
Centennial Institute

Scholarship Strategy and Administration

April 2022

Strategy Overview

While the Centennial Institute (CI) is particularly interested in supporting Canadian and Indigenous History with a Winnipeg and Manitoba focus, it recognizes the value of wider perspectives including the history of human rights, the evolution of civil society and the development of philanthropy. Winnipeg is a city built on immigration with large portions of the population claiming heritages from all parts of the world. The study of history more broadly will contribute to mutual understanding of differing traditions.

The original focus of CI scholarship activity was in support of the Joint Master's Program (JMP) in History offered by the University of Manitoba and the University of Winnipeg. The Centennial Institute could also hold other history scholarships as well. With discussion, the Steering Committee decided to broaden its reach to support other "history based" graduate students—specifically those pursuing degrees in Indigenous Governance at University of Winnipeg, Indigenous Studies at University of Manitoba and Canadian Studies at University of St. Boniface.

With respect to the JMP, the goal is to offer entrance awards at a level that is nationally competitive (\$17,500). Most students take two years to complete this degree. Other Year I and Year II awards are more focused on specific areas of interest and while the value is more modest (\$3,000 to \$10,000), students will have access to a growing list of awards.

A goal of the Centennial Institute is to create nationally competitive scholarships in amounts meaningful enough to retain Manitoba's best students and to attract students from elsewhere. With sufficient financial support, MA candidates should hopefully complete their degree within two years. Centennial Institute awards are not normally split between two recipients. Students may receive up to two CI Scholarships in any given year.

Administration

Scholarship recipients are selected by processes approved by the Universities.

Scholarships may be awarded between January 1st and September 15th based on a list this is provided annually by The Winnipeg Foundation. Centennial Institute scholarships may not be approved from September 16th through December in order to facilitate yearly administrative processes.

Scholarships, bursaries and awards are typically paid by the University which in turn invoices The Winnipeg Foundation. There may be circumstances where the Centennial Institute arranges for recipients to be paid directly. Centennial Institute awards are intended to benefit students graduating with a history-based degree in tribute to the generations of generous donors who built The Winnipeg Foundation over its 100+ year history.



University Departments

The connection between the Centennial Institute and the University Departments is largely focused on support for graduate students--most specifically, those interested in Canadian and Indigenous History or history related studies and issues that are relevant to life in Manitoba and Winnipeg. The study of human rights, the evolution of civil society and the development of philanthropy may involve research reaching outside of Canada. Similarly, the heritage of many Canadians will bring a global perspective to the study of history. It is therefore recognized that a well-rounded approach can not be insular. The Centennial Institute Steering Committee places emphasis on a diversity of perspective.

The Centennial Institute has an interest in connecting the academic world to local institutions (i.e. museums, archives, societies) and to independent historians. Professional development within the History Departments is also of interest.

University websites describe in detail the academic strength of the Departments and their faculty members.

Endowments

Most scholarships, bursaries and student awards at The Winnipeg Foundation are fully endowed. This means that the annual payments are generated and sustained by investment returns. The policies of The Foundation assure predictable payments based on the value of capital in the endowment.

The basic threshold for starting a scholarship at The Winnipeg Foundation is \$20,000.

The Scholarships Team at The Winnipeg Foundation determines the annual amount available from each endowment. This is calculated by determining the average market value of the fund and allocating approximately 5% to annual distribution (see the Spending Policy).

Scholarship amounts may change over time as the capital values increase. There is expected growth from investment returns; there may be new donations; and in years when all scholarship dollars are not awarded, the surplus available will be capitalized. The normal practice is to implement increments of \$500 when justified by sustained annual revenues.

Every endowment at The Winnipeg Foundation pays a fee of 0.5% (50bps) for general administration. Centennial Institute endowments pay an additional 0.5% (50bps) to support discretionary grant making activity through the Centennial Institute Fund - for example, eligible graduate students receive a \$500 study allowance annually from this general fund. In addition, all funds pay their pro rata share of investment management costs which vary slightly from year to year but generally average about 0.35% (35bps). These charges mean that the cost of operating a \$20,000 scholarship is about \$270 annually whereas the cost of operating a \$100,000 fund is about \$1350 annually.



Aspirations

The Winnipeg Foundation manages hundreds of scholarships supporting a diverse range of educational pursuits. For anyone interested specifically in creating a history scholarship under the Centennial Institute, this framework is a place to start:

Type	Annual Payment	Required Capital
Basic Awards	\$1,000 to \$3,000	\$20,000 to \$65,000
Master's Awards	\$3,000 to \$10,000	\$65,000 to \$225,000
Entrance Awards	\$10,000 to \$17,500	\$225,000 to \$400,000
PhD Level Awards	\$17,500 +	\$400,000 +

The Centennial Institute already offers many different scholarships and awards—some making multiple annual payments.

Basic Awards

Typically, the estimated annual payment is based on 5% with a minimum distribution of \$1000. Centennial Institute Awards can be directed to benefit undergraduate or graduate students based on criteria established by the donor.

Master's Awards

These awards are available to Master's students who have a specific area of interest. In some years, it is likely that the scholarship will not be paid which means the dollars available will be capitalized thereby generating larger values in future years.

Entrance Awards

Entrance awards are particularly helpful in recruiting new graduate students to the JMP in Manitoba. Local students and those from outside of our province are seeking competitive financial arrangements and the Centennial Institute attempts to augment capacity to retain and attract the best students.

PhD Level Awards

These awards generally carry a higher value recognizing that most students will take four years to complete this degree.

Potential Master's Awards

The Centennial Institute has a strong inventory of History Scholarships but would welcome additional awards such as: Labour History of Canada; Canadian Political History; City of Winnipeg History; Canada and World History; Canadian Cultural History, Historiography or the History of Ideas.

The Centennial Institute is just beginning to develop an inventory of history-based Scholarships that support Indigenous Governance, Indigenous Studies and Canadian Studies. We would welcome conversation with any potential donor who shares this interest.