

Early Career Researcher Award - Terms of Reference

Awarded annually, the Early Career Researcher Award recognizes up to two promising early career researchers at Trent University to help accelerate early-stage career faculty in building a sustainable research program.

Eligibility:

- Candidates must be within their first five years of a TUFA permanent appointment at Trent University (note: the Selection Committee will consider personal leave circumstances)
- Self-nomination is acceptable
- Canada Research Chairs are not included in the pool of eligible applicants
- Recipients of the award will not be eligible for future nomination

Eligibility Criteria:

- This award recognizes and supports promising early career researchers.
- The intent of the award is to recognize and provide one-time funding in support of an individual investigator's research activities toward the development of strong, competitive submissions to external, peer-reviewed research sponsors.
- Successful candidates are expected to develop and submit competitive research proposals within two years of the award's start date.
- Aligned with the [Tri-council Dimensions charter](#), Trent's Early Career Researcher Award aims to "foster increased research excellence, innovation and creativity" within the university "across all disciplines, through greater equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)." Dimensions Charter: equity, diversity and inclusion, CIHR- NSERC-SSHRC, Canada, 2019.

Use of Funds:

- Research equipment and supplies, research services, research support and student salaries/stipends, and dissemination of research results are eligible expenses.
- Travel and subsistence costs are not eligible.

Award Amount:

- \$ 5,000 will be awarded annually for up to two early career researchers in the form of a research grant.

Nomination Instructions:

A Call for Nominations for the Early Career Researcher Award will be issued in **early November** each year. A **complete application, due by January 26**, includes the following:

- A Nomination Form comprising the candidate's name, contact information, signature, one to two paragraphs outlining the suitability of the candidate referencing the selection criteria above, and a 3-5 year research plan written in cognate discipline language
- The researcher's current CV
- A Funds Allocation Form (linked with the Nomination Form) that briefly outlines plans for use of the \$5,000 award
- A maximum of two (2) reference letters as solicited by the candidate: at least one (1) must be external to Trent University

Evaluation:

The Vice President, Research and Innovation will share the nominations with the Research Policy Committee (representing faculty, TCSA and TGSA) at the Committee's February or March meeting for recommendation of the successful nomination.

Applications will be evaluated by the Research Policy Committee according to the following criteria:

- Candidate's scholarly productivity in the context of the career stage, research context and personal circumstances (as evidenced in the CV)
- Potential, quality, impact and originality of proposed research (as evidenced in the multi-year research plan)
- Proposed use of the funds (as evidenced in the Funds Allocation Form)
- Candidate's developing student training capacity (as evidenced in CV and/or research plan)
- Candidate's competitive grant-seeking record (as evidenced in CV)

Award acceptance:

- The Award recipient will be confidentially advised of the honour (to accept/decline).
- The Early Career Researcher Award will be announced at the annual Spring Excellence in Teaching & Research Celebration event.
- Trent University's Communications department will develop, in conjunction with the recipient, an announcement of award story to be held under embargo and released at a future date.

Further Information:

For any questions regarding the Early Career Researcher Award, please email [Chathurika Hettiarachchi](mailto:Chathurika.Hettiarachchi@trentu.ca).