



OFFICE OF THE  
VICE-PRESIDENT,  
RESEARCH &  
INNOVATION

904 KANEFF TOWER  
4700 KEELE ST  
TORONTO ON  
CANADA M3J 1P3  
T 416 736-5479  
F 416 736-5512  
vpri@yorku.ca  
www.yorku.ca/research

# Memo

To: Associate Deans of Research

Cc: Deans, Faculty Research Offices

From: Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation

Date: January 15, 2025

Subject: **Nomination Support for 2026 Killam Prizes**

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Please find below information regarding the 2026 Call for Nominations for the [Killam Prizes](#) which recognize scholars of exceptional ability who are engaged in research of broad significance and widespread interest.

This information should be circulated to your respective Faculty Research Offices and faculty members to ensure their familiarity with the nomination process. Research Offices and interested nominators/nominees should check for updated nomination forms and guidelines on the [National Killam Program's](#) website after March 26, 2025, when the program is officially open.

## KILLAM PRIZES

The Killam Prizes honour active, distinguished Canadian scholars who have been engaged in research in universities, hospitals, research or scientific institutes, or other similar institutions and are making a significant impact in their respective fields. Valued at \$100,000 each, they are awarded annually on a competitive basis to distinguished Canadian scholars doing research in any of the following disciplines:

- humanities
- social sciences
- natural sciences
- health sciences
- engineering

Normally, one prize is awarded each year in each of the five disciplines.

## ELIGIBILITY

Killam Prizes are intended for active (not retired) Canadian scholars who have made a **substantial and distinguished contribution** to scholarly research over a **significant period of time**. It is not intended as an "end of service" reward, as recognition for one great accomplishment, or in expectation of future distinguished contributions.

Scholars may not apply for the Killam Prizes; they must be nominated by an **expert** in their field, a senior administrator at the nominee's institution or a third party representative of a learned society. The National Killam Program also welcomes nominations from leaders in research-based or community organizations who are familiar with the nominee's work.

Only Canadian citizens are eligible for this honour, and prizes are awarded only to living candidates.

Applications from women and members of under-represented groups are particularly encouraged.

Individual nominations may encompass multiple categories, but an individual may only be awarded the Killam Prize in one category and no individual may be awarded a Killam Prize more than once.

#### **ASSESSMENT OF NOMINATIONS**

Peer evaluation is fundamental to the decision-making process. The multidisciplinary selection committee will select prize recipients by evaluating the merit of nominations within a national context. Prizes will be offered to those candidates considered outstanding by the committee.

The following points will figure prominently in the selection of candidates considered for the Killam Prize:

- **Relevance** – Exceptional quality of the candidate’s research record achieved in line with the Killam values and including candidate’s outstanding commitment, creativity and efforts to share research beyond the academic community. The Killam values are research excellence, innovation, humanity and multidisciplinary research (33.3%).
- **Impact** – Contribution of the candidate’s ideas and research results to Canadian society, including the nation’s intellectually and/or cultural life; as well as mentorship and international stature where appropriate (33.3%).
- **Merit** – Quality of the candidate’s research record and scope of the candidate’s research contributions taking into account the norms of the field of study (33.3%).

#### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

The Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives (SIRI) unit is available to support nominations upon request. Nominees and nominators will work with the SIRI Specialist and Faculty-based research support personnel (as appropriate) to prepare the full nomination package for submission. As such, **nominees are asked to notify Abby Vogus, SIRI Specialist at [avogus@yorku.ca](mailto:avogus@yorku.ca) as soon as possible** of their intent to pursue a Killam Prize.

All York nominees may take advantage of peer review from the Major Awards Advisory Committee (MAAC), meeting the timeline set out below. SIRI can also arrange for a peer review of the draft nomination package utilizing support from University Canada’s Global Excellence Initiative, if desired.

All nominees pursuing a nomination should inform their Faculty Research Office, even if not accessing available support from the Faculty or SIRI.

Full nominations include:

- A signed letter of nomination (maximum of **1,000 words in English or 1,200 words in French**) that provides a brief, plain-language summary of the nature of the nominee’s research, details on the nominee’s distinguished contributions to

scholarly research, and a rationale as to why the nominee is an outstanding candidate for the Killam Prize.

- A biography for the nominee, summarizing the candidate’s education, distinguished research achievements, current research interests, and honours or awards received (maximum of **500 words in English or 650 words in French**).
- The nominee’s curated curriculum vitae (maximum **30 pages in English or 36 pages in French**) including information on all publications and presentations, grants and other fellowships received, awards and/or international recognition.
- A **maximum of three original, signed** letters from experts, within or outside Canada, supporting the nomination (maximum of **1,000 words in English or 1,200 words in French**).

#### RELEVANT DEADLINES

DATE	MILESTONE
March 17, 2025	Faculties to request support for nominations
April 7, 2025	Draft of materials due for MAAC Review
May 22, 2025	Full nomination and signed ORS Checklist due to ORS
May 29, 2025	Submission deadline

#### CONTACT

For further information, please contact:

Abby Vogus, SIRI Specialist

Office of Research Services

Email: [avogus@yorku.ca](mailto:avogus@yorku.ca)