

SUPPLEMENTARY APPLICATION QUESTIONS

for Level 1 and 2 Applicants

Level 1 Applicants will receive instructions for accessing the online submission site in early February 2024.
Level 2 Transfer Applicants will receive access to the online submission site in early May 2024.

Applicants are asked to answer TWO of the prompts:
choose ONE of the three options given for Question 1, and ONE of the three options given for Question 2.
Your responses will be limited to 1500 characters for each question, including punctuation and spaces.

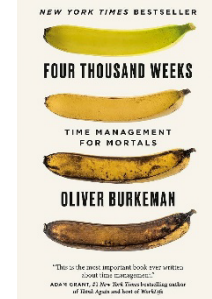
Your responses to these questions must be prepared entirely by *you*.
Posting answers on the internet, working with others to prepare your responses,
or use of generative AI are *not* permitted, and may result in removal from the applicant pool.

For more details (including complete application requirements, deadline dates, frequently asked questions, information about how to submit your application, and other details about the program and our admissions process) [see our website](#).

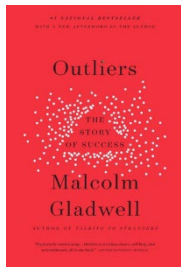
QUESTION 1 — Answer 1 of the following 3 questions:

OPTION A: In *Four Thousand Weeks: Time Management for Mortals*, Oliver Burkeman writes “We treat our plans as though they are a lasso, thrown from the present around the future, in order to bring it under our control. But all a plan is – all it could ever possibly be – is a present-moment statement of intent. It’s an expression of your current thoughts about how you’d ideally like to deploy your modest influence over the future. The future, of course, is under no obligation to comply.”

Tell us about a time things didn’t go according to what you had planned, but things ended up working out well anyway.



- OR -



OPTION B: In his book *Outliers: The Story of Success*, Malcolm Gladwell explores the idea that success does not derive simply from a person’s character or talents or ability, but also about the accumulation of their experiences and opportunities, and notes that “Who we are cannot be separated from where we’re from.”

Tell us about where you’re from, and how it has shaped who you are.

- OR -

OPTION C: Mary Oliver’s poem *The Summer Day* ends with the oft-quoted line “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” On Twitter, Jessica Kantrowitz @jfkantrowitz noted that when taken out of context, that single line is often interpreted as being about achievement and ambition – but it’s not. “Oliver’s own answer to her question,” Kantrowitz reminds us, “was to stroll idly through the fields noticing things.”

Tell us about some small joy in your life that might go unnoticed by others.



QUESTION 2 — Answer 1 of the following 3 questions:

OPTION A: McMaster University offers an enormous variety of courses, with diverse possibilities across the Faculties of Business, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences. With courses on things like pop culture history, sustainable chemistry, Indigenous futurisms, robotics, sports management, and nearly anything else you can think of, there is a huge range of opportunity for intellectual development.

Browse through [McMaster's Course Calendar for 2023-24](#) – if you were to attend McMaster University, and you could take *any* non-Health Sciences course as an elective (that is, any course that does **not** start with the prefix “HTHSCI”), which one would you take, and why? (For the sake of this question, you can assume that you would meet all the necessary prerequisites.)



- OR -



OPTION B: You have been selected to compete as a contestant on your favourite TV competition show (past or present), where the producers will donate \$25 000 to the cause of your choice if you win. The show can be a conventional game show (for example, *Jeopardy!*, *Family Feud*, or *Wheel of Fortune*), a ‘reality’-type competition (for example, *Alone*, *Survivor*, or *The Amazing Race*), or a talent- or skill-based contest (for example, *Project Runway*, *So You Think You Can Dance*, or *The Great British Bake Off*).

What show would you want to be on, and what cause would you choose to direct your winnings to?

- OR -

OPTION C: In Plutarch’s collection of essays, *Moralia*, he writes:

“The correct analogy for the mind is not a vessel that needs filling, but wood that needs igniting. Suppose someone were to go and ask their neighbours for a fire and find a substantial blaze there, and just stay there continually warming themselves: that is no different from someone who goes to someone else to get some of their rationality, and fails to realize that they ought to ignite their own intellect.”

Tell us about a learning experience you’ve had that felt like a fire being kindled.

