



# Psychology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## FOUNDATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT (PSY1100H)

All students in the first year of the 5-year Direct-Entry PhD program are required to enrol in PSY1100H. The student will form a 3-person committee with their supervisor(s) plus one or two other faculty members. The project should be completed before the end of Year 2.

The Foundational Research Project should follow this timeline:

- In Year 1, students will form a committee and develop their proposal. Usually, students must submit the completed PSY1000 form by the end of January in Year 1.
- By the end of Year 1, students will meet with their Committee to agree on a project proposal, which would have been submitted to the Committee approximately 2 – 4 weeks before the meeting.
- Before the end of August in Year 1, students will complete an oral reading list exam for a list of 30 articles.
- Students will engage in data collection over the summer of Year 1 and fall of Year 2.
- In Year 2, students will write up and defend their Foundational Research project, with a final grade being submitted by the supervisor before the registration deadline for the Fall Semester of Year 3.

The project consists of the following:

1. **Proposal.** The Foundational Research Project proposal should take the form of a grant proposal to the Canadian funding agency that is in your field, specifically the “Detailed Description” of a SSHRC Insight Grant, the “Proposal” of an NSERC Discovery Grant, or the “Research Proposal” of a CIHR Project Grant. Generally, the proposal should review the literature, state the rationale for the proposal, outline a set of experiments, justify sample size and statistics, and consider possible outcomes and their implications. Please follow the instructions provided by the relevant funding agency:
  - a. CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research), specifically follow instructions in “Subtask: Attachments – Attach Research Proposal:” <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/49560.html>
  - b. NSERC (Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council), specifically follow instructions in “Attachments – Proposal:” [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/DG-SD\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/ResearchPortal-PortailDeRecherche/Instructions-Instructions/DG-SD_eng.asp)
  - c. SSHRC (Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council), specifically follow instructions in “Detailed Description:” [https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/index-eng.aspx?fid=ig\\_instr#detailed-description-detaillee](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/index-eng.aspx?fid=ig_instr#detailed-description-detaillee)Your proposal is limited to 20 pages (double-spaced) excluding including references, tables, figures etc. The purpose of having this type of proposal is to provide you with training in writing grant proposals. It also puts a reasonable limit on the size of the proposal, allowing for slightly more space than the 5- to 10-page (single-spaced) limit of these research grants. If you are not sure which agency to target, then please consult your supervisor.
2. **Mini Orals Reading List Exam.** The goal is for students to experience a smaller version of the orals reading list exam that occurs in Year 4 that focuses on their knowledge of the literature relevant to their Foundational Research Project. To that end, the reading list should be no more than 30 articles and chapters that relate to the project. In consultation with their supervisor(s), students should build a list of 30 references to papers that are relevant to the Foundational Research Project. The list should be approved by the committee by the end of Winter semester of Year 1. The Mini Orals Reading List Exam should occur prior to the start of Year 2.
3. **Project Write-up.** The final write-up of the Foundational Research Project should not be longer than 100 pages including references, tables, figures, etc. The paper should be formatted to meet the submission requirements of the journal or volume that you are targeting for publication.

4. Defense: One hour should be set aside for the foundational research project defense, with the student presenting the findings for about 15 minutes followed by about 45 minutes of questions and discussion with the 3 committee members.

**Please sign below and return to the Graduate Office by January 31 of Year 1.**

Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Signature

Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Signature

Committee Member or Co-Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Signature

Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature