

Please note: if you are currently a McMaster student, apply through the [AwardSpring](#) tile on Mosaic. Only use the instructions below if you do not have access to AwardSpring.

Application Instructions - Undergraduate Stream

If you are currently an undergraduate student, and are applying to hold the graduate stream award, please see “Application Instructions - Graduate Stream.”

Applications for the **undergraduate** stream are due at **11:59 pm EST on January 25, 2021** at wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca. Applications received after that time will not be considered.

Undergraduate Award Eligibility

To hold the **undergraduate** award, you must be:

- A full-time McMaster student for the 2021-2022 academic year
- In a first-entry undergraduate program
- A Canadian citizen
- Able to balance approximately 15 hours of time commitment to the WLSA program and activities

You must also:

- Expect to complete your McMaster undergraduate degree in the Spring of 2022
- Have a cumulative average of at least 7.5

Application Instructions - Graduate Stream

Applications for the **graduate** stream are due at **11:59 pm EST on March 29, 2021** at wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca. Applications received after that time will not be considered.

Graduate Award Eligibility

To hold the **graduate** award, you must be:

- A full-time McMaster graduate student for the 2021-2022 academic year (you need not be a McMaster student the year you apply)
- In any graduate degree program, in any year (Note: MD/PhD students may only hold the award in years in which they have no MD program obligations)
- A Canadian citizen
- Able to balance approximately 15 hours of time commitment to the WLSA program and activities

You must also:

- Expect to complete your degree work no sooner than Spring 2022

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

All applicants who do not have access to AwardSpring should submit the following to wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca:

1. Cover sheet
2. Personal statement
3. One letter of reference
4. Unofficial transcript for their current program

Applicants who advance in the process will be asked to submit a CV or resume.

The cover sheet and personal statement are submitted together as a single PDF or Word file saved as: "Last name, First name – WLSA Undergrad 2021" or "Last name, First name – WLSA Grad 2021". The subject line of the email submission should be the same.

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," and the subject line of the email submission should be the same.

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. Award applied for (undergraduate or graduate)
3. Email (McMaster address if possible)
4. Preferred phone number
5. Country of citizenship
6. McMaster student number (if possible)
7. Current university, program and degree
8. Anticipated faculty, program and degree for 2020-2021
9. Month and year you started or will start your degree at McMaster University
10. Expected completion month and year of your degree at McMaster University
11. Significant time commitments that you plan to hold during 2020-2021 (e.g. internships, co-ops, etc.), and the approximate hours/week they will involve
12. Cumulative GPA (for applicants to the undergraduate award only)

Personal Statement

1. The personal statement should be under approximately 1000 words. Applications will not be excluded for going slightly over the word count.
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 how the award will fit in your trajectory. Why does it make sense for you to commit time and effort to the Wilson Leadership Scholar Award? For applicants to the **graduate stream**, outline 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.

Letters of Reference

1. If you have been nominated, you must still have a reference letter as part of your application. Nominations are optional and do not count towards the review of your application. They serve only to encourage you to apply.
2. You can use a non-academic reference. Choose a writer 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 applicants for their referees will not be considered. Referees must submit letters through the AwardSpring system. For applications submitted by email, reference letters should also be submitted 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 your inbox and spam folder.

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 approximately 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 the semi-final interviews, likely to be held in early March for the undergraduate award and late May for the graduate award. Final interviews will take place likely in early April (undergraduate) and late June (graduate). Up to three candidates will be selected from each stream for the award.

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)

Graduate

wilsonleader@mcmaster.ca

905-525-9140

Canadian citizen

001051234

Humanities, History, MA

Humanities, History, PhD

September 2020

April 2023

Teaching assistantship (10 hours/week)

PERSONAL STATEMENT – EDWARD SAULL

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Praesent ante quam, fringilla sed velit cursus, ornare tincidunt nunc. Bonum tibi est ad reprehendo an ad hoc ut aliquid traduce. Hoc non facit, sed ut sit aequum, hoc idem quod vos can reperio notitia in genere per informationes huius award circa sessionem. Est occultum quod non reveletur id arcu.

Primum scire te volo quod consideraverit. Homines diversas rationes ad diversas participating et quod suus 'denique. In facto, non videtur habere momenti est valde diversis ingeniis, utilitates, rationes efferant, quod repraesentatur per artes progressio. Tantum inter victores nos cognovimus et nia potuissent simile. Ergo si placet, nolite solliciti cannot instar sicco quod petebas. Nos exprimere pro vobis quaeritis quae circa vos sunt. Et nos intelligimus pecuniae partem quidem appellatio.

Quod ducit ad altera parte. Vos may quoque have ut earn pecuniam tuam in tempore apud universitates. Agnoscere quod usus qui develop Peritiae ductus est, et velut quaeso ne in captionem et in condiciones extra scholam magis valorem quam mercedem laboris. Si quid tibi vis esse brevior Vitae jobs habuistis prae quaeso quanta fecisti illis jobs conformaverunt quomodo sis.

Videtur, quod si vos non es dux, ut vis adhibere. Sicut quod genus non est unum sumus hominem quaeritis, non est modus esse et ducibus, qui nos quaeritis. Iterum, discidia intra progressio pro creare occasiones discere de mutuo. Si quid ab omnibus conceditur ducere, quam ut solve problems, et quantum solve eorum, progressio potest esse minus quam dives developmentally non posse. Ita longe, ad huius award victor possunt dividitur in tres partes secuit et ex verbis Tollens sentiunt comfortable, quam in partes ducis. Semper sensit comfortable tertium unus dixit, quod non cum hoc pittacio: et cum ducibus partes agunt actuosas. Tertia tandem videre se dixerit ducibus quia frequenter ducatur duce efficere possent ea quae munera muneribus. In tertio finalis, ut dictum est, cum nihil aliud actum est, sunt res, tamen non sunt certa, ut ipsi de duce meruit titulo.

Ut positis te extra ibi te dare nobis. Dic nobis fabulam tuam. Quod peius est futurum tempus cogitandum qui et habes quod vis facere. Quod autem optime fit verisimile est quod sit accipere a valuable award, obviam habebis gregem populi unanimes, discere a peritis, atque ducis visitare, quod sit ducere project quisque sit vobis.

Videtur, quod si vos non es dux, ut vis adhibere. Sicut quod genus non est unum sumus hominem quaeritis, non est modus esse et ducibus, qui nos quaeritis. Iterum, discidia intra progressio pro creare occasiones discere de mutuo. Si quid ab omnibus conceditur ducere, quam ut solve problems, et quantum solve eorum, progressio potest esse minus quam dives developmentally non posse. Ita longe, ad huius award victor possunt dividitur in tres partes secuit et ex verbis Tollens sentiunt comfortable, quam in partes ducis. Semper sensit comfortable tertium unus dixit, quod non cum hoc pittacio: et cum ducibus partes agunt actuosas. Tertia tandem videre se dixerit ducibus quia frequenter ducatur duce efficere possent ea quae munera muneribus. In tertio finalis, ut dictum est, cum nihil aliud actum est, sunt res, tamen non sunt certa, ut ipsi de duce meruit titulo.