

Postdoctoral Fellowships Program - 2019 Research Western

PROGRAM SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

1 OVERVIEW

Western's Postdoctoral Fellowships Program provides funding to the very best postdoctoral applicants, nationally and internationally, who will contribute positively to research excellence at the university and help advance Western's strategic research plan.

The Postdoctoral Fellowships Program's objectives are to:

- Attract top-tier postdoctoral talent, nationally and internationally;
- Develop their leadership potential; and
- Position them for success as tomorrow's research leaders.

Research Western, on behalf of the Vice-President (Research), invites applications from all eligible individuals for Western's Postdoctoral Fellowships Program. This program is funded by Western University and administered by Research Development & Services (RD&S).

1.1 Aims and Priorities

- **Research Excellence:** Promote outstanding research aligned with Western's strategic mission and values;
- **Recruitment:** Attract new top-tier postdoctoral talent (domestic and international) to Western;
- **Professional Development:** Provide recent PhD graduates with resources necessary to:
 - conduct outstanding research programs; and
 - develop the professional skills, knowledge, and abilities needed to lead and operate top-tier research programs and facilities as an independent researcher; and,
- **Collaboration:** Foster collaboration between Western's independent investigators across various disciplines through postdoctoral research, supervision, and training.

1.2 Value and Allocation

Up to 10 Fellowships are available on an annual basis. Research Western will award each fellow a maximum of \$45,200 over two years **in addition to** the funding already secured by the supervisor (Research Western Contribution is equivalent to \$20,000/year + 13% benefits for two years).

For an applicant to be eligible to apply for this fellowship opportunity, the applicant’s supervisor must confirm that a minimum* of \$45,200 has already been secured to fund the postdoctoral fellow (over two years). Sources of funding could include (but are not limited to) the following: grant money held by the supervisor and reserved for postdoctoral support, industry funding, departmental-level support, etc.

Note: As this funding is intended to allow recipients to conduct research-intensive projects, **remuneration for teaching (or teaching assistance) cannot be included as a component** of the supervisor’s committed support for the postdoctoral fellow.

The combination of the award from Research Western with the funds already secured by the supervisor and/or postdoctoral scholar will ensure successful applicants selected for funding receive a minimum of \$90,400 (over two years).

Minimum Supervisor Contribution:** *Research Western recognizes that the level of funding deemed competitive for attracting postdoctoral scholars may vary by discipline and may also vary annually within disciplines according to shifts in job market supply and demand. Supervisors are free to offer more than \$45,200 over the two-year period for their contribution to the funding of the postdoctoral scholar, if they have the funding to do so. **The Research Western contribution, however, is fixed: the maximum amount of funding that will be provided by Research Western is \$45,200 over two-years (even if the supervisor contributes more).

Allocation:

- **Up to five** fellowships are available to postdoctoral scholars whose **primary supervisor** is affiliated with a **Social Sciences and Humanities** faculty (Arts & Humanities, Education, Information & Media Studies, Law, Music, Ivey Business School, Health Sciences and Social Science);
- **Up to five** fellowships are available to postdoctoral fellows whose **primary supervisor** is affiliated with a **STEM** faculty (Engineering, Health Sciences, Science, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry); and
- **At least one of the fellowships awarded will be reserved** for outstanding individuals who will undertake high-quality research that has the potential of advancing excellence in Indigenous research (as outlined in Western’s [Indigenous Strategic Plan](#): Goal 4 – *Achieve Excellence in Indigenous Research & Scholarship*).

1.3 Guiding Principles:

The program seeks to support to the very best postdoctoral applicants nationally and internationally, while taking into consideration:

- ***Interdisciplinary Collaboration:*** Western is committed to supporting high-quality interdisciplinary collaborative research;
- ***Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI):*** Western is committed to supporting high-quality research projects involving designated groups that adhere to all relevant EDI principles, guidelines, and policies adopted by the university (see "Western's Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion" [Canada Research Chair Program – Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan](#)); and
- ***Promoting Indigenous Research:*** Western is committed to supporting high-quality research projects by and/or with Indigenous Peoples (as outlined in Western's [Indigenous Strategic Plan: Goal 4 - Achieve Excellence in Indigenous Research & Scholarship](#)) that use either community-engagement research methodology, or traditional disciplinary methodologies.

2 ADJUDICATION

Applications will be adjudicated by a committee appointed by the Vice-President (Research), and chaired, by an Associate Vice-President (Research). This committee will have broad and appropriate representation and be composed of research faculty from a variety of departments and faculties.

The committee will implement all relevant principles of Western's [EDI Action Plan](#) to the evaluation of all applications. Additionally, review of proposals including research by, or with, Indigenous peoples will ensure compliance with the Government of Canada's Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics guidelines published in [TCPS 2 - Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#).

The committee will also make sure that all proposals follow [The First Nations Principles of OCAP](#).

3 ELIGIBILITY

- The applicant's supervisor must confirm that a minimum* of \$45,200 has already been secured to fund the postdoctoral fellow (over two years). Sources of funding could include (but are not limited to) the following: grant money held by the supervisor and reserved for postdoctoral support, industry funding, departmental-level support, etc. **Note:** As this funding is intended to allow recipients to conduct research-intensive projects, **remuneration for teaching (or teaching assistance) cannot be included as a component** of the supervisor's committed support for the postdoctoral fellow.
- The applicant's PhD must have been granted (official convocation/graduation date) **after August 31, 2015 and** before the starting date of the Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- People who received their PhD *before August 31, 2015* and who have experienced circumstances that have affected their research projects, professional career, or academic achievement since receiving their PhD are also eligible to apply. Such applicants will have to provide additional details outlining the nature and dates of these circumstances.
 - Relevant circumstances may include: parental leave, child-rearing, illness, disability, cultural or community responsibilities, socioeconomic context, or health-related family responsibilities.
- People who received their PhD from Western University are **not** eligible to apply. (*If they received an undergraduate and/or Master's degree from Western and their PhD from another institution, they are eligible to apply.*)
- People who currently hold a postdoctoral position at Western or have previously held a postdoctoral position at Western are **not** eligible to apply. Applicants are considered to "currently hold a postdoctoral position at Western" if they are registered as postdoctoral scholars with the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) at Western before the application deadline for this competition.
- All PhD requirements must have been met by the start date of the award.
- Applicants **cannot** currently hold a permanent faculty position, or a faculty position leading to permanency.
- Successful applicants **cannot** hold a postdoctoral position at another institution for the duration of this award. Applicants holding postdoctoral positions at another institution, if successful, will be expected to have formally ended such affiliations before the start date of this award.
- Applicants must secure written commitment of a qualified faculty member at Western who has the expertise, experience, and capacity to act as the Principal Supervisor of the Postdoctoral Scholar and their proposed project (see instructions for the "Supervisor's Statement" attachment on the application form). Supervisors must also hold a research-eligible position at Western.
- Applicants who are not Canadian citizens will be required to secure all necessary permits, visas, or documentation required by all relevant jurisdictions. More information can be found on Western's [School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies](#)' website.

4 **SUBMISSIONS**

All applications require:

- The **Principal Supervisor** (in consultation with the Postdoctoral Applicant) to submit a Western University ROLA proposal that is:
 - Complete (i.e., all relevant fields are populated including the fields for identifying the source of the required matching funds);
 - Consistent with the application form; and
 - Approved by all relevant parties through the ROLA proposal system.
- The **Postdoctoral Applicant** (in consultation with the Principal Supervisor) is to submit (by email to intgrant@uwo.ca) a *Postdoctoral Fellowships Program* application form that is:
 - Complete; and,
 - Consistent with the ROLA proposal;

Research Development & Services, in consultation with an Associate Vice-President (Research), reserves the right to exclude from competition any submissions that are incomplete or inconsistent. Excluded applications will not be presented to reviewers for consideration.

All applications must be received **no later than February 8, 2019 at 14:00 (Eastern)**. Email application materials to intgrant@uwo.ca No late submissions will be accepted.

5 **PROJECT TIME PERIOD**

- Funding for successful applications will begin **as early as September 1, 2019 and no later than January 1, 2020**. Funding will last for a period of two years from the mutually agreed upon start date falling within this time-period.

6 **FINAL REPORTS**

- Within six months of the award's termination, awardees must email a final report to RD&S at intgrant@uwo.ca
- Final report forms are available to download from:
<http://www.uwo.ca/research/funding/internal/index.html>

7 **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications will be evaluated and ranked based on the following three criteria*:

1. **Demonstrated and potential research excellence and leadership**
2. **Quality of applicant's proposed research program**
3. **Demonstrated synergy between applicant and supervisor's research program**

For more detailed information about the three criteria and to see the suggested considerations for each criterion provided to the reviewers who will be scoring the applications, please see the sample *Peer Review Form* available on the website for this funding opportunity.

**These criteria are based (with modification) on those outlined for the [Banting Postdoctoral Scholarship](#).*