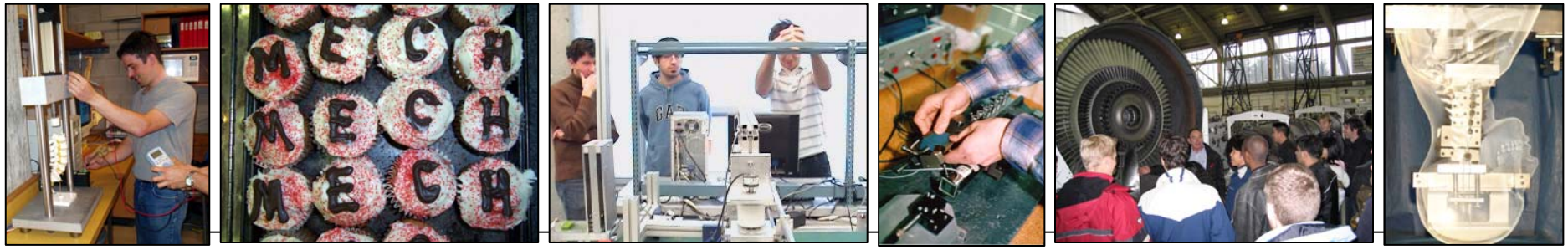

Scholarship Opportunities

presented to UBC Engineering Physics Grad Info Night

March 25, 2009

UBC mechanical engineering

UBC engineering

NSERC

- Offers both Graduate and Undergraduate opportunities
- Must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant; minimum GPA requirements, etc.
- Details and forms at www.nserc.ca

NSERC - URSA

- Undergraduate Student Research Awards (URSA)
  - Stimulate students' interest in research
  - Encourage graduate studies and a research-related career
  - B+ average required.
  - Academic (through UBC) option most common, but Industrial URSA is available, with applications through the host company
  - **Any term, but UBC APSC internal application deadlines are in *February*.**

NSERC – CGS, PGS

- DEADLINE: Usually last week of Sept (dept'l), (Nov 1. Head Office)
- For outstanding students pursuing a Master's or Doctoral degree (GPA 88+)
- Single application process for both awards
- Canada Graduate Scholarships
  - Worth $17,500 for one year for Master's students and $35,000 per year for up to three years for Doctoral students
- NSERC Post Graduate Scholarships
  - Worth $17,300 for one year for Master's students and $21,000 per year for up to three years for Doctoral students

NSERC IPS

- Collaborative research between university and company (your former coop employer?)
- No deadlines (apply any time)
- Company pays $6000/year, NSERC pays $15000/year – total value $21000/year.
- Up to 2 years support for a Masters degree, up to 3 years for a Doctoral degree.
- Certain percentage of time must be spent at the company.
- IP (Intellectual Property) agreements must be in place (takes time to organize).
- UBC UILO office involved, standard agreements available to facilitate process.

Other Scholarships and Opportunities

- NSERC Supplements
  - Various supplements available to “top up” CGS and PGS winners.
  - Details on NSERC website
- Entrance Scholarships
  - Department of Mechanical Engineering offers entrance scholarships.
    - Gartshore Fellowships
    - NSERC top Ups (7-13K/yr depending on level)
    - Graduate Entrance Scholarships

Other Scholarships and Opportunities

- MITACS – industrial internship for graduate students - matches industry and NSERC IPS funding. www.mitacsinternships.ca/internship
- BC Innovation Council ACE program Scholarship. Partnership with Business Student. Must present a business plan for the proposed research. $20000/yr for 2 years for MASC, $25000 for 3 years for Ph.D www.bcic.ca
- Grad studies webpage has links to other scholarship opportunities: www.grad.ubc.ca
- Faculty have Research Assistantship funding for specific research projects.

Getting the $$$

- Plan ahead.
  - Focus on the scholarships you have the highest chance at. (But remember that you cannot win a scholarship you do not apply for!)
  - Build in time for obtaining transcripts (at least two weeks from Canadian Institutions) and references (give them minimum 2 weeks notice)

Referees

- Choose wisely
  - Professors who you have interacted with the most (Projects, supervisory committee, teams/clubs, tutorials, office hours – not just courses).
  - Coop supervisors from industry
  - Senior person if they can write a good letter (Department head, Company VP, Chair of a non profit)

Referees

- Help them out
  - Fill in all your personal information on forms.
  - Give copy of your completed application, resume, transcript as reference info
  - Provide a point form sketch of what you would like them to address in their letter of reference – include key items about yourself you want mentioned
  - If the form is pdf – make a fillable version for your referee to enter their information and comments in.
  - Provide stamped, addressed mailing envelopes

Long Range Planning

- Find out about research opportunities
  - Attend research seminars (ICICS seminars, IAM series, Department seminars)
- Target a research supervisor
  - Take their “specialty” course (elective or graduate course)
  - Apply for a USRA and work in a lab as a Coop student
  - Volunteer in a lab – faculty are always looking for future graduate students (treat it like a job, or this will backfire).
  - Participate in programs like MURP (Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Program)