
PETRO-CANADA EMERGING INNOVATOR AWARD

Terms of reference and application process

The Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award recognizes, promotes and supports outstanding and innovative faculty researchers at the University of Alberta whose academic work benefits the learning environment of their department and whose research has potential to be of significance to society at large. The award is valued at \$10,000.

These awards reflect the joint commitment of Petro-Canada (now Suncor Energy Inc.) and the University of Alberta to support these researchers in launching their scholarly careers and in carrying their research forward.

Capital and interest on the Petro-Canada gift will be used to maintain the awards for a substantial period of time. The awards can be supplemented with government or other grants to extend the program's longevity; however, the recognition of Petro-Canada in the title of the award will remain unchanged.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty members from any faculty who completed a doctoral degree (or equivalent qualification) no more than eight years ago are eligible. Applicants must have obtained the doctoral degree (or equivalent) on or after January 1, 2016 to be eligible.

If a full-time faculty member completed their doctoral degree (or equivalent qualification) more than eight years ago, but their appointment at the University of Alberta is their first academic appointment, the nominee is eligible to apply within four years after taking up their faculty position. The first academic appointment must have started on or after January 1, 2020 to be eligible.

Selection Process

The Office of the Vice President (Research and Innovation) [OVPRI] will review the candidate pool. If the pool is not deemed to represent the diversity of the research community at the University of Alberta, the OVPRI may choose to seek additional nominations of excellent candidates from equity-deserving groups.

A committee chaired by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation), or designate, will select the Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award recipient. The Committee will include members from the University's research community who are suitably representative of the diversity that exists across the institution plus a representative from Suncor Energy Inc. (when and if possible).

Selection criteria are based on academic achievement and specifically related to the overall research promise of the individual, quality of the proposal, impact associated with the research, the individual's commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in their work in the discipline, university or broader community and/or contributions to Indigenous Initiatives within or outside the University.

Grant Administration

Award administration is handled internally by the University of Alberta. The OVPRI will report its selection to Suncor Energy Inc. and the recipient's faculty prior to publicly announcing award recipients.

Awards must be used for the innovative research project described in the application and funding must be spent on the items listed in the proposed budget. Ethics and Environmental approval for the proposed research, if required, must be in place prior to release of any funding.

The award will be effective for a period of twelve months. Extensions will be granted under exceptional circumstances (such as major illness or parental leave) only. If an extension is required, a request with a detailed explanation on the reason for extension, the length of extension needed, and an update on the current progress of the research activities should be sent to parsad@ualberta.ca.

Each recipient is required to submit a one-page final report within three months of the project end date describing how funds were expended, how the project enriched the learning environment, and how the project contributed to a specific area of society or to society at large. Reports should be sent to Leslie Parsad at parsad@ualberta.ca.

Application Process

Candidates should keep in mind the equity, diversity and inclusion principles in the [University of Alberta Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity](#), the [Dimensions Charter](#), the [Scarborough Charter](#) and the [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#) when preparing their application.

Each candidate is entitled to submit one application per year. If a candidate decides to reapply, an updated dossier is required for each subsequent submission.

The following information must be submitted, in the following order, as part of the application:

- Written proposal identifying Project Description, Budget, and Budget Justification (maximum 6 double-spaced typed pages, font size 12 or greater). Candidates are encouraged to take into account, when applicable, diversity (gender, sex, age, culture, religion, mental and physical disabilities, etc.) in the proposed research from its design to the analysis of the research findings. Incorporating the principles of Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in research has the potential to increase the rigour and usefulness of the research.
- Statement that includes a description of how the proposed project is innovative in its field and the impacts of the research both nationally and internationally.
- Brief one page statement of how the candidate's research program contributes to equity, diversity and inclusion and Indigenous Initiatives in the discipline, university and broader community.

Statements should include information on how the candidate incorporates EDI and II principles into all aspects of their research, including (but not limited to): research team composition, research environment and culture, training and development, and research design/methodology.

- Statement of Community Engagement of how the candidate engages with the community at large, both in terms of research focus/methodology and personal engagements.
- Current curriculum vitae

Recognition

- Awardees must agree to the publication of the award and a description of their proposed project.
- Suncor Energy Inc. must be recognized in any publication resulting from work supported by the award.
- The recipient will be known as a Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator.

Deadline

The deadline for submissions is **4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024**. Please submit the PDF application package to Leslie Parsad at parsad@ualberta.ca.

Records from this competition will be managed in accordance with the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.