TRENT UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Distinguished Research Award Terms of Reference
(last updated and approved by Senate on November 23, 2021)

The Distinguished Research Award is the highest honour conferred by Trent University for research and scholarly activity.

An award will be made annually to a member of the Trent Faculty, including Professors Emeriti, in recognition of a full career of internationally recognized intellectual contributions, including:

- Consistency in the production of scholarly materials appropriate to the scholar's discipline;
- Significant contributions to research and scholarly activity as documented by organizations that advance research, professional technical committees, and/or professional, literary, and artistic associations;
- Significant direct contributions towards the training of high qualified personnel (HQP);
- Receipt of research funding, at levels appropriate to the scholar's discipline.

Eligibility

All Trent University tenured faculty are eligible for the award. This includes tenured faculty from all programs, departments, and schools including professional schools. Faculty must have been employed at least six (6) years (2 Award cycles) at Trent to be eligible for nomination. Recipients of the Award will not be eligible for further nomination.

The award will rotate annually among humanities, social sciences and natural sciences research. The nominator will confirm the principal research discipline within which the candidate should be considered.

The Selection Committee

Nominations will be considered by a Research Award Selection Committee of eight persons, six voting and two non-voting:

The selection committee is comprised of the following people:

- Vice-President Research and Innovation (Chair, non-voting);
- Chair of the Internal NSERC Committee on Research;
- Chair of the Internal SSHRC Committee on Research;
- Chair of the Internal CIHR Committee on Research;
- Graduate Student Association Representative (selected by GSA);
- Representative of the Provost's Office;
- A faculty representative selected by the Deans (should be reflective of the years call);
- Director, Office of Research and Innovation (Secretary, non-voting).

Nominations

Nominations from among candidates eligible for consideration may be made to the Vice President, Research and Innovation by any member of the Trent community by January 15 each year (name and one paragraph outlining eligibility). Nominators will be advised if they should proceed to building the full dossier for nomination, by the Vice President, Research and Innovation.

The deadline to receive the full nomination dossier is March 1. Nominators are expected to prepare the documentation on those nominated by the submission deadline.

Nomination dossiers shall include:

- A letter on behalf of the nominating department/program/school highlighting the nominee's major scholarly accomplishments.
- The nominee's current C.V.
- Supporting letters from other colleagues both internal and external to Trent University.
- At least two letters from international references which attest to the nominee's contributions as a major scholar to the respective field.
- Copies of three or four publications that best represent the nominee's research contributions.

Process

- The Committee will meet, as required, to review policy, to short-list candidates, and to select a recipient. At the first meeting, committee members will be asked to sign confidentiality agreements and a Conflict of Interest declaration form.
- All Committee members must attend all meetings in order to participate in the final adjudication meeting. The meeting(s) will occur in March.
- The Committee will reserve the right not to grant an Award in any given year.
- The Award, which may be taken in the form of a research grant, is currently valued at $1,000.
- The Award recipient will be advised of the honour (to accept/decline) confidentially.
- The Communications department will work with the recipient in order to build a news story to be held under embargo and released at a future date.
- The Award will be announced to the Trent University Senate under embargo at the Spring meeting and presented at a Convocation ceremony.
- Award recipients will be asked to present a public lecture addressing some of their research within 12 months of receiving the award.