

# Memo

To: Associate Deans Research, ORU Research Directors  
Cc: Deans; Faculty Research Offices  
From: Dr. Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation  
Date: May 30, 2024  
Subject: The Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award

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## Introduction

Please find below information regarding the internal call for nominations for the 2024 Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award. This program results from a commitment by Petro-Canada (now Suncor Energy Inc.) and York University to encourage excellence in teaching and research that will enrich the learning environment and contribute to society. This information should be circulated to your respective Research Directors, Faculty Research Offices and faculty members.

## Award Amount and Eligibility

The \$7,500 award (provided in the form of a research grant) is intended to provide financial support for an outstanding new full-time faculty member who is beginning their academic career. For this year's award, all full-time faculty members who are no more than five years from having started their independent academic research career as of July 1, 2024, are eligible. For faculty members who have taken approved leaves for family, illness, etc., this eligibility window is extended by the same amount of time. This accommodation does not apply to sabbatical or other professional leaves. Independent academic appointments are defined as academic appointments where the nominee was able to independently publish, apply for research funding and supervise students.

## Nominations

Nominations are to be made through Associate Deans Research. A maximum of **two** nominations may be submitted by each Faculty. The Faculty should take equity, diversity and inclusion into consideration when soliciting internal nominations and evaluating research excellence.<sup>1</sup> The Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation will not accept nominations directly from nominees.

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<sup>1</sup> VPRI recommends that faculty members involved in developing and adjudicating the internal selection process undertake York's POLARIS training for Awards Adjudication to keep abreast of best practices for EDI for awards. <https://www.yorku.ca/research/project/polaris/>



Researchers may be awarded only one Petro-Canada Emerging Innovator Award during their career. However, researchers who are not successful may submit an application in a later competition, providing they continue to meet all eligibility requirements.

#### **Evaluation Criteria**

- The nominee's track record of research excellence
- The potential impact of the proposed research
- The strength of the nominee's plan to leverage the award for future external research funding
- Preference will be given to faculty who are conducting research in science, information technology, environmental studies or business

#### **Completed Nominations Include**

- 1) A research proposal that describes the nature of the research to be undertaken and its innovative nature, feasibility and potential for impact, activities that will be undertaken, how the funds will be used, and the plan to leverage the funds for larger scale funding in the near future. The future funding opportunity should be named. Equity, diversity and inclusion should be addressed in the research design and in the research practice, as applicable. (Four pages max)
- 2) A one-page biographical narrative that summarizes research accomplishments to date, including other awards and prizes, impact on training and teaching, the discipline and/or society. (Please do not submit a standard CV)

#### **Deadline**

Electronic copies of completed nominations are to be sent via email no later than noon on Monday, August 26, 2024 to [avogus@yorku.ca](mailto:avogus@yorku.ca).

#### **Adjudication Process**

Applications will be reviewed by the Major Awards Advisory Committee (MAAC), whose recommendations will inform the final decision by the Vice-President Research & Innovation (expected in October 2024).

#### **Reporting Requirements**

It is expected that funds will be spent as per the submitted budget and in sufficient time so as to allow for the award recipient to provide the Office of the Vice-President Research & Innovation with a brief summary report of research activities and expenditures by September 9, 2025. Please note that excerpts from this summary may be shared with Petro-Canada/Suncor.

#### **Contact**

For more information, please contact Abby Vogus, SIRI Specialist, Office of Research Services, at [avogus@yorku.ca](mailto:avogus@yorku.ca).