

Research Excellence Chairs Program 2023

Description

Ontario Tech University has established a Research Excellence Chairs Program to recognize and retain outstanding researchers at Ontario Tech University. The program has two streams and is designed to enable researchers to complete a major research program or project. Further, the program is meant to emphasize the importance of research at Ontario Tech in strategic areas, while highlighting and promoting the outstanding achievements of our scholars and the university's commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI).

Value of Award

Up to \$15,000 per year of the award.

Number of Awards and Criteria

The number of Chairs that the Vice-President, Research, and Innovation (VPRI) will support is dependent on available funding.

Eligibility

The program is open to researchers from all disciplines. Current Research Excellence Chairholders are only eligible to apply in their final year.

- **Stream 1 (Transform):** Open to previous Chairholders, including, Canada Research Chairs, Industrial Research Chairs and those who have been awarded and completed an Ontario Tech University Research Excellence Chair.
- **Stream 2 (Ignite):** Open to all Tenured and Tenure-Track (TTT) faculty members at Ontario Tech University.

Term of the Award:

- **Stream 1 (Transform):** Term of the award is three years, renewable based on performance and available funding.
- **Stream 2 (Ignite):** Term of the award is two years, non-renewable.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Focus

We encourage participation and representation from persons in the federally recognized Four Designated Groups (FDGs), which include women, Indigenous persons, persons with disabilities and racialized scholars, and members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion will guide the application and adjudication process.

Recognition

The Ontario Tech University Research Excellence Chairs Program recipients will be honored at an

appreciation ceremony highlighting the scholarly accomplishments of the recipient.

Use of Funds

Funds may be used to support the following eligible expenditures:

- Teaching release
 - **Stream 1:**
 - With Dean's approval, up to 2 courses (or 50%) of normal teaching load in their home Faculty.
 - **Stream 2:**
 - With Dean's approval, up to 2 courses (or 50%) of normal teaching load in their home Faculty.
- Salary support for trainees
- Travel and subsistence
- Equipment and research supplies
- Dissemination of research results
- Create an equitable, diverse, and inclusive research environment
- Note: Funds are to be used in accordance with the Ontario Tech University internal use of funds policy. Extensions will not be approved unless under exceptional circumstances.

Deadlines

Program Launch: March 27, 2023

Full Application: May 12, 2023

Decisions: June 2023

Start Date of Award: July 1, 2023

How to Apply

STEP 1: SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL APPLICATION (May 12, 2023)

Prepare the following for submission to the Office of Research Services:

1. Curriculum Vitae (no page limit):

- Curriculum Vitae in a Tri-Agency accepted format. The CCV is limited to the past 6 years only.
 - **Note re: Delays and Leaves.** Applicants can describe here any delays or career interruptions due to maternity/parental leave; extended sick leave (personal illness, chronic illness, mental illness); disability associated with reduced research activity; clinical training; leave taken for family-related illness; bereavement; extraordinary administrative duties; and delays related to COVID-19. To account for delays/leaves, applicants with eligible delays/leaves may extend the CCV timeframe for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave.
 - **Note re: Conventions in The Discipline.** Forms of research publications/contributions and methods can vary greatly among disciplines. Given that the nomination will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary adjudication committee that includes researchers who may not have direct expertise in the nominee's field, clearly explain the conventions in the nominee's discipline, to allow informed

assessment of the nominee's research contributions by a variety of experienced researchers. Describe the following:

- the publication conventions in the nominee's discipline(s) (i.e., what is the primary method for sharing research (journals, books, conferences), what is the typical rate of publication?);*
- the choice of venues for the dissemination of the nominee's research results (nominee may wish to indicate a publication strategy, such as focus on open access, top journals, regional journals, specialized journals, etc.);*
- the citation conventions for the discipline(s) (e.g., senior author first in multi-authored publications; typical to publish jointly or as a sole author);*
- the publication conventions in the discipline(s) as they relate to students and trainees (i.e., do students typically publish with supervisor and if so, where in the author order would the student go compared to supervisor, etc.);*
- the particularities and/or challenges involved in the publication of interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary research results, if applicable; and*
- the particularities and/or challenges involved in the publication or gathering of data for community-based or Indigenous research, if applicable.*

2. Most Significant Research Contributions – Describe 3-5 of your most significant contributions to research and/or to practical applications over the last 6 years. Applicants with eligible leaves of absence may include contributions from their most recent active research period prior to the last 6 years for a period equivalent to the duration of the leave).

- **Note re: Research Contributions:** *Some examples of research contributions include, but are not limited to: books, chapters of books, articles, monographs, memoirs, special papers, review articles, conference/symposia proceedings and abstracts, patents, copyrights, products, services, technology transfer, creative or artistic works (including individual or collective literary or artistic works such as novels, short stories, poetry, films, videos, visual art, booklets, records, sound creation, collections, exhibition catalogues, etc.), government publications, book reviews by the nominee or published reviews of his/her work, research reports, papers presented at scholarly meetings or conferences, and other forms of written scholarly expression or participation in public discourse and debate that constitute a contribution to research. Please indicate when the contributions are peer reviewed.*

3. Research Chair Title and Research Project Summary (250 words):

- Chair title and research project summary:
 - Provide a 250-word summary, written in lay language, describing the uniqueness and importance of the proposed research program. In addition, provide the context for your research, situating it within your field. The summary will be used for publicity purposes.

4. Research Funding Plan and description of nominee's expected contribution to research leadership (1 page):

- Outline your proposed research funding plan, describing how you will leverage your Chair to secure new research funding (Tri-Agency and/or other) and over the term of your Chair.
- Describe how the nominee will exhibit leadership in promoting the overall development of scholarship, research, and creative activities at Ontario Tech University that extends beyond their personal research programs.

5. Description of the Proposed Research Program (5 pages, excluding references)

- In clear, plain, non-specialist language, the nominee (with support from the Faculty) must propose an original and innovative research program that will be undertaken over the two-year term of the Chair.
 - Suggested headings and content for the description of the proposed research program
 - *Objectives*: Briefly state the explicit objectives of the proposed research program.
 - *Context*: Explain what makes the research program original, innovative and of the highest quality. Situate the proposed research within the context of the relevant scholarly literature. Explain the anticipated contribution of the research program to the existing body of knowledge in research.
 - *Methodology*: Describe the proposed research strategies and key activities, including methodological approaches and procedures for data collection and analysis that will be used to achieve the stated objectives. Indicate how SBGA+ considerations have informed the research design, or it not, provide a rationale as to why no aspect of the proposed research would benefit from such an analysis.
 - *Engagement with research users and communication of results*: Describe, if applicable, how research users will be engaged during the various stages of the research program. Describe how the research results will be disseminated.
 - *Description of proposed training strategies*: Describe the training strategies that have been and/or will be used to attract excellent students (e.g., doctoral, masters, undergraduate) and trainees to the University.
 - *List of References*: Attach a list of all references cited in the proposed research program.

6. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan (2 pages)

- Suggested headings and content include the following:
 - **A Personal EDI statement (optional)** to discuss their personal journey and circumstances that may help contextualize the nomination. The nominee may choose to provide a personal EDI statement to discuss their personal journey and circumstances that may help contextualize their nomination. This may include (but is not limited to) disclosing their status as a member of an equity-deserving group, such as women, racialized scholars, persons with disabilities, Indigenous People, 2SLGBTQ+ community members, linguistic minorities, or as scholars who have experienced circumstances such as poverty, significant caring responsibilities, being a newcomer or a first-generation graduate, or other circumstances that create barriers and challenges to access, opportunities or resources.
 - **An Analysis of the Context** to provide the EDI context of the nominee's team in respect of their relevant systems (e.g., Faculty diversity, field diversity, national diversity). Highlight key needs that were elucidated from their analysis of context.
 - **How the nominee supports and builds equity, diversity and inclusion within Ontario Tech University**, the Faculty and within their research program.
Describe:
 - *At least one EDI strategy the nominee will enact that will support the diversity of their team composition and recruitment processes*
 - *At least one EDI strategy the nominee will enact to support training and development of their team.*
 - *At least one EDI strategy that the nominee will enact to support an inclusive environment for the team.*

References to Support the EDI Action Plan

- [*Best Practices in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Research*](#)
- [*NSERC guide on integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in research*](#)
- [*Gender-based Analysis Plus \(GBA Plus\)*](#)
- [*Equity, Diversity and Inclusion – CIHR Guide*](#)

7. Budget and Justification (1 page): Budget plan and justification.

Prepare your documents following the requirements below:

- Explain any acronyms and abbreviations fully;
- Pages must be 8 ½" x 11";
- Pages must be single-spaced, with no more than six lines of type per inch;
- All text must be in 12 pt. font;
- Margins must be set at a minimum of ¾";
- Pages must be numbered sequentially.

STEP 2: SUBMISSION OF FULL APPLICATION (May 12, 2023)

- Submit one complete electronic copy containing all requirements (one PDF file) to raluca.dubrowski@ontariotechu.ca.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee will use the evaluation criteria listed below and rate each criterion on a 5-point scale. Selection committee members will consider in their assessment the context of each applicant, as informed by the leaves of absence/delays; conventions in the discipline; and personal EDI statement.

Stream 1 nominees should:

- Be outstanding and innovative world-class researchers whose accomplishments while a chairholder have made a major impact(s) in their fields.
- Be recognized internationally as leaders in their fields.
- Have superior records of attracting and supervising graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (considering different practices in the relevant field or discipline) and as Chairholders, be expected to attract, develop and retain excellent trainees, students and future researchers.
- Demonstrate a commitment to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive research environment.
- Be proposing an original, innovative research program of the highest quality.
- Strong plan to secure external funding and provide leadership.

Stream 2 nominees should:

- Be excellent world-class researchers who have demonstrated particular research creativity.
- Have demonstrated the potential to achieve international recognition in their research fields.
- As a Chairholder, attract, develop, and retain excellent trainees, students and future researchers.
- Demonstrate a commitment to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive research environment.
- Be proposing an original, innovative research program of high quality.
- Strong plan to secure external funding and provide leadership.

Selection Committee

A multidisciplinary selection committee will be drawn from the Ontario Tech University Research Committee membership to adjudicate the nominations. Committee members will be selected by the Vice-President Research and Innovation, ensuring that there are no conflicts of interest. An EDI advisor will also be appointed to the selection committee by the Vice-President Research and Innovation. In addition, ad hoc reviewers will be added as required. The committee members will receive training on the potential negative impact of unconscious bias on the career paths of individuals from equity deserving groups. Notification of results will be sent to all applicants once decisions have been finalized. The Selection Committee will make funding recommendations to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation who will make the final decision. All decisions are final.

Funding Requirements

Selected Chairs will be required to:

- Give a public lecture during the tenure of the award; and,
- Provide a short annual report, to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, outlining the major accomplishments. Reports are due January 15 of each year.

Expectations of Chairs

There is an expectation on the part of the University that Research Excellence Chairs will exhibit leadership at Ontario Tech University that extends beyond their personal research programs. Thus, Stream 1 Chairs are expected to be active mentors within the University and disciplines, and to provide leadership in respect of major research initiatives, team-based research grants, and the development/operation of Organized Research Entities. Stream 2 Chairs are expected to contribute to, and participate in, similar activities in a manner that builds and develops their leadership skills over the period of their Chair.

All Research Excellence Chairs are expected to be highly active in the training of graduate and postdoctoral trainees, and to provide leadership in the development of graduate and postdoctoral training programs within their disciplines. Chairholders are also expected, as appropriate, to be sensitive to the importance of translating their scholarship, research findings and/or creative activities into tangible benefits to society, through the translation and mobilization of the knowledge developed through their scholarship, research, and service. As well, they are expected to foster a diverse, equitable and inclusive research environment. Recognizing that Ontario Tech University's external reputation and research standing depends, to an important degree, on our share of Tri-Agency funding, Research Excellence Chairs are expected to be active beneficiaries of Tri-Agency funding, and to seek out other funding opportunities as may be appropriate to their discipline.

Questions

Questions about the program can be directed to: raluca.dubrowski@ontariotechu.ca