SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators

From: Sarah Pickering, Postdoctoral Administrative Officer

CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Yana Yunusova, Acting Vice-Dean, Students; Emma Thacker, Acting Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid

Date: May 5, 2023

Re: **2023-24 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program**

Award Overview

Applicant deadline for submission to Faculties:	**Date set by Faculty Research Offices.** Applicants should refer to the **table** at end of this announcement for their deadline date to submit to their Faculty for internal review
Faculty nomination deadline to SGS:	August 28, 2023 (Not for applicants - Faculties submit their endorsements to SGS by this date).
Letter of endorsement made available:	September 8, 2023 (to successful nominees)
Nominee ResearchNet submission deadline:	**September 20, 2023 8:00 p.m. (EDT)**
Required Legal Status:	Domestic and International
Results:	Mid-February 2024 directly from Banting

Purpose

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program is intended **to attract and retain top-tier postdoctoral talent**, both nationally and internationally; develop their leadership potential; and position them for success as research leaders of tomorrow, positively contributing to Canada's economic, social, and research-based growth through a research-intensive career.

Seventy fellowships are awarded annually, divided evenly between Canada's three federal granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC). There are a total of 140 awards active at any one time.

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program is unique in its emphasis on the synergy of research goals and projects between the following:

- **Applicant** – individual merit and potential to launch a successful research-intensive career

- **Host Institution** – commitment to the research program and alignment with the institution's strategic priorities

Eligibility to Apply

Applicants and the proposed host institution must meet specific eligibility criteria within several categories. Applications that do not meet all of the eligibility criteria will not be accepted. (view complete eligibility requirements on the Banting website)

1. **Applicant eligibility:**

   (a) **Citizenship and location of host institution**

   (b) **Eligibility window for degree completion** - Applicants to the 2023-24 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program must fulfill or have fulfilled all degree requirements for a PhD, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree between September 15, 2020 and September 30, 2024 (inclusively), and before the start date of their award.

   Note: Applicants who have not fulfilled all requirements for their degree at the time of application must submit proof no later than October 15, 2024.

   For applicants who have completed more than one PhD, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree, the eligibility window applies to the most recent of these degrees.

2. **Host institution eligibility**

3. **Other eligibility restrictions**

*To review all new program items and important reminders, please see the 2023-24 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship competition launch memo.

Endorsement Process

Given the limited number of fellowships awarded annually, universities are encouraged to carefully consider and **support only the highest quality applicants** from both Canada and abroad. In keeping with the aim of attracting postdoctoral fellows to Canada, units are encouraged to endorse new foreign candidates. In addition, careful consideration must be given to ensure EDI principles are part of the endorsement process. U of T Faculty Research Offices receive allocations and are therefore limited in the number of applications they may put forth for endorsement by the School of Graduate Studies.

Applicants must be nominated by their Faculty (e.g., Faculty of Arts and Science) to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to receive the endorsement of the University. Supervisors wishing to support a candidate's application must contact their affiliated Faculty Research Office to inquire about the Faculty's internal deadline, application and selection process (see Faculty contact info under "Contacts & Resources" section). Applications submitted outside of the affiliated Faculty competition and therefore without the official endorsement of Dean of Graduate Studies will be deemed ineligible by the Banting Secretariat.

Fulfillment of Degree Form: University of Toronto graduates who wish to pursue their postdoctoral fellowship at another institution must apply through their proposed host institution, abiding to their internal selection process and deadlines. The School of Graduate Studies will sign the Fulfillment of Degree Requirements Form for the candidate (candidate must complete the form before sending to SGS for signature), who must request it by email from the Postdoctoral Fellows Office. Please include your UofT student number in the email request.

Those who have not completed their degree requirements yet are asked to submit the form to their graduate unit for completion.

**Faculty of Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) - Please note: Each affiliated hospital will hold its own competition as well. Their competitions are separate from Faculty of Medicine (via GLSE) and may have a different deadline and application process. Applicants will need to decide where to apply because it will determine where the award will be held and paid from (if successful).

Selection Criteria

Applications received by Banting will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria. Applicants, supervisors, departments, and faculties are encouraged to consider these criteria when developing their applications and when selecting nominees to be forwarded:

1. **Research excellence and leadership in the research domain** - demonstrated capacity for research excellence based on track record as defined by quality of applicant's research contributions and demonstrated capacity for leadership in the research domain defined by the sphere of influence achieved to date by the applicant.

2. **Quality of the applicant's proposed research program** - examined in terms of the potential of the proposed research program (taking into consideration feasibility, timelines and novelty of research), executed in the proposed institutional environment, to position the applicant for significant impact through a research-intensive career (potential for significant impact).

3. **Institutional commitment and demonstrated synergy between applicant and institutional strategic priorities** – examined in terms of:

   o demonstrated commitment of institution to support the development of the applicant's research and leadership capacity through institutional support (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development; and

   o demonstrated alignment and synergy between the applicant's research ambitions and the institution's potential to benefit strategically from its engagement with the applicant (alignment with institution's strategic priorities)

See the Banting Postdoctoral Fellows Selection Committee Guide for further information.

Application Process [see Application Guide]

1. The Banting application is initiated by the applicant through the ResearchNet Application System with the CV data components created using the Common CV system.

2. Applicants intending to take up the fellowship at the University of Toronto should first contact their fellowship supervisor to request the support of their application and if granted, inquire about the specific nomination/selection process and associated deadlines implemented by their Faculty Research Office. **The University of Toronto does not have access to applications on ResearchNet**. Therefore, candidates may be asked to submit a copy of their entire application, including a copy of the confidential online referee assessment forms to their Faculty Research Office.

3. Applicants must be nominated by their Faculty (e.g., Faculty Arts and Science) to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to receive the endorsement of the University. Those nominated to SGS will be issued a Letter of Endorsement signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies necessary to complete the online application process at least one week before the ResearchNet deadline date. Only applications endorsed by the Dean of Graduate Studies will be accepted by the Banting Secretariat.

4. Nominees must also obtain (from the institution that conferred their degree) a Fulfillment of Degree Requirements Form and attach this completed document to their online application.

   Applicants who require the Fulfillment of Degree Requirements Form document from U of T must complete the form and send to the Postdoctoral Fellows Office **before September 1, 2023**. *Applicants must include their UofT student number when emailing their request*

5. Candidates are responsible for uploading all required documents to ResearchNet to complete the application and submission process. Only the referee assessment forms are to be completed and submitted online by the referees. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all components of the application are complete (including references) and the application is submitted via ResearchNet by the deadline of September 20, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. (EDT).**

Important Application Reminders:

Eligible referees
An assessment cannot be completed by the proposed supervisor unless that person is currently your supervisor or has been your supervisor in the past.

Mandatory arm's length referee
All applications must have <u>at least one arm's length referee</u> from among the three invited referees. **(**see Application Guide-Task 8).

The arm's length referee <u>cannot</u> be:
- a relative, friend, or anyone else with whom the applicant has a personal relationship;
- in a position to benefit from the funding of the application;
- affiliated with the applicant's current and/or proposed institution(s);
- affiliated with the proposed supervisor, either personally or professionally; or
- professionally affiliated with the applicant (currently, in the past, or in the immediate future), as a result of but not limited to:
    - being the applicant's supervisor or trainee,
    - collaborating, publishing, or sharing funding with the applicant.

Essentially, they must have no real or perceived vested interest in the success of the application. Therefore, the greater the distance between the applicant and the arm's length referee, the better.

This is a mandatory requirement. The absence of an arm's length assessment could therefore adversely affect the review of the application.

Supervisor's statement (support from institutions)
Given the competitive nature of the Banting PDF program and its role as a premier postdoctoral program in Canada, it is very important that institutions clearly outline the support that will be provided to the applicant. The supervisor should explain how this support goes above and beyond what is offered to regular postdoctoral researchers. Furthermore, the support should be reasonable and appropriate to the institution and should meet the applicant's needs and the requirements of the proposed research (see Application Guide-Task 10).

Postdoctoral researchers must complete the Banting End of Award Report, which includes follow-up questions to confirm whether the support outlined in the application was granted to them during their award.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The Banting PDF program encourages equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), as part of the Tri-Agency's broader commitment to excellence in research and research training in Canada. EDI considerations must be taken into account throughout the Banting PDF competition, including during the selection committee member recruitment process and during the selection, endorsement, and review processes of an application.

The EDI page of the Banting PDF website provides guidelines and resources geared towards applicants, host institutions, referees, and reviewers and readers, and addressing the following topics: research respectfully involving Indigenous communities; reducing unconscious bias; and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion more generally. An important component ensuring EDI in our selection process is the careful consideration to each applicant's career interruptions and personal circumstances. The review of applicant's track record will take into consideration the availability of research and leadership opportunities. **Applicants are thus encouraged to identify any circumstances that might have delayed or interrupted their academic and/or career advancement (if applicable) in the Special Circumstances attachment of their application.**

Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)
The Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council are committed to excellence in research and research training. Achieving a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding, and to respond to local, national and global challenges. Learn more about Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

At the University of Toronto, we strive to be an equitable and inclusive community, rich with diversity, protecting the human rights of all persons, and based upon understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of every person. We seek to ensure to the greatest extent possible that all students and employees enjoy the opportunity to participate as they see fit in the full range of activities that the University offers, and to achieve their full potential as members of the University community.

Program News

New: **San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)**
The three federal granting councils have signed the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), a global initiative whose purpose is to support the development and promotion of best practices in the assessment of scholarly research. As signatories of DORA, the agencies recognize and value a broad range of contributions and emphasize their quality and impact.

Applicant and peer review guidance has been aligned with DORA recommendation. Applications can highlight a range of contributions in their applications. Reviewers are asked to assess research excellence broadly (i.e., not just based on publication) and to avoid using journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impart Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research publications.

Contacts & Resources

U of T nomination/selection process: SGS Banting webpage
See Faculty Research Office contact information (see table below)
        Banting Program information: see website
        Banting PDF Review Process (Overview and Selection Committees Guide)
School of Graduate Studies Contact:
Sarah Pickering, Postdoctoral Fellows Office
sgs.postdoc@utoronto.ca   416-946-5254

Applicant Deadlines to Faculties

For the most up to date deadlines, visit the SGS Awards - Banting webpage.

Faculty	Faculty deadline for Banting applications (Expected month – contact faculty admin directly to confirm); current as of May 2023	Application Submission and point of contact for applicants and supervisors:	Faculty Administrative Contact	Additional Instructions (for applicants & supervisors)
Applied Science and Engineering	TBC	Faculty Office	David Duong	For instructions on how to apply see here.
Architecture, Landscape, and Design – Daniels	August 1st, 2023	Faculty Office	Shirley Chan	
Arts and Science	August 1st, 2023	Faculty Office	Christine Yarish	

Faculty	Faculty deadline for Banting applications (Expected month – contact faculty admin directly to confirm); current as of May 2023	Application Submission and point of contact for applicants and supervisors:	Faculty Administrative Contact	Additional Instructions (for applicants & supervisors)
Dentistry	TBC	Graduate Unit	Lisa Hutchinson	
Information	July 31st, 2023 (11:59PM)	Faculty Office	Emina Veletanlic	Interested applicants must submit an early **Notice of Intent** by **July 10th, 2023** to Emina Veletanlic. NOIs will not be adjudicated.
Kinesiology and Physical Education	August 2nd, 2023	Faculty Office	Tim Welsch	Please email a CV and a brief description of the proposed project (<500 words) to adr.kpe@utoronto.ca **by July 1st, 2023.**
Law	TBC/Contact Graduate Office	Faculty Office	Graduate Office	
Management	TBC	Faculty Office	Sasha Lucas	
Medicine	July 28th, 2023	Faculty Office	Yasman Mohammadzadeh	Students wishing to have their fellowship administered via affiliated hospital need to contact the research office at the hospital for their application and deadline.
Music	TBC/Contact Office of the Dean	Faculty Research Office	Kata Skoko, Office of the Dean	The Faculty of Music conducts an internal adjudication process to determine nominations based on the Faculty's quota. Details will be forwarded to faculty members in advance of the deadline. Additional information for applicants may be found on the Faculty of Music's Research webpage.
Nursing	TBC	Faculty Office	Shefali Ram and Marian Smith	
OISE	July 27th, 2023	Faculty Research Office	Madeleine Taylor	There will be an internal adjudication process to determine the applicants who can apply for this fellowship. Communications will be sent out to Faculty.
Pharmacy - Leslie Dan	TBC	Graduate Unit	Mike Folinas and Sam D'Alfonso	There will be an internal adjudication process to determine the applicant(s) going forward based on departmental quotas. Communication will be forwarded to the Faculty closer to the deadline.
Public Health – Dalla Lana	July 28th, 2023	Faculty Office	Lee Vernich and Caroline Godbout	**Note:** DLSPH will prioritize applicants who will be employed by UofT or have paid fellowships held at UofT. The applicant will be required to be based at DLSPH.

Faculty	Faculty deadline for Banting applications (Expected month – contact faculty admin directly to confirm); current as of May 2023	Application Submission and point of contact for applicants and supervisors:	Faculty Administrative Contact	Additional Instructions (for applicants & supervisors)
Social Work	August 1st, 2023	Faculty Office	Vesna Bajic	
University of Toronto Mississauga	July 28th, 2023	Faculty Office	Rong Wu	UTM has an internal adjudication process to determine which applications are going forward from the UTM campus, based on their allocation. **NOTE:** Details about the required documents and NOI form are available on the UTM Banting webpage **The UTM NOI deadline is July 4th, 2023**
University of Toronto Scarborough	July 14th, 2023 at 5pm	Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation	Gisela Alves Bento	Instructions for Supervisors: 1) Supervisors wishing to support a candidate's application must notify the UTSC Office of the Vice-Principal, Research (UTSC VPRO) of the planned application in advance of the UTSC internal deadline. 2) Supervisors are responsible for the preparation of the Supervisor's statement in consultation with their chair/director. 3) The UTSC VPRO will carefully select only the highest quality applicants from both Canada and abroad within its allocation in accordance to the stated Selection Criteria. **The UTSC Notice if Intent (NOI) deadline is July 5th, 2023 by end of day** (here)