

PETRO-CANADA EMERGING INNOVATOR AWARDS

Terms of reference and application process

The Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Awards recognize, promote and support 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.

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 the Alberta School of Business, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, and Faculty of Science 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 February 5, 2013 to be eligible.

If a full-time faculty member from the above faculties completed his or her 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 February 5, 2017 to be eligible.

Selection process

A committee chaired by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation), or designate, will select the Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award recipient. The committee will also include the deans of the eligible faculties (or designates), plus a representative from Suncor Energy Inc.

- Preference may be given to faculty members conducting research in areas directly related to Suncor Energy Inc.'s business.
- Award must be used for an innovative research project described in the application.
- Adjudication committee will report its selection to Suncor Energy Inc.
- Each recipient will submit a report to Suncor Energy Inc. within two years of receiving the award describing how funds were expended and the status of the research, including how the project enriched the learning environment and contributed to a specific area of society or to society at large. Reports should be sent to Leslie Parsad at parsad@ualberta.ca.
- Award administration is handled internally by the university.
- Selection criteria are based on academic achievement and specifically related to the overall research promise of the individual, quality of the proposal, and impact associated with the research.
- Ethics and/or environmental approval for the proposed research is mandatory.

Application process

Applicants should provide the following:

- Written proposal identifying Project Description, Budget, and Budget Justification (maximum 3 single-spaced typed pages, font size 10 or greater). Applicants 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 Sex and Gender Based Analysis Plus (SGBA+) in research has the potential to increase the rigour and usefulness of the research.
- Current curriculum vitae in a Generic CCV format
- Statement of support for project from the department Chair that includes a description of how the proposed project is innovative in its field and the impacts of the research both nationally and internationally.
- Statement of how this nominee's research program contributes to equity, diversity or inclusion in the discipline, university or broader community.

Submit application to the dean of the applicant's faculty. Deans may bring forward up to three nominations from their faculty for consideration by the adjudication committee each year. In choosing nominations to bring forward, faculties should keep in mind the equity, diversity and inclusion principles in the University of Alberta [Strategic Plan for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity](#) and the [Dimensions Charter](#).

The award will be effective from April 1 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.

All conditions on grants (for example, ethics approval) must be cleared within 3 (three) months from the award date, unless an exemption from this requirement is sought and obtained from the Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation). If this requirement is not met, the award is forfeited.

Recognition

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

Deadline

Applications are due to the Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) by **4:30 p.m. MST on Friday, February 5, 2021**. Faculty deadlines may be earlier. Please submit the PDF application package to Leslie Parsad at 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 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.