

SHEILA MASON BURSARY Φ

The Sheila Mason Bursary is a new initiative created jointly by SoPhiA and the Inclusivity Project. It honors the work of Dr. Sheila Mason and her extensive contributions to the Department of Philosophy as Professor and Department Advisor from 1969 to 2015. For over 40 years, Dr. Mason has helped make the voices of women and minorities heard, both as a professor and through her academic work on feminist theory and on care and feminist ethics. The Sheila Mason Bursary is designed to provide financial aid to students, specifically women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+, and individuals with disabilities.

It is our hope that these will be students who are able to provide both theoretical support to their ideas and examples of how these can be applied to society. Their thought and work aim to establish cooperative philosophical practices and spaces. They generate transformative discussions on oppressive academic and philosophical traditions, or on societal structures. They prioritize the exploration of queer, postcolonial, intersectional, feminist, or race theory (inside or outside of class settings) to mobilize action towards a paradigmatic shift of philosophical perspectives. Moreover, it is essential that they also concretely participate in social justice or community-based initiatives to promote inclusive thought and action, whether within Concordia's philosophy department or outside it.

We would like to prioritize the accomplishments held by these individuals and provide a platform in order to honor their achievements. Due to historical marginalization and underrepresentation of these people, particularly within philosophy, we hope that this bursary will encourage more students to participate in philosophy, adding their own perspectives, personal narratives and insights to academic and philosophical discourse.

Additionally, this award considers the disadvantages minorities face not only in Philosophy but throughout society. Applications will also be considered based upon financial need, given the way that class intersects with other forms of marginalization.

Eligibility:

The Sheila Mason Bursary is available to women, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+, and students with disabilities enrolled in the Department of Philosophy at Concordia, either as a minor, major, or honors student. Those in greater financial need will be given priority. Students at any stage of their undergraduate philosophy degree may apply.

Individuals who may **not** apply are: students sitting on the committee for the bursary (SoPhiA By-Laws, 40e); individuals who are a SoPhiA executive, neither during their mandate, nor during the following one (SoPhiA By-Laws, 40f).

Criteria for Application:

1. A personal statement, which must include a description of your community involvement, how you are working towards creating an inclusive environment within philosophy, your community, and/or society, and an explanation of your financial need. This must be between 500-750 words.
2. An essay on the topic of your choice which must, however, explore topics such as queer, postcolonial, intersectional, feminist, or race theory, or be relevant to the aims of the Inclusivity Project and the Bursary. As stated above, **it must provide both theoretical arguments and concrete examples of how these can be applied to society**. This essay should be between 1500-2000 words. You may submit something that has been written for a class.
3. One brief letter of recommendation from a teacher, advisor, employer, or volunteering leader.
4. Your C.V., updated to include information **pertinent to this award**, such as extra-curricular involvement. Your C.V. must also include the contact information of the individual who has written your letter of recommendation.
5. The “Sheila Mason Bursary Application Form”, which can be found below.
6. All sections of the application should be compiled into one document in this order, and submitted in PDF format. Moreover, **they must all be completely anonymous**. To ensure complete anonymity, and thus the complete fairness of the committee’s decision, the PDF document **must be submitted by the individual who has written your letter of recommendation**. They will be the one who will be contacted with the results.

Deadline: April 1st, 2019

Value: \$400

Number awarded: “The bursary committee can give out as many bursaries as there are units of \$400” (SoPhiA By-Laws, 42e).

Applications should be sent by the person who wrote your letter of recommendation to:
inclusivitybursary@gmail.com

The Sheila Mason Bursary Application Form

Student I.D.

Name of the individual who wrote the letter of recommendation

Email Address of the individual who wrote the letter of recommendation

By submitting this application, the student applicant confirms that they belong to one or more of the eligible candidate groups (women, LGBTQAI+ (lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, asexual, intersex, and others included under this umbrella), BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of colour), and students with disabilities, as self-disclosed). (SoPhiA By-Laws, 40b and c)

Your personal statement, essay, letter of recommendation, C.V., this application form, and your letter of recommendation should be compiled into one **anonymous** PDF document, and sent by the person who wrote your letter of recommendation to: inclusivitybursary@gmail.com. They will receive a confirmation email saying that your application has been received.