



RESEARCH & INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS NOMINATION GUIDE

Updated 2026

Calls for Nominations & Names

Across our campus, our community, our nation, and globally, University of Windsor faculty, students, and staff are making a difference through research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation. Our researchers, students, and staff are making significant real-world contributions in all spheres of life and at all levels of society. Through knowledge exchange and collaboration, we are cultivating a deeper understanding of the world around us while maximizing societal benefits and enhancing quality of life for future generations. In honouring these contributions, the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation celebrates the outstanding achievements of University of Windsor faculty, students, and staff, and recognizes prestigious awards and honours conferred by external organizations. The 2026 celebration will recognize achievements from the 2025 calendar year.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation is now accepting nominations for the Awards for Excellence in Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity, and Innovation in the following categories:

- Outstanding Faculty Awards at the Early Career, Mid-Career, and Established Career Levels
- Outstanding Student Awards at the Undergraduate and Graduate Levels
- Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Award
- Outstanding Staff Award
- Outstanding Impact Award
- Outstanding Inclusive Excellence Award

CALL FOR NAMES: The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation invites the submission of names of faculty researchers who have received special honours or awards from external organizations in recognition of excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation in 2023, 2024, and 2025. In addition, submissions are invited for inventors who have been awarded patents in 2023, 2024, or 2025 for the knowledge created and intellectual property they have developed.

The Vice-President, Research and Innovation will notify award recipients before the Research & Innovation Excellence Awards on April 15, 2026.

The deadline for submission of nominations is **March 9, 2026**. Nomination dossiers should be submitted in the format outlined in the **Research & Innovation Excellence Awards Nomination Guide** no later than 11:59 pm on **March 9, 2026**.

Names of faculty researchers who have received external awards and honours will be accepted until 11:59 pm on **March 23, 2026**.

Questions relating to this call for nominations and names should be directed to innovation@uwindsor.ca.

Awards for Excellence in Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity, & Innovation

OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARDS

The Outstanding Faculty Awards celebrate the achievements of early career, mid-career, and established career faculty.

CRITERION

Excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation will be the key criterion in all categories across disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY & AWARD CATEGORIES

All current full-time, permanent faculty members who have achieved a terminal degree in their field and have been at the University of Windsor for at least two (2) years are eligible for nomination. Librarians will also be considered eligible.

Candidates are not eligible to receive awards in more than one category. Candidates are not eligible to receive more than one award in each category within 7 years of their last award.

Nominations for Outstanding Faculty Awards will be accepted in the following three categories:

Early Career Research & Innovation Award

The Early Career Research & Innovation Award is valued at \$2,000 and is provided in the form of a research grant. One award will be conferred on a faculty member or librarian within the first six (6) years of their career and recognizes both early excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation, as well as strong future promise.

Mid-Career Research & Innovation Award

The Mid-Career Research & Innovation Award is valued at \$3,000 and is provided in the form of a research grant. One award will be conferred on a faculty member or librarian who is between the sixth and twelfth (6–12 inclusive) year of their career. The award recognizes recently established research, scholarly, creative, and innovative programs or practices that are advancing new fields of inquiry or generating novel insights.

Established Career Research & Innovation Award

The Established Career Research & Innovation Award is valued at \$4,000 and is provided in the form of a research grant. One award will be conferred on a faculty member or librarian who is beyond the twelfth (12) year of their career and recognizes national and/or international leadership in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation.

Nominations for the Outstanding Faculty Awards will only be accepted from University of Windsor faculty and librarians. Nominations originating outside the University of Windsor will not be considered.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

The Outstanding Student Awards celebrate the achievements of undergraduate and graduate students.

CRITERION

Excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation will be the key criterion in both categories across disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY & AWARD CATEGORIES

All students who are currently enrolled or have been enrolled at the University of Windsor in the academic year preceding the nomination are eligible.

Candidates are not eligible to receive awards in more than one category in the same year and cannot receive more than one award in each category throughout their academic program at the University of Windsor.

Nominations for Outstanding Student Awards will be accepted in the following two categories:

Undergraduate Student Research & Innovation Award

The Undergraduate Student Research & Innovation Award includes a \$500 cash prize and is conferred on a current undergraduate student, or an individual who was an undergraduate student at the University of Windsor in the academic year preceding the nomination. This award recognizes an undergraduate student for significant research, scholarly, creative, and innovative contributions to their discipline. Contributions recognized may include but are not limited to original published work, key research contributions deemed inventive in nature, innovative applications of knowledge or technology, or a creative work of writing, art, performance, or music.

Graduate Student Research & Innovation Award

The Graduate Student Research & Innovation Award includes a \$1,000 cash prize and is conferred on a current graduate student, or an individual who was a graduate student at the University of Windsor in the academic year preceding the nomination. This award recognizes a graduate student for significant research, scholarly, creative, and innovative contributions to their discipline. Contributions recognized may include but are not limited to original published work, key research contributions deemed inventive in nature, innovative applications of knowledge or technology, or a creative work of writing, art, performance, or music.

Supervisors of award recipients will be automatically recognized alongside their student(s).

Nominations will only be accepted from University of Windsor students, faculty, and librarians. Nominations originating outside the University of Windsor will not be considered.

OUTSTANDING POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW AWARD

The Outstanding Postdoctoral Fellow Award celebrates the achievements of a postdoctoral fellow.

CRITERION

Excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation will be the key criterion across disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY & AWARD

All individuals who held a postdoctoral fellow appointment during the year of recognition are eligible. Candidates are not eligible to receive more than one award in this category throughout their career at the University of Windsor.

Awards in the postdoctoral fellow category includes a \$1,500 cash prize and is conferred in recognition of excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, innovation, and future promise.

The supervisor(s) of the award recipient in the postdoctoral fellow category will automatically be recognized along with their postdoctoral fellow.

Nominations will only be accepted from University of Windsor post-doctoral fellows, faculty and librarians. Nominations originating outside the University of Windsor will not be considered.

OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

The Outstanding Staff Award celebrates the achievements of a University of Windsor staff member.

CRITERION

Demonstrated commitment and service excellence in supporting and facilitating research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation will be the key criterion across disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY & AWARD

All current University of Windsor staff are eligible. Candidates are not eligible to receive more than one award in this category within 7 years of their last award.

The Outstanding Staff Award includes a \$1,000 cash prize and is conferred in recognition of exceptional dedication, service excellence, and meaningful contributions to supporting and facilitating research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation at the University of Windsor.

Nominations will only be accepted from University of Windsor staff, students, faculty, and librarians. Nominations originating outside the University of Windsor will not be considered.

OUTSTANDING IMPACT AWARD

The Outstanding Impact Award celebrates the achievements of a University of Windsor faculty member or librarian.

CRITERION

Originality and impact will be the primary criterion across all disciplines. The award recognizes a specific achievement, initiative, or outcome that demonstrates one or more of the following:

- An innovative approach that reimagines existing practices, ideas, or systems
- Significant academic, societal, legal, cultural, economic, technological, or policy impact
- Clear evidence of influence beyond the University community
- Demonstrated or emerging potential for sustained, scalable, or long-term impact

Contributions may be research-based, practice-based, creative, policy-oriented, pedagogical, or interdisciplinary in nature.

ELIGIBILITY & AWARD

All current University of Windsor faculty and librarians are eligible for nomination.

Candidates are not eligible to receive awards in more than one category. Candidates are not eligible to receive more than one award in each category within 7 years of their last award.

The Outstanding Impact Award is valued at \$2,000 and is provided in the form of a research grant. One award will be conferred on a faculty member or librarian in recognition of an exceptional contribution that demonstrates innovation, originality, and meaningful impact.

The partners and/or the team of the award recipient will automatically be recognized along with the faculty/librarian.

Nominations will be accepted from University of Windsor faculty and librarians, and from community, government, and industry stakeholders.

REQUIRED LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Nominations for the Outstanding Impact Award must include a minimum of two letters of support that speak directly to the significance, originality, and demonstrable impact of the contribution. At least one letter must be from an individual or organization external to the University of Windsor and should provide evidence of influence beyond the University community, locally, and globally.

OUTSTANDING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Outstanding Inclusive Excellence Award celebrates the achievements of a University of Windsor faculty member or librarian.

CRITERION

Demonstrated commitment and excellence in the integration of the principles of equity and inclusion in research, including innovative methodologies, practices, or approaches, and with persons with lived and living experiences will be the key criterion across disciplines.

ELIGIBILITY & AWARD

All current University of Windsor faculty and librarians are eligible for nomination.

Candidates are not eligible to receive awards in more than one category. Candidates are not eligible to receive more than one award in each category within 7 years of their last award.

The Inclusive Excellence Award is valued at \$2,000 and is provided in the form of a research grant. One award will be conferred on a faculty member or librarian in recognition of exceptional contributions that advance equity and inclusion through research, including innovative and impactful approaches to knowledge creation and mobilization.

The partners and/or the person with lived and living experiences associated with the work will automatically be recognized along with the faculty/librarian.

Nominations will be accepted from University of Windsor faculty, librarians, students, staff, and from community and government stakeholders.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The nominator is responsible for submitting a complete nomination through the **online submission form**. All nomination materials must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. on the nomination deadline.

Link to Online Submission Form: https://uwindsor.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5cEUTsJSG4CIHV6

Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered. **To ensure the nomination can be reviewed efficiently, nominators must follow these submission requirements:**

LETTER OF NOMINATION

The letter of nomination should introduce the nominee and clearly explain how they meet the criteria for the selected award category. Letters should emphasize:

- Originality of the nominee's work.
- Significance of contributions.
- Impact within and beyond their discipline.
- Alignment with the award criteria.

While teaching, mentorship, and service may be mentioned where relevant, the primary focus must remain on research, scholarship, creative activity and innovation.

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Each nomination dossier must include an up-to-date copy of the candidate's curriculum vitae. A Narrative Curriculum Vitae (CV) is preferred but not required. If a non-narrative CV is submitted, please be mindful of length; we recommend a maximum of 50 pages.

When provided, the Narrative CV should contextualize the nominee's contributions, impact, and career trajectory rather than relying solely on quantitative indicators, in alignment with evolving Tri-Agency practices. Nominators and nominees are encouraged to consult Tri-Agency guidance on Narrative CVs for additional support.

SAMPLE PUBLICATIONS AND/OR CREATIVE WORK (OPTIONAL)

Nominators may optionally include up to three (3) samples of publications and/or creative work that illustrate the nominee's excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity, and innovation. Nominators must ensure that all links are accessible to the Research & Innovation Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee for the duration of the adjudication process. Links requiring special permissions, logins, or institutional access should be avoided.

REQUIRED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR OUTSTANDING IMPACT AWARD

Nominations for the Outstanding Impact Award must include a minimum of two letters of support that speak directly to the significance, originality, and demonstrable impact of the contribution. At least one letter must be from an individual or organization external to the University of Windsor and should provide evidence of influence beyond the University community.

ADJUDICATION & ANNOUNCEMENT

Nomination dossiers will be reviewed by the Research & Innovation Excellence Adjudication Committee. The Adjudication Committee will evaluate nomination dossiers and select recipients of awards. All decisions made by the Research & Innovation Excellence Awards Adjudication Committee will be considered final. All successful candidates and their nominators will be notified in writing of the decision by the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation.

Award recipients will be announced at the Research and Innovation Excellence Awards.

Special Honours & Awards Conferred by External Organizations

The University of Windsor recognizes faculty researchers who have received special honours and awards from external organizations for excellence in research, scholarship, creative activity and innovation.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NAMES

To be considered for recognition for awards and honours conferred by external organizations, the following information must be submitted through the **online submission form** no later than 11:59pm on the call deadline:

1. Name of Recipient
2. Title of Award or Honour
3. Name of External Organization that Conferred the Award or Honour
4. Date that Award or Honour was Conferred
5. Brief description of the Award or Honour
6. Links to the award website and public announcement

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation will review all submissions. Recognition may take different forms, including acknowledgment at the annual celebration or a formal congratulatory note from the Office. Recognition is reserved for honours and awards of national or international significance, as determined by the Office.

Link to Online Submission Form: https://uwindsor.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5cEUTsJSG4CIHVs

Patents

The University of Windsor recognizes faculty researchers who have been awarded patents for knowledge creation / intellectual property they have developed.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF NAMES

To be considered for recognition for patents awarded, the following information must be submitted through the **online submission form** no later than 11:59pm on the call deadline:

1. Name of Inventor
2. Name(s) of Co-Inventors
3. Name(s) of Student Inventors
4. Title of Patent
5. Patent Number
6. Patent Country
7. Date of Patent Award

Link to Online Submission Form: https://uwindsor.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5cEUTsJSG4CIHV5