

Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards

Overview

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| Value | \$40,000 per year at the doctoral level \$70,000 per year at the postdoctoral level |
| Duration | 36 months at the doctoral level 24 months at the postdoctoral level |
| Tenure location | Eligible Canadian institutions |
| How to apply | See Nomination procedures below |
| Nomination forms and instructions | See Nomination procedures below |

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Objective

The Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards (Impact+ Training Awards) is a targeted, one-time initiative designed to recruit international or returning Canadian doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers to Canada. These awards support key priority areas, helping to build capacity, strengthen the research ecosystem and enhance Canada's global competitiveness.

Description

The Impact+ Training Awards are a part of the International Talent Attraction Strategy and Action Plan announced in [Budget 2025 - Canada Strong](#), which committed \$1.7 billion to the recruitment of international talent to Canada. Specifically, the Impact+ training awards investment is \$133.6 million to fund an additional 600 doctoral and 400 postdoctoral awards within the Canada Research Training Awards Suite (CRTAS), administered by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The CRTAS aims to support the next generation of innovators by providing funding and high-quality research training, cultivating research skills, fostering creativity and empowering awardees to make significant contributions to Canada's research ecosystem, economy and prosperity.

The Impact+ Training Awards will invest in research in eight priority areas:

- Advanced digital technologies (including AI, quantum and cybersecurity)
- Health, including biotechnology

- Clean technology and resource value chains
- Environment, climate resilience and the Arctic
- Food and water security
- Democratic and community resilience
- Manufacturing and advanced materials
- Defence and dual-use technologies

Nominations must align with the identified priority areas and these are intended to be interpreted broadly so that relevant work from a range of disciplines, from across the agencies, may be considered.

Eligibility

General conditions

For Institutions

All eligible Canadian institutions will receive an allocation of nominations of doctoral and/or postdoctoral awards. Institutions that do not wish to participate in the initiative or know they will be unable to support additional doctoral or postdoctoral researchers, can ‘opt-out’ of receiving allocations. Nomination allocations will be calculated based on each institution’s average of the total sum of grant funding* received over the last available three fiscal years from the three federal research funding agencies. They will be provided in two waves, with a portion of nominations reserved for the second wave. All institutions that are eligible to receive grant funding from at least one of the agencies will receive a minimum of one allocation.

* Grant funding refers to funds received by host institutions in Canada for grants programs eligible to be included in the CRC credit calculation. For further information on the CRC credit calculation, consult the [Method of Allocating Chairs](#) web page.

There is no pre-determined distribution of nominations to the federal granting agencies; institutions should aim for representation from a wide range of disciplines, from across the three funding agencies, in their selected nominators and nominees. It is important that all priority areas be adequately represented in the cohort of award recipients. The second wave of nominations will allow for redistribution of unused nominations and to adjust among agencies and priorities, if needed. Institutions must consider equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) when selecting their nominators and nominees. It is within the institutions' purview to allocate multiple nominations to the same researcher (nominator), if they choose. One nomination allows for the recruitment of one individual at the academic level (doctoral or postdoctoral) specified with the nomination.

For Nominators

A nominator must be a faculty member at an eligible institution and be the primary grant holder on an active grant from an eligible funding opportunity from one of the three federal funding agencies at the time of nomination. Refer to the list of [agency-specific eligible funding opportunities](#). For the purposes of this initiative, eligible active grants are those that received a payment or have a planned payment in the 2025-26 or 2026-27 fiscal year (April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2027).

As per the nominating institution's policies, nominators must be eligible to supervise doctoral students and/or postdoctoral researchers. Nominators must not be currently deemed ineligible to hold and/or apply for funds by CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC, for reasons of breach of policies on responsible conduct of research, such as ethics, integrity or financial management policies. Nominators must have accounts in good standing with CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC.

While the nominator's research grant does not have to specifically be within one of the eight identified priority research areas, they must be able to facilitate the nominee conducting research in one of the identified areas.

For questions regarding the eligibility of a potential nominator based on their current grant status, please [contact us](#).

For Nominees

Nominees can hold any citizenship, including Canadian citizens, permanent residents and protected persons under subsection 95(2) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)*. Nominees cannot have a current affiliation with a Canadian institution and must be currently studying or working abroad. Participation of Canadian citizens in this initiative is intended for those who have previously left Canada for research and/or work experience and who wish to return to Canada to continue their research.

Note: Canadian citizens, permanent residents or protected persons may also be eligible for the [Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral \(CGRS D\)](#) or the [Canada Postdoctoral Research Award \(CPRA\)](#) programs.

Nominees' research areas must be within one of the eight priority research areas listed in the [description](#).

To be eligible to be a nominee for the doctoral award, nominees:

- Must be eligible to enroll in a doctoral program at the nominating institution in Canada as of the award activation date.
- Cannot hold a tenure or tenure-track appointment or be on leave from such an appointment concurrently with the Impact+ training award (some exceptions apply; see the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) for details).

Note: There is no limit on the number of months completed in a doctoral degree for eligibility to the Impact+ training awards.

To be eligible to be a nominee for the postdoctoral award, nominees must:

- Be qualified to undertake postdoctoral research at the nominating institution in Canada as of the award activation date.
- Hold or expect to hold a doctorate or health professional degree before the [start date of the award](#)
- Not hold or be on leave from a tenure-track or tenured faculty position.

Note: There is no limiting window of time following completion of a doctoral degree for eligibility to the Impact+ training awards.

If there is a potential nominee that has special circumstances that may affect their eligibility, please [contact](#) us.

Location of tenure

In most cases, Impact+ training awards must be held at the nominating institution for at least one year. After one year, they are portable but must still be held in Canada at a Canadian institution and still be aligned with the priority research areas.

Other restrictions

- Nominees can only be nominated by one nominator (cannot have multiple proposed supervisors or locations of tenure).
- International students/researchers already working or studying at a Canadian institution are not eligible for the Impact+ training awards. Instead, they can apply for the CGRS D or CPRA.
- Nominees cannot be currently holding another scholarship or postdoctoral research award from the three agencies or be currently benefiting from tri-agency funds from a supervisor's grant.
- Doctoral: Cannot have previously held doctoral-level scholarship from one of the three agencies
- Postdoctoral: Cannot have previously held postdoctoral-level award from one of the three agencies

Research program eligibility

An eligible doctoral degree or postdoctoral research program must be predominantly research oriented.

Projects whose primary objective is to adapt a doctoral thesis for publication in a book or manuscript, edit textbooks, translate or acquire a foreign language are not eligible for funding under this initiative.

The proposed research must be in one of the designated [priority research areas](#).

For questions regarding the scope of a priority research area and the eligibility of the proposed research, please [contact](#) us.

Nomination procedures

Selecting the appropriate agency

The representative of the nominating institution should work with the nominator and nominee to select in the nomination form the agency whose research mandate most closely aligns to the nominee's research subject matter. In most cases, the agency will be the same as the agency of the nominator's grant. The nomination form may be shared by NSERC with CIHR or SSHRC depending on the agency selected. For more information, see [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#).

For guidance on CIHR subject matter, consider the information on [CIHR's website](#).

For guidance on NSERC subject matter, consider the [Addendum to the guidelines for the eligibility of applications related to health](#), which has additional information and specific examples relating to subject matter.

For guidance on SSHRC subject matter, consider the information on SSHRC's [Subject Matter Eligibility](#) web page.

If you are still unsure after consulting these resources, [contact](#) us.

Nomination process

Institutions will receive detailed instructions on the nomination process, including how to complete and submit the nominations to the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards SharePoint (CIRTA SharePoint).

The nomination form must be submitted by the institution on behalf of the nominator (eligible researcher) and nominee (doctoral student or postdoctoral researcher). Completed nomination forms must be submitted electronically through the CIRTA SharePoint.

The agencies will only accept complete nomination forms.

For help while preparing the nomination, [contact](#) us well before the submission deadline.

Nomination deadlines

The Impact+ training awards will be processed by the agencies in two phases with separate deadlines:

- Wave 1 submission deadline: March 4, 2026 before 8:00 pm (ET).
- Wave 2 submission deadline: To be announced, deadline expected summer 2026.

The instructions for completing a nomination package by the deadline must be strictly followed. Late or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

With the exception of personal contact information, no changes or updates to submitted nominations can be made either before or after the deadline. Personal contact information can be updated by [contacting](#) us.

Selection process

Institutional review

Institutions are responsible for verifying the eligibility of the nominator and nominee. An institutional representative must sign the nomination form as endorsement of the nominator and nominee.

The signature of the institutional authority also certifies that:

- the institution will abide by the roles and responsibilities as set out in the [Tri-agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research](#), including the [Agreement on the administration of agency grants and awards by research institutions](#) section
- the institution agrees to comply with the agencies' data-protection requirements and has adequate safeguards in place to protect sensitive information entrusted to it by the agencies for the purpose of administering applications and awards

Agency review

The agencies will review submitted nomination forms for eligibility of the nominators and nominees.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

The three agencies are acting on evidence that achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding and to respond to local, national and global challenges. This principle informs the commitments described in the [Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#) and is aligned with the objectives of the [Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan](#).

Self-identification data and consent provided with nominations may be used to determine eligibility for additional awards or priority funding opportunities designated for specific underrepresented groups.

San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC, along with other Canadian research funding agencies, are signatories to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#). The agencies are committed to meaningful assessment of excellence in research funding and to ensuring that a wide range of research results and outcomes are considered and valued as part of the assessment process. The agencies will continue to work to ensure that their strategies, policies and guidance align with DORA.

Research security

Due to the list of priority research areas, recipients of the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards are likely to participate in research that aims to advance a [Sensitive Technology Research Area](#), as defined under the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC Policy\)](#).

While the STRAC Policy does not apply to scholarship and fellowship programs, such as the Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards, nominators who are a recipient of a grant that is subject to the STRAC Policy requirements — or who are expecting to apply for such a grant in the future — should be aware that these requirements may extend to their prospective nominees. Prospective nominees who have an active affiliation with or are in receipt of financial or in-kind support from a [Named Research Organization](#) must terminate this relationship before joining any research team that is supported by a grant in scope of the STRAC Policy and that aims to advance a [Sensitive Technology Research](#)

[Area](#). Consult the [Tri-agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#) for more information on the requirements that apply to federal grants subject to the STRAC Policy.

Where applicable, nominators are encouraged to conduct open-source due diligence to verify a prospective nominee's affiliation(s) and sources of funding or in-kind support. Institutions may provide support to nominators in doing so, via their institutional research security offices, where available.

For further guidance on research security, institutions and researchers are encouraged to consult the [Tri-agency Guidance on Research Security](#) and associated [resources](#), including the Government of Canada's [Safeguarding Your Research](#) portal and the [Safeguarding Science Initiative](#).

Notification of results

It is expected that nominators and nominees will be notified of the results by April 1, 2026, for the first wave of nominations. The release date for the results of the second wave will be announced at a later date.

If a nominee accepts an award, the relevant agency will publish their name and other basic award information on its website.

For more information, see the [Access to Information Act and the Privacy Act](#).

Conditions of the award

Award holders must comply with the policies and guidelines set out in the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) and in any other documents related to these nominations and awards.

The agencies reserve the right to interpret and enforce the policies and guidelines for their funding opportunities set out in their published materials.

Award holders may be eligible to hold their awards part time. See the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) for further information.

Official languages

Nominations may be submitted in either of Canada's official languages, English or French.

Use and disclosure of information

All personal information collected as part of this program is used by CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC and by the relevant officials in the eligible research institutions to review applications and to administer and monitor awards. It may also be used to determine the most appropriate funding jurisdiction or to monitor overlap in federal support. Details on the use and disclosure of this information by the agencies are described by CIHR on the [Info source – Sources of federal government and employee information](#) web page, by NSERC on the [Use and disclosure of personal information provided to NSERC](#) web page, by SSHRC on the [Collection, use and disclosure of personal information](#) web page and in the relevant program literature.

Each agency may publish the names and other limited award information of award holders on their websites in accordance with the agencies' policies on disclosure under the *Access to Information Act* and their *Privacy Act* policies and guidelines related to the collection, use, retention and disposal of personal information. For more information, consult the [Access to Information Act](#) and the [Privacy Act](#).

For more details regarding CIHR's use of personal information, refer to CIHR's Canada Impact+ Research Training Award details on [CIHR's Funding Opportunity](#) web page.

Contact

For more information, contact:

CIRTA-BFRIC@nserc-crsng.gc.ca