

2026 NSERC Arthur B. McDonald Fellowships

The Office of Research and Innovation invites internal nominations for the NSERC's 2026 Arthur B. McDonald Fellowships. NSERC awards up to six McDonald Fellowships annually to recognize early-stage academic researchers in the natural sciences and engineering and support them to enhance their research capacity, enabling them to become leaders in their field and inspire others. Fellows receive a research grant of \$250,000 over two years and are relieved of teaching and administrative duties to focus exclusively on research during the award period.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates must have held an independent academic position for 10 years or less as of December 14, 2025, and hold a grant from NSERC. The eligibility window may be extended to account for eligible delays in research or periods of inactivity.

Nomination Process

Trent may submit up to six nominations. Candidates may self-nominate but must be endorsed by Trent University to submit the application to NSERC. The institutional endorsement confirms the candidate's eligibility and outlines how the university will fully relieve them of teaching and administrative responsibilities during the Fellowship.

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Eligible candidates at Trent University may self-nominate by first contacting the Office of Research and Innovation. To express your intention to submit a self-nomination, please notify the Office of Research and Innovation (innaseviaryna@trentu.ca) by **October 24, 2025**. The EOI should include:

- Name of the nominee, their primary department, and the information of how many years the nominee has held an independent academic position, as of December 14, 2025.
- Email or letter from Dean of Science with sign-off on terms of award, including two-year release from teaching and administrative duties.

Internal Adjudication

The Office of Research and Innovation team will review the submitted EOI and initiate the nomination process for candidates who meet the NSERC Arthur B. McDonald Fellowship

program's eligibility criteria. In the event that the Office of Research and Innovation **receives more than six EOIs**, an internal selection will be held to determine Trent's six certified nominations for this year. Applicants must submit the following by **November 1, 2025**:

- a completed NSERC [Personal Data Form \(Form 100\)](#).
- a draft of the three-page summary of the research that would be pursued during the tenure of the Fellowship.

An internal review committee comprised of the Vice-President Research and Innovation and Dean of Science will review nominations to select the candidates for endorsement.