

# Schulich Graduate Admissions Application Tips: **WRITTEN ESSAYS**

---

The written essays allow us to determine if you are a good fit for the School and to assess your writing skills.



**Graduate Recruitment & Admissions, W263**

Schulich School of Business,  
York University  
111 Ian Macdonald Blvd,  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada, M3J 1P3



416-736-5060



admissions@schulich.yorku.ca




schulich.yorku.ca

## WHY DO WE ASK FOR WRITTEN ESSAYS?

The purpose of including written essays as part of your application package is twofold: first, we want to assess your fit for the School and program to which you are applying, and second, we wish to assess the strength of your written communication skills.

- In terms of fit, Schulich wants to know why you think our program is right for you. There are no right or wrong answers; we want you to have thought thoroughly about how the degree and how Schulich specifically, will be able to help you.
- Your reason for wanting to attend Schulich is not going to be identical to anyone else's, so please don't try to give us an answer that you think is the one we want to hear! Be yourself. If your post-degree goals are not yet well honed, tell us why this degree makes sense for you at this point in time.



In addition to the short essays on the application form, immediately following the video essays, you will be asked to answer a question in writing.

In contrast to the written essays submitted with the application, this short essay question (max. 250 words) is written without much time to deliberate.

You will have up to five minutes to answer a question we provide in writing.

This allows us to see what you come up with on the spot. We will not expect a polished product, but will continue to look for interesting ideas, correct spelling and proper syntax.

Good luck!

## WRITING GUIDELINES

- Many applicants find the essays challenging due to the word limit (max. 350 words). Please adhere to the guidelines.
- You need to be clear and concise, with simple language enhancing readability.
- Don't over-rely on spellcheck, given the existence of homonyms! Proofread your essays a few times, possibly reading out loud to catch mistakes you may not have noticed when reading silently. You may also wish to have a trusted friend or relative do a final read to ensure you didn't miss anything.
- Sometimes applicants feel they need to write something in the optional essay because it's available. Please don't! This space is to be used only when some part of your application requires clarification.

## Why should you complete the optional essay?

- Many applicants use the optional essay to acknowledge and explain any gaps in their application. For example, you can use the optional essay to describe any reasons for your lower GPA or GMAT/GRE score.
- Any gaps in employment would also be best explained here.
- Try to focus on what you have learned from the experience.
- Remember to keep this essay short and simple. If the admissions committee needs further explanation on a particular issue, they will ask you.