

McMaster Scholarship Application Scoring Rubrics – Travel & Exchange Awards

Most applications are graded on a *45 point scale. The rubrics below are designed as guidelines and do not address all possible aspects of essay and recommendation characteristics.

The point scale may vary depending on the individual award criterion therefore may affect the total score.

MAX POINTS		DESCRIPTION
20	Statement of Eligibility	Content
15	CV/Other Criteria (Extracurricular, Community Involvement, Leadership, etc.)	Content
10	Letter of Recommendation Academic or Non-Academic	
	Reference/Letter of Recommendation #1 – Academic	Content
	Reference/Letter of Recommendation #2 – Non-Academic	Content
TOTAL: 45	Total score may vary depending on criteria or preference	



20 POINTS: Statement of Eligibility

Prompt: Used to score applicant based on specific award criteria

20 Outstanding	Addresses prompt in clear & concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes a clear statement of eligibility as per terms of award. Provides details.	Demonstrates excitement/passion in their statement of eligibility. Details all relevant experience/activities that meet award criteria.	Demonstrates strong motivation to succeed.
15 Strong	Addresses prompt in clear & relatively concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes statement of eligibility and provides some details.	Demonstrates excitement in their statement of eligibility. Some relevant experience/activities related to award criteria.	Demonstrates motivation to succeed.
10 Good	Addresses prompt in clear manner.	Provides relevant information.	Statement of eligibility has some detail but is vague.	Demonstrates generalized excitement in statement of eligibility. Little relevant experience/activities shared that are relevant to award criteria.	
5 Adequate	Clear narrative. Addresses prompt.	Provides some relevant information.	Describes eligibility but no details provided.	Unclear about eligibility. No relevant experience/activities shared that meet award criteria.	
0 Poor	Unclear narrative. Does not address prompt.	Does not provide sufficient relevant information.	Unable to assess the applicant's eligibility. Not relevant.	Does not identify eligibility.	



15 POINTS: CV/Other Criteria (Extracurricular, Community Involvement, Leadership, etc.)

Prompt: Used to score applications that have other criteria such as volunteer experience, and/or other contributions that allows student to make a difference in the community and/or lives of others including peers, family, friends, etc.

15 Outstanding	Addresses prompt in clear & concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Deeply understands ability to positively impact the lives of others. Describes extensive participation in efforts that contribute to well-being of their community and/or lives of others. Meets all award criteria.	Deeply understands the impact of their contributions. Interest/talent/efforts and experience align with educational and career goals.
12 Strong	Addresses prompt in clear & relatively concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Aware of ability to impact the lives of others. Describes extensive participation in efforts that contribute to well-being of their community and/or lives of others. Meets award criteria.	
10 Good	Addresses prompt in clear manner.	Provides relevant information.	Unsure of ability to impact the lives of others. Describes participation in efforts that contribute to the well-being of their community and/or lives of others. Meets most award criteria.	
8 Adequate	Clear narrative. Addresses prompt.	Provides some relevant information.	Describes minimal award criteria (Extracurricular, Community Involvement, Leadership, etc.)	
0 Poor	Unclear narrative. Does not address prompt.	Does not provide sufficient relevant information.	Unable to assess the applicant's involvement in the community or relevant activities. Does not meet any award criteria.	



10 POINTS: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #1 - ACADEMIC

10 Outstanding	Enthusiastic. Demonstrates in- depth knowledge of applicant	Observes excellence in academic commitment and performance	Verifies obstacles overcome (if relevant)	Very highly recommends applicant
8 Strong	Demonstrates knowledge of applicant	Verifies applicant's strong academic commitment and performance		Highly recommends applicant
7 Good	Demonstrates some knowledge of the applicant	Verifies applicant's academic participation	Notes performance improvements made by applicant	Recommends applicant for scholarship
5 Weak	Provides little information or unenthusiastic responses	Does not verify their academic performance, work ethic, their goals, or their progress towards meeting them, regardless of the checkbox recommendation made		
0 Not supportive				The recommendation does not support the student



10 POINTS: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION #2 - NON-ACADEMIC

10 Outstanding	Enthusiastic. Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of applicant	Observes excellence in work commitment, goals, volunteer commitment, leadership and performance. Supports the goals of applicant.	Verifies obstacles overcome (if relevant)	Very highly recommends applicant
8 Strong	Demonstrates knowledge of applicant	Verifies applicant's strong work commitment, goals, volunteer commitment and performance. Supports the goals of applicant.		Highly recommends applicant
7 Good	Demonstrates some knowledge of the applicant	Verifies applicant's involvement or participation.	Notes performance improvements made by applicant	Recommends applicant for scholarship
5 Weak	Provides little information or unenthusiastic responses	Does not verify their performance, work ethic, their goals, or their progress towards meeting them, regardless of the checkbox recommendation made.		
0 Not supportive				The recommendation does not support the student

