

SGPS Graduate Student Leadership Award

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) established the Graduate Student Leadership Award in 2019 to recognize graduate students enrolled at Ontario Tech University who have displayed excellence in leadership.

Eligibility

The nominee should be enrolled as a graduate student in good standing at Ontario Tech. Nominees not selected to receive an Award may be nominated in a subsequent year. Previous recipients are not eligible to be nominated for a period of 2 years following the year in which they received the award.

Nomination process

Nomination packages may be submitted by any faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellow or currently enrolled graduate student. Nominations may not be completed by the nominee.

A complete nomination package will contain:

1. Completed nomination form.
2. Letter from the nominator(s) describing the leadership attributes of the graduate student as they pertain to the criteria outlined below. (maximum 2 pages)
3. Two letters of support from Ontario Tech students, colleagues or other community members who have closely interacted with the nominees in the past year. (maximum 2 pages).
4. Letter of support from the graduate supervisor/advisor, if different from the nominator, including a rationale as to why the nominee qualifies for the award. If the supervisor is the nominator, another faculty member may complete the letter of support (maximum 2 pages).
5. The nominee's abbreviated CV including a summary of relevant accomplishments, their academic qualifications and any awards or special recognitions. (maximum 3 pages)

Public recognition of the award

A maximum of one award will be presented annually. Each award consists of a recognition plaque from the Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The award will be publicly announced during the annual SGPS Excellence Awards ceremony.

Award Criteria

Excellence is broadly defined and judged on the quality of the nominee's contribution and commitment to Ontario Tech Community. Nominees should demonstrate **excellence** in **one or more** of the following areas:

1. Mentorship and guidance of undergraduate and graduate students;
2. Inspirational leadership that contributes to the prosperity and well-being of the University and the broader community;
3. Distinguished academic record;
4. Contributions and initiatives that enhance the Ontario Tech mission as it pertains to graduate education;
5. Significant community participation and volunteering.

Selection process

The selection committee will be chaired by the Dean of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies or designate. The committee will consist of at least three members, including one graduate faculty member, one graduate student (which may be the Graduate Studies Committee representative) and one full-time continuing staff member from outside SGPS. A member of SGPS will participate at committee meetings as a resource. Committee membership should include at least one of the previous award winners when available. The committee will review the nomination packages and recommend the recipient to the Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. All nominees will be notified of their nomination and invited to the SGPS Excellence Awards event for the announcement of the winner.

Nomination deadline

The award will normally be given out annually and will typically correspond to the SGPS Excellence awards cycle. As such, the submission deadline for application packages will normally be **the last week of May**. The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies will announce the submission dates as part of the call for nominations.

Nomination packages should be submitted via email to gradexcellenceawards@ontariotechu.ca