered. Referees must submit letters directly to wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca.

Next Steps:

While the selection process is lengthy, please do not be intimidated by it. Previous applicants have told us that the application process itself added to their understanding of themselves and of their goals.

Selected applicants will be sent an email after applications have been reviewed, inviting them to complete an online interview; applicants who are not advancing will be advised of the decision. Because applications will be reviewed as they are received, applicants may receive a response soon after the due date. Please check the inbox and spam folder of the email address you have listed on your cover letter.

The online interview consists of a short series of questions that applicants respond to via video. Detailed instructions for recording responses will be included in the email invitation, system requirements are basic, and no videography/editing experience is required. The online interview may also include a timed written response. Applicants will be given one week from the time when the email invitation is sent to complete their online interview.

All applicants will be notified as to whether they have been selected for Skype interviews, to take place from June 13 - 18, 2019. A final interview for up to six applicants will take place on June 24, 2019, and interviewees will be notified of the results shortly afterwards.

Due to the volume of applications anticipated, feedback on applications and interviews will not be provided to any applicant.

APPENDIX A – EXAMPLE APPLICATION

CANDIDATE COVER SHEET – EDWARD SAULL

Saull, Edward (Teddy)

wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca

905-525-9140

Canadian citizen

001051234

Humanities, History, PhD

September 2017

June 2021

PERSONAL STATEMENT – EDWARD SAULL

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