

Ian McLaren Graduate Awards

Dr. Patrick Lett established the Ian McLaren Graduate Awards in 2018, in honour of his former supervisor, Dr. Ian McLaren. Dr. McLaren joined the department in 1966, and remained an integral part of the biology community for more than 50 years, until his passing in 2020. His research focused on the biology and systematics of seals and plankton in Arctic Canada, the intrinsic rules of growth and production of marine zooplankton, and relationships of marine fish recruitment to zooplankton distribution and abundance. He was also a towering figure in the Nova Scotia birding community, and pivotal in the development and support of Nature Canada and the Nova Scotia Nature Trust.

The Ian McLaren Graduate Award intends to recognize and encourage professional development, timely progress within the graduate degree, and engagement in graduate student society and governance. Financial award(s), in the form of stipend top-up (PhD candidates) and travel funding, will be awarded to the top-ranked student(s) in their 3rd or 4th year of the PhD program, or the 2nd year of the MSc program annually.

For 2022: If you were eligible in March, but would not normally be in September (because your 4th/2nd year is now completed), you will still be considered eligible.

Application Package

A complete application includes application form, CV, a copy of the completed ATC examination form (for MSc) or Preliminary Exam form (for PhD), confirmation of participation in or intent to participate in the Lett Symposium, and a letter of reference from the applicant's supervisor.

Deadline for Application: Sept 30, 2022

Please return the completed form, and necessary documents, directly to:

Alastair Simpson
Chair of the Department of Biology Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee
Dalhousie University

Ian McLaren Graduate Awards

Award Value

The number and value of awards vary each year. The anticipated award values for the 2021/2022 academic year are as follows:

Ian McLaren PhD Graduate Award: \$ 4-6,000 (50% stipend top-up, and 50% travel award)
Ian McLaren MSc Travel Award: \$ 2-3,000 (travel award)

Eligibility

PhD Students

- a) Successful completion of the Preliminary Exam within the 3rd year of graduate studies *[But see note below]*
- b) Submission of thesis-related research to a peer-reviewed, impact factor-rated scientific journal, with the student as lead author
- c) Involvement in the Biology Organization of Graduate Students (BOGS), or similar evidence of good departmental citizenship
- d) Past presentation(s) at a Lett Symposium

MSc Students

- a) Successful completion of the Admission to Candidacy (ATC) Exam within 9 months of entering the program (with a mark $\geq 80\%$) *[But see note below]*
- b) Involvement in the Biology Organization of Graduate Students (BOGS), or similar evidence of good departmental citizenship
- c) Intent to present, or past presentation, at a Lett Symposium

For 2022: As an extraordinary measure, there will be up to 3 months leeway offered on these deadlines. PhD students are to have completed the prelim, and done so inside 3 years and 3 months of their graduate studies. MSc students are to have completed their ATC, and done so inside 12 months.



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Ian McLaren Graduate Awards Application Form

Name:

B00:

E-mail:

Phone:

Program: MSc. PhD.

Program Start Date:

Date of ATC or Preliminary Examination completion:

Note that to be eligible for an Ian McLaren Graduate Award you must have completed your ATC within 9 months OR your Preliminary Exam within 3 years of entering your program (as calculated from your program start date).

Part A: ATC

Have you enclosed your ATC PART 3: Committee Consensus Report OR your Preliminary Exam PART 2: Committee Consensus Report?

Yes

Part B: Departmental Citizenship

Provide a brief description of your participation on BOGS and/or evidence of good departmental and academic citizenship:

Part C: Lett Symposium Participation

Have you participated in the Lett Symposium?

Yes No Intend to present this year

Please provide a list of your Lett Symposium presentations (past or forthcoming):

Include authorship, year, and title for each presentation/ poster

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To be completed by PhD students only

Part D: Journal Article

Please provide citations for all thesis-related articles submitted to or published in a peer-reviewed, impact factor-rated scientific journal; list first-author publications first.

Yes

Additional Comments

Please provide any comments and/or context regarding your application to the scholarships committee

A complete application package includes this application form, CV, letter of reference (supervisor), confirmation of participation or intent to participate in the Lett Symposium, a copy of your completed ATC examination form (MSc) or Preliminary Examination Form (PhD), and proof of submission of thesis-related research (PhD) [this may be a copy of the finished article, or email confirmation of the submitted manuscript. For the latter, include the manuscript submission number from the journal].

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**Ian McLaren Graduate Awards
Evaluation Guidelines**



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General principles

Professional development criterion weighted higher than Departmental citizenship

Primary consideration will be given to achievements in the current degree program. Achievements stemming from previous degrees or experience (e.g. from Honours Research) will be considered secondarily.

Research and Professional development

- a) Publications (Include submitted but not yet accepted publications)
- b) Presentations at conferences, symposia etc. (Include upcoming presentations; accepted abstracts)
- c) Presentations at FISH Talks, departmental seminars, guest lectures etc.
- d) Prizes / Awards for excellence of publications, presentations, research, teaching etc.
- e) Mark received on ATC OR Preliminary Exam
- f) Reference letter from supervisor
- g) Teaching / Mentoring experience
- h) Attendance of workshops relevant to professional development

Citizenship

- a) Position on BOGS executive
- b) Responsibilities on other university / professional committees
- c) Conference / workshop organization

**Ian McLaren Graduate Awards
MSc Evaluation Form**



Eligibility Status	
<p>The applicant has demonstrated the following (please check all that apply: When not obvious eligibility should be determined through consensus)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ATC within 9 months (with a mark \geq 80%) <input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> Participation in the Lett Symposium (past or forthcoming) <i>Presentations weighted higher than posters</i></p> <p>Does the applicant meet the eligibility criteria? <i>Note: all three boxes above must be checked to be eligible</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
Ranking Part A: ATC	Score: /5
<p>This value is to be determined by averaging the scores from the "committee consensus report" that is provide by all applicants.</p> <p>Notes:</p>	
Ranking Part B: Research and Professional Development	Score: /15
<p>The student has (in order of weight):</p> <p>Published Presented at conferences, symposia etc. Presented at FISH Talks, departmental seminars, guest lectures Been awarded for excellence of publications, presentations, research etc. Attended workshops relevant to professional development Teaching / Mentoring experience (above and beyond degree requirements)</p> <p>Notes:</p>	
Ranking Part C: Citizenship	Score: /10
<p>Based on the departmental citizenship paragraph provided by the applicant on their application form, provide a score on a scale of 1 to 10.</p> <p>Notes:</p>	

**Ian McLaren Graduate Awards
PhD Evaluation Form**



Eligibility Status	
<p>The applicant has demonstrated the following (please check all that apply): When not obvious eligibility should be determined through consensus)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Exam within 3 years</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Submission of thesis-related research with student as first author</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Departmental Citizenship</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Participation in the Lett Symposium (past or forthcoming) <i>Presentations weighted higher than posters</i></p> <p>Does the applicant meet the eligibility criteria? <i>Note: all four boxes above must be checked to be eligible</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
Ranking Part A: Preliminary Exam	Score: /5
<p>This value is to be determined by averaging the scores from the "committee consensus report" that is provide by all applicants.</p> <p>Notes:</p>	
Ranking Part B: Research and Professional Development	Score: /15
<p>The student has (in order of weight):</p> <p>Published (include articles where the student was not first author)</p> <p>Presented at conferences, symposia etc.</p> <p>Presented at FISH Talks, departmental seminars, guest lectures</p> <p>Been awarded for excellence of publications, presentations, research etc.</p> <p>Attended workshops relevant to professional development</p> <p>Teaching / Mentoring experience (above and beyond degree requirements)</p> <p>Notes:</p>	
Ranking Part C: Citizenship	Score: /10
<p>Based on the departmental citizenship paragraph provided by the applicant on their application form, provide a score on a scale of 1 to 10.</p> <p>Notes:</p>	

**Ian McLaren Graduate Awards
Ranking Summary**



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**This form is to be returned to the Biology Lett
Fund Committee**

NOTE: Total refers to the averaged total from committee members' individual evaluation forms

MSc Rankings

List all those deemed eligible based on each applicant's eligibility status.

Applicant	Total (/ 30)	RANK

PhD Rankings

List all those deemed eligible based on each applicant's eligibility status.

Applicant	Total (/ 30)	RANK

If rank provided does not correspond with highest overall score, the head of the scholarships committee should provide a brief rationale as to the revised rank order. Rationale should also be provided for rank order in the event of a tie in total score.

Note: Awards will be given based on the rank order reported above. The quantity and value of awards is to be determined by the Lett Fund Committee, and is subject to change, based on the rules outlined in the Ian McLaren Awards Guiding Document.