Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award
Terms of reference and application process

The Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award recognizes, promotes and supports 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 any faculty 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 May 5, 2015 to be eligible.

If a full-time faculty member completed their 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 May 5, 2019 to be eligible.

Selection Process

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 to seek additional nominations of excellent candidates from equity-deserving groups.

A committee chaired by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation), or designate, will select the Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award recipient. The Committee will include members from the University’s research community who are suitably representative of the diversity that exists across the institution plus a representative from Suncor Energy Inc. (when and if possible).

Selection criteria are based on academic achievement and specifically related to the overall research promise of the individual, quality of the proposal, impact associated with the research, the individual’s commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, and engagement to the community.

Grant Administration

Award administration is handled internally by the University of Alberta. The OVPRI will report its selection to Suncor Energy Inc. prior to publicly announcing award recipients.

Awards must be used for the innovative research project described in the application and funding must be spent on the items listed in the proposed budget. Ethics and Environmental approval for the proposed research, if required, must be in place prior to release of any funding.

Each recipient is required to submit a one-page final report within three months of the project end date describing how funds were expended, how the project enriched the learning environment, and how the project contributed to
a specific area of society or to society at large. Reports should be sent to Leslie Parsad at parsad@ualberta.ca.

Application Process
Applicants should provide the following:

- Written proposal identifying Project Description, Budget, and Budget Justification (maximum 6 double-spaced typed pages, font size 12 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 Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) in research has the potential to increase the rigour and usefulness of the research.
- Current curriculum vitae
- Statement of support for project from the department chair (or dean from a non-departmentalized Faculty) 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.
- Statement of Community Engagement of how the applicant engages with the community at large, both in terms of research focus/methodology and personal engagements.

Submit application to the dean of the applicant's faculty. Deans may bring forward up to two nominations from their faculty for consideration by the adjudication committee each year. 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, the Dimensions Charter, the Scarborough Charter and the Indigenous Strategic Plan.

The award will be effective 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 OVPRI. 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.
- Suncor Energy Inc. must 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 OVPRI by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2023. Faculty deadlines may be earlier. Please submit the PDF application package to Leslie Parsad at parsad@ualberta.ca.

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