

## KILLAM ACCELERATOR RESEARCH AWARD

### Terms of reference and application process

The Killam Accelerator Research Award was established in November 2018 - funded from the generous Izaak Walton and Dorothy Killam bequest - to address the needs of an under-served group of researchers that merits targeted investment. The award is granted on a competitive basis to early career faculty members who are within six (6) years of having taken up their first tenure track appointment, and who would normally just have received tenure and been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. The Killam Accelerator Research Award is for a three-year term based on the outstanding promise shown by the faculty member in their research output and the impact of their scholarly activity. **The Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) recognizes that early career faculty members have been particularly affected by COVID-19 restrictions and as a result, the eligibility period for the 2021 award is being extended by one year. Nominees must be within seven (7) years of having taken up their first tenure track appointment in order to be eligible for the 2021 award.**

Beginning in 2019, two new Killam Accelerator Research Awards will be awarded annually, and the maximum number of Killam Accelerator Research Awards at any one time in the institution shall not exceed six. The awards are funded from the Killam General Endowment and have a value of \$75,000 per year. These funds may be used for any justifiable research-related expenses (e.g., salary/benefits for research personnel, research travel, direct research expenses (e.g., lab expenses), small equipment, dissemination of research results, etc.). End date extensions will not be approved; any unspent funds at the end of the award must be returned to source.

The duties of Killam Accelerator Research Award recipients are no different from those that they regularly perform as faculty members.

#### Eligibility

Nominees must be within seven (7) years of having taken up their first tenure track appointment (on or after June 4, 2014), and would normally have just received tenure and been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor. Nominees must have established a strong research record and demonstrate outstanding promise as a researcher.

The Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) will consider extending the eligibility period for individuals whose academic careers have been interrupted (e.g., parental or maternity leave, etc.) on a case-by-case basis.

Two principal criteria for nominee assessment are:

1. Quality of the individual's research; **and**
2. Impact of their research on the advancement of the discipline; both to date and its future potential.

Teaching shall not constitute part of the evaluation except for graduate teaching and supervision relevant to the nominee's research.

#### Selection process

The award is adjudicated by a committee chaired by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation). The committee includes the Associate Vice-Presidents (Research) and six members from the University's research community who are suitably representative of the diversity that exists across the institution.

## Application process

Faculties should nominate candidates keeping in mind the equity, diversity and inclusion principles in the [University of Alberta Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity](#) and the [Dimensions Charter](#). Each Faculty is entitled to submit one nomination.

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

- Statement describing procedures followed in generating the nomination, including the EDI policies followed during selection.
- Statement why nominee qualifies for the award, emphasizing their contributions to and impact on the discipline. Impact statements should include both Knowledge Mobilization/Knowledge Transfer as well as Academic impacts. Include a paragraph on the nominee's contributions to equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Letter of recommendation from the Dean.
- Summary, for a multidisciplinary audience, of nominee's three most important publications, creative works and/or scholarly contributions. In the summary, include complete citation of the publication, creative work and/or scholarly contribution, and nominee's role. Please limit each summary to a maximum of one page. **DO NOT include copies of the publications, creative works and/or scholarly contributions with the nomination package.**
- Brief one page statement by the nominee describing the significance and potential impact of his/her scholarly work and immediate research plans and **how the Killam Accelerator Award would make a difference in undertaking that research and broadening that impact.**
- A short biography of each external assessor for the selection committee's information
- Reference letters from two external assessors in the nominee's field. **Assessors should be experts outside the University of Alberta with no close collegial or trainee link to the nominee.** Letters should address the nominee's suitability in terms of the Award's criteria.
- Current curriculum vitae listing publication authorship, creative works and/or scholarly contributions as the authorship appears in print (i.e., for multiple-author publications, nominee's name shall appear in the correct sequence).

Letters of reference will be received by the University of Alberta in confidence. Except under limited and specific circumstances, the University will maintain the reference letters in confidence.

## Deadline and submission

The deadline for nominations is **4:00 p.m., Friday June 4, 2021**. Please submit the nomination as a single PDF to Leslie Parsad at [parsad@ualberta.ca](mailto:parsad@ualberta.ca).

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 not to make an award in that year or to seek for additional nominations of excellent candidates from equity-deserving groups.

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