

SGS Award Announcement

To: Faculty Research Offices & Graduate Chairs

From: Sarah Pickering, Postdoctoral Administrative Officer

CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Vina Goghari, Vice-Dean, Research and Program Innovation; Yana Yunusova, Acting Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid; Committee of Graduate Deans

Date: February 3, 2022

Re: **2022 Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program: Supporting Researchers from Underrepresented Groups**

Award Overview

Nomination deadline to Faculty:	Date set by Faculty Research Office
Faculty nomination deadline to SGS:	April 1, 2022 (list of Faculty nominations due to SGS)
Value and Duration:	\$70,000 per year to Faculties for up to two years
Required Legal Status:	Domestic or International
Results:	May 2022

Purpose

The University of Toronto Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program provides funding to Graduate Faculties to increase opportunities for hiring postdoctoral fellows from underrepresented groups, specifically Indigenous and Black researchers. These fellowships will enable postdoctoral researchers to grow their scholarly profiles, undertake academic work at the University of Toronto, and strengthen the research environment at the University with diverse perspectives.

This funding is designed to help the University compete with peer institutions for top-tier candidates, and to support the University in meeting its institutional goal of fostering increased diversity and representation at all levels of teaching, learning and research. Nominees must be nominated by their prospective Faculties/divisions following the timeline and processes outlined below. While the nomination/application process will normally begin with faculty advisors/mentors, funding for the successful nominees will be provided to their respective Faculty Research Office for administration.

Read about the recipients of the Provost's Postdoctoral Fellows on the [PPFP webpage](#).

Value and Duration

Funding will be available to engage **seven** new postdoctoral fellows annually. Each award will provide \$70,000 per year to Faculties to support up to two years of postdoctoral salary and benefits. This level of funding exceeds the median postdoctoral salary at the University of Toronto and is in keeping with Canada's most prestigious postdoctoral awards.

The Fellowship may be used to fund both the postdoctoral fellow's gross salary and employer costs (10% Standard Benefit Rate, and \$50/month postdoctoral levy), or only the gross salary, in which case, the faculty/unit/department would be responsible for covering the additional employer costs. Units/departments have the option, and are encouraged, to augment the salary with support from a variety of sources, including operating budget, faculty advisor funds such as research grants, other awards, etc. Successful postdoctoral fellows will also receive an additional start-up (salary) fund of \$5,000 per year, funded through the Faculty Research Office or faculty advisor.

Eligibility to Apply

The award is open to both domestic and international post-graduates.

Nominees must:

- Demonstrate academic excellence and high potential for success in their chosen fields;
- Identify as Indigenous and/or Black;
- Have obtained a doctoral degree, at the time the fellowship commences and normally within the last five years from the start of the fellowship; and
- Not have held a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship previously.

Recipients must:

- Begin the fellowship by January 2023;
- Be a postdoctoral employee of the University of Toronto;
- Be associated with a supervisor appointed to a graduate unit;
- Register and remain registered with the Postdoctoral Office at SGS;
- Not hold concurrently another major fellowship;
- Not hold a faculty position or be on leave from such a position;
- Establish an IDP (Independent Development Plan) and submit to SGS within the first three months of the fellowship. The IDP should be reviewed annually, and the revised copy sent to the Postdoctoral Office at SGS; and
- Submit proof of completion of degree no later than three months after the fellowship commences if they had not fulfilled all requirements for their degree at the time of nomination.

At the University of Toronto, we strive to be an equitable and inclusive community, rich with diversity, protecting the human rights of all persons, and based upon understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of every person. We seek to ensure to the greatest extent possible that all students and employees enjoy the opportunity to participate as they see fit in the full range of activities that the University offers, and to achieve their full potential as members of the University community.

Selection Criteria

Nominations received by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria. Applicants, supervisors, graduate units/departments, and faculties are encouraged to consider these criteria when developing their applications and when selecting nominees to be forwarded:

- Excellence of the research proposal and nominee's CV;

- Nomination letter from the supervisor, demonstrating the complementarity between the research interests/background of the supervisor and applicant, and the anticipated mutual benefits. Provide specifics about how the proposed research complements the supervisor's ongoing projects and/or new research directions, and provide details concerning the applicant's proposed research environment, clearly stating the supervisor's and laboratory/department's commitment.
- Support letter from the graduate unit/department Chair, addressing how the nominee meets the eligibility criteria and confirming that the nominee intends to accept the offer if funding is made available. The letter should illustrate the synergy between the research proposal and the research goals of the supervisor/unit/department, as well as the mission of the University. The letter should outline support of the nominee by demonstrating how the Faculty/unit/department and applicant will benefit from this engagement.

In selecting Provost's Postdoctoral Fellows, preference will be given to nominees who have not yet held a postdoctoral fellowship. In addition, the School of Graduate Studies will be seeking to balance diversity of the candidates and distribution of Postdoctoral Fellows across academic divisions to ensure that program goals and objectives are met.

Application Process

Applicants must be nominated by their Faculty (e.g., Faculty of Arts and Science) to SGS. Faculty Research Offices are asked to establish and communicate their internal application deadline and selection process before forwarding nominations to the School of Graduate Studies.

Potential nominees interested in the Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program should contact the nominating supervisor. Supervisors wishing to support a candidate's application must contact their graduate unit/department Chair and affiliated Faculty Research Office to inquire about the Faculty's internal deadline and nomination process. Please refer to the Faculty Research Office contact information table below.

Updated: Each Faculty Research Office is invited to nominate their **top three (3)** candidates in each self-identification category to the School of Graduate Studies at sgs.postdoc@utoronto.ca by the SGS deadline.

Please submit a list of all candidates considered (using the SGS submission spreadsheet), and a complete nomination package for each ranked nominee. Please use the file naming convention of "**Last name, First Name_PFP2022**" for the nomination packages.

The nomination package for each nominee should be scanned as a single PDF file, containing all application materials in the order as listed below:

1. **A support letter from the graduate unit/department Chair**, as per the selection criteria above (maximum two pages). Be sure to clearly state in the letter, with which underrepresented group (Indigenous and/or Black) the nominee identifies;
2. **A nomination letter** from the faculty advisor/mentor, as per the selection criteria above;
3. **Statement of research intent** from the nominee (maximum two pages);
4. **Nominee's C.V.** (no page restriction); and
5. **A short personal biography** written by the nominee (150-words limit), which may be used on the SGS Postdoctoral Fellows website or other communications, should they be successfully selected as a Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow.

Reminder: A draft engagement letter is no longer required for the nomination package.

Results

Results of the competition will be made available and communicated to Faculty Research Offices in May 2022.

Contact & Resources

For information regarding the nomination process, deadlines and point of contact at each Faculty Office, please refer to the [Faculty Research Office contact list](#) on the SGS website or contact:

Sarah Pickering
Postdoctoral Administrative Officer
Postdoctoral Office, School of Graduate Studies
sgs.postdoc@utoronto.ca
[Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program](#)