

Arrell Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions 2024

Eligibility

Question	Answer
<i>Is the scholarship only for BSC or include MSc and Ph.D.?</i>	Only Master's and Ph.D., but you can be from any of the 7 colleges
<i>Can a student studying chemical engineering participate in this AFI scholarship?</i>	Yes, if your research statement fits with the vision of AFI and you have secured a supervisor for your program at the University of Guelph.
<i>Can someone in their final year of a Master's program (will graduate by July 2024) apply for the Ph.D. program and this scholarship?</i>	Absolutely, yes. It is an entry scholarship – so you must enter in the Fall of 2024.
<i>Can you be an affiliate with AAFC and still qualify to apply for this scholarship?</i>	Yes.
<i>Can someone who already has a Master's degree opt for another Master's degree ?</i>	Yes, you can apply for scholarship as a masters student entering in the Fall of 2024.
<i>I've started my master program in Fall 2023. Can I apply for it?</i>	No, this is an entrance scholarship.
<i>Does it matter which graduate program you apply to for an Arrell scholarship?</i>	No, there is no restriction to the program you apply to, but you must be doing research that fits the vision of AFI. For example, you can be in a business program and still be eligible for an Arrell Scholarship depending on your research topic.
<i>Can you join the AFI program via sabbatical leave?</i>	No, our programs are a minimum length of two years.
<i>Would you advise someone with below an 80% average but with a great CV and experience to apply?</i>	The Arrell Scholarship eligibility does require a minimum A-. There may be other scholarship opportunities available to you without the A- requirement.

<i>Is there a minimum GPA score required for a master's and bachelor's while applying for a Ph.D.?</i>	Reach out to your program's graduate program assistant for specific requirements as the minimum GPA can vary.
<i>Is there any age limit to applying?</i>	No.
<i>Do scholars have to be based in Canada for the entirety of their studies? Is there a minimum requirement for being on campus?</i>	Currently, we have scholars who are not located in Canada due to the pandemic. More information can be found by reaching out to your specific department regarding the requirements to complete a master's or Ph.D.

Research

<i>Can the students' research be on non-Canadian problems?</i>	Absolutely, your motivation statement about your research interests does not have to be about Canadian food or agriculture issues. We're looking for an international food system transformation topic.
<i>Should the research be focused on bringing out a physical solution or other dimensions of food security, like the social and livelihood issues could be a fit?</i>	The research can cover all aspects of food security – physical, social, livelihood – as long as your statement makes the case for how your research fits with the AFI vision and themes.
<i>Does the research have to be in line with the Canadian food system, or can you target a country in the Global South and create agriculture development there?</i>	No, research does not have to focus on the Canadian food system.

Supervisors

<i>Since I have not been accepted yet, I am not sure how to connect and communicate with a supervisor. In this case, is it possible to ask a prospective supervisor to look at my research proposal?</i>	Reach out and find an advisor first, once an advisor agrees, then work on the application together.
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<i>What would you advise me to do to get a professor's attention or get them to respond to my mail?</i>	This part can be difficult. Reach out to specific programs that you are interested in and look at 2 or 3 faculty members within each. Make your emails short and to the point and try and have your language as polished as possible.
<i>Does the supervisor have to be from the U of Guelph, or can they be from any university in the world?</i>	Must be from U of G
<i>Do I need a research proposal in hand before reaching out to a potential supervisor?</i>	No. Contact many supervisors and people based on your interests but have your research statement concise and polished for the supervisor so you can get noticed in the email.
<i>How do you find a supervisor?</i>	Reach out to as many professors as possible. Send your CV and transcripts and any publication you have. Reach out to the Graduate Program Coordinator listed on the website of the desired program.
<i>I have been unable to get a supervisor for the University of Guelph. Is it very important for me to have that prior application to the program?</i>	No, but you will need to find one quickly after the application.

Application

Can we please have the application link?	The link can be found by clicking here.
Will the scholarship program cover the compulsory application fee?	No.
Is there an application fee waiver?	No.
When will the application website be opened?	Applications to graduate studies are currently open.

Is the motivation research statement and proposal the same?	Yes.
If English is my official language, do I have to submit a proficiency certificate? Or can I have an alternative, like a written proof of proficiency from my former academic institution?	Need to meet all requirements – please check with the graduate program coordinator of the department you are applying to for the requirements.
Is there anything that is more weighted in the application? Grades, previous research, or test like GRE could boost the profile?	The board will look at everything equally, but a grade point average of A- is very important. If you are a PhD applicant, publications are also taken into consideration.
Being from Nigeria, do I need to do the IELTS?	It depends on the program and the country of origin. Some countries require the Academic IELTS, check your program/country and check with the department you are applying to.
Can you speak about the interview process? How many interviewers, and what is their background (academic, industry professionals?)	The Associate Dean of Research (ADR from all 7 academic colleges at the U of Guelph are on the selection committee. An ADR and two representatives from Arrell Food Institute conduct the interviews.
What is expected from the statement for application? Should we restrict the focus on the research project for applied studies? Or can we speak about broader future research interests?	You should try to make your application as broad as possible with a small portion of your application highlighting your research focus.
Is your general graduate application considered in addition to the application material for the Arrell scholarship?	Yes.

Scholarship Information

<i>Is the 50K also for tuition fee or any university/semester fees?</i>	It covers all your fees. An AFI Scholar receives approximately \$16,000.00 at the beginning of each semester, and tuition and fees are taken from that – what is left is your living stipend.
<i>Does the Arrell Scholarship cover accommodation?</i>	It covers all your fees. An AFI Scholar receives approximately \$16,000.00 at the beginning of each semester, and tuition and fees are taken from that – what is left is your living stipend.
<i>How many scholarships are awarded each year?</i>	Between 4-6.

Contacts

<i>Who can I talk to about the Scholarship Application process?</i>	If you have questions about the scholarship application process, please email the Graduate Awards Officers at grschol@uoguelph.ca in the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies.
<i>Who can I talk to about the Arrell Food Institute?</i>	If you have questions pertaining to the vision of the Arrell Food Institute at the University of Guelph, please email Jeanna Rex, Education Coordinator at jeannar@uoguelph.ca

Other Questions

<i>Do we apply for teaching assistantship before or after we get admission?</i>	After you get admitted into the program, you are entitled to 1 Teaching Assistantship in the academic year. Check the details in the Graduate Program of the department.
<i>How many potential students apply each year for the scholarship?</i>	Each year we receive around 50 applications and last year there were over 55 applicants. Typically, between 4-6 are chosen annually.