

Canada Impact+ Research Chair Program

January 19, 2026

Trent University invites applications from exceptional internationally based researchers to apply for full-time faculty positions under the prestigious [Canada Impact+ Research Chair program](#).

This initiative prioritizes the advancement of transformative research projects that support the growth of the Canadian economy and address critical national and international challenges. Impact+ Chairs will build significant new partnerships and collaborations with both Canadian and international entities, and where appropriate with Indigenous Peoples and communities. Impact+ chairholders are expected to drive the translation of discoveries into applications, commercialization and social and economic benefits for Canada and the world, while also developing the next generation of highly qualified personnel.

Applications are invited from outstanding established scholars in areas that advance one or more of the program's strategic priority areas

- advanced digital technologies (including artificial intelligence, quantum and cybersecurity);
- health, including biotechnology;
- clean technology and resource value chains;
- environment, climate resilience and the Arctic;
- food and water security;
- democratic and community resilience;
- manufacturing and advanced materials; and/or
- defence and dual-use technologies.

Trent University actively encourages innovative scholarship and offers a wide range of opportunities for collaborative and interdisciplinary research and teaching to a diverse student population. We especially welcome applications that demonstrably align with one of the following Strategic Research Areas of Trent University:

Health, including biotechnology

Trent University has established research strengths in biomaterials, biomedical science, forensic [DNA analysis](#), and the [study of aging](#), health & sustainable communities. This collaborative and community-based research theme involves fields like Psychology, Nursing, and Sociology, focusing on topics such as critical perspectives on aging, chronic conditions, and health promotion in the community.

[Trent's molecular and cell biology researchers](#) investigate the fundamental building blocks of life, from molecular and cell biology to understanding how cells manage waste. Renowned research in Health and Behaviour emphasizes a multidisciplinary understanding of physical,

mental, and social well-being, with opportunities for community placements and research in areas like exercise physiology, chronic disease, and neuropsychology.

Environment, climate resilience, and the Arctic

Trent University is internationally recognized for its interdisciplinary approach, integrating Western science and Indigenous knowledge to tackle complex challenges. Trent is a leader in freshwater research, focusing on the impacts of climate change and pollution on aquatic ecosystems, including the Great Lakes basin and the Arctic. The University houses the [Water Quality Centre](#) and the [Institute for Watershed Science](#). Research extends from developing methods for carbon sequestration to studying ecosystem responses to climate change. A major focus is on the fate of chemicals in the environment, including microplastics, mercury, and other trace contaminants, and their effects on human and ecological health. The [Canadian Environmental Modelling Centre](#) assesses the global distribution of contaminants, especially their tendency to condense in cold climates.

Food and water security

Trent University is committed to Indigenous Water Stewardship, where collaborative, community-driven research with Indigenous partners bridges Indigenous and Western knowledge systems to monitor contaminants in traditional food sources, inform policy, and support Indigenous-led water governance and restoration efforts. The Sustainable Agriculture program takes advantage of the [Trent Research Farm](#), which serves as a living lab and research center for developing and modeling small-scale, sustainable farming practices. Research projects include developing climate-smart agriculture techniques, exploring soil health, and investigating carbon sequestration. Focus on the environmental, social, and ethical consequences of conventional agriculture, and research into creating responsible, just, and viable local and global food systems is at the core of the program.

Democratic and community resilience

Trent University's core strength is its robust community-based research model. With over 25 years of experience, it connects faculty and students with local municipalities, non-profits, and community groups to address real-world problems in health, equity, climate, and community well-being. Research addresses challenges such as housing affordability and homelessness, food security and resilient food systems, equitable access to healthcare and social services for underrepresented groups

Trent's [Jarislowsky Chair in Trust and Political Leadership](#) is integral to the University's focus on democratic institutions, examining how citizens understand and engage with democracy, exploring the nature of strong, ethical leadership during times of polarization and disruption.

Appointment Details

Appointments will be at the rank of associate or full professor. Successful applicants will work with Trent's Office of Research and Innovation to submit a nomination to the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs competition. Chairs have maximum award values of either \$1 million or \$500,000 per year for eight years. The program provides for the possibility of a four-year

renewal, funded at 50% of the original value. If the Nomination is successful, an appointment will be made to an appropriate academic unit to start their position within 12 months of accepting the award. Duties will include research, teaching and service.

Trent University is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive campus community. **Only candidates who are internationally based (both working and residing outside of Canada) at the time of the application deadline are eligible to apply.** All eligible candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. Trent University encourages applications from members of all underrepresented, equity seeking, and rights-seeking populations. Preference will be given to candidates from all underrepresented groups, including women, Indigenous People (First Nations, Inuit and Métis), persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities or racialized groups and LGBTQ2+ people. Trent University offers accommodation for applicants with disabilities. If you require accommodation during the recruitment process or require an accessible version of a document/publication, please contact Dr. Holger Hintelmann at research@trentu.ca.

Application Criteria

To be considered for one of these positions, all application materials must be submitted and shall include:

- cover letter that also identifies which of the strategic priority areas aligns with your research and indicates your preferred academic unit (2 pages);
- detailed current curriculum vitae;
- Impact+ Research Chair vision statement (maximum 5 pages), describing the proposed research plan, including your:
 - o research vision and objectives;
 - o how you incorporate equity, diversity and inclusion principles in your research;
 - o how your research will contribute to knowledge translation, mobilization and application of research results.
- highlights of your most influential publications (or other research contributions; maximum 2 pages);
- Trent University [Self-Identification Form](#);
- name and contact information of three references. The search committee will request letters of recommendation from references and a teaching dossier at a later stage of the search process.

Applications should be compiled into a single PDF and emailed to [Dr. Holger Hintelmann](#), Interim VP Research and Innovation. For more information about this opportunity, or about Trent University, applicants are invited to visit the [Trent University webpage](#) or contact Dr. Hintelmann. Positions are subject to program approval and review of applications will begin on February 19, 2026. Applications will continue to be accepted until the position is filled, but only complete applications will be considered.

About Trent University

One of Canada's top universities, Trent University was founded on the ideal of interactive learning that's personal, purposeful and transformative. Consistently recognized nationally for leadership in teaching, research and student satisfaction, Trent attracts excellent students from across the country and around the world. Here, undergraduate and graduate students connect and collaborate with faculty, staff and their peers through diverse communities that span residential colleges, classrooms, disciplines, hands-on research, co-curricular and community-based activities. Across all disciplines, Trent brings critical, integrative thinking to life every day. Today, Trent's unique approach to personal development through supportive, collaborative community engagement is in more demand than ever. In a research and learning environment that builds life-long passion for inclusion, leadership and social change, Trent's students, alumni, faculty and staff are engaged global citizens who are catalysts in developing sustainable solutions to complex issues. Recognized as Canada's outstanding environmental university Trent's Peterborough riverfront campus boasts award-winning architecture in a breathtaking natural setting on the banks of the Otonabee River, just 90 minutes from downtown Toronto, while Trent University Durham Greater Toronto Area, delivers a distinct mix of programming in the east GTA.

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Indigenization

We respectfully acknowledge that we are on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabeg. We offer our gratitude to the First Peoples for their care for, and teachings about, our earth and our relations. May we honour those teachings.

Trent University is actively committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive campus community and encourages applications from all qualified candidates. The University especially welcomes applications from the members of the four designated groups (Women and gender diverse individuals, Indigenous Persons, racialized persons, and persons with disabilities). Recruitment will be guided by the Impact+ Research Chairs Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Practices, and by the University's commitment to employment equity and diversity. Training and development activities related to unconscious bias, equity, diversity and inclusion for administrators and faculty involved in the recruitment and nomination processes for chair positions is mandatory. All Candidates are required to complete and submit a self-identification form alongside their application. By self-identifying, applicants allow Trent University to measure the levels of diversity and collect data for all groups to ensure any systemic barriers within our policies and processes can be identified. The collected forms, and their associated data, will be kept confidential, and only accessed on a need-to-know basis by members of the selection committee.

Trent University recognizes the impacts that interruptions (e.g., parental leave, extended leave due to illness, etc.) can have on a person's career and research achievements, and these leaves will be carefully considered when reviewing the candidate's record. Candidates are encouraged to explain in their application how career interruptions may have impacted them.