

Distinguished Scholar Award

Program Purpose

The purpose of the University of Toronto Scarborough Distinguished Scholar Award is to recognize and encourage the research activities and achievements of established researchers at U of T Scarborough. The award is open to all tenured professorial faculty (including teaching-stream) with a primary appointment at UTSC, who are at least 6 years post-tenure, and who have demonstrated exceptional research achievements and impact in any field(s) of knowledge. The extent to which their research has had, and is bound to have, an impact beyond academia (including community, culture, policy, professional practice, or the economy) will also be considered. The award recognizes individuals who contribute in a significant way to the research profile and academic environment of U of T Scarborough.

A Selection Committee chaired by the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation and composed of members of the U of T Scarborough Research Advisory Board will assess the nominations and recommend the top candidate to the Vice-President & Principal of U of T Scarborough. The Committee may decline to bestow the award in any given competition year if a suitable candidate has not been nominated. The Selection Committee will determine the balance between quality of the research and potential impact of the award on the research program, a determination that may vary from year to year.

Award value

One award will be available in each of the following streams: A) Sciences, and B) Social Sciences & Humanities. Each award has a monetary component of \$2,500.

Guidelines

1. Eligibility: Nominees should have been a tenured faculty member (including teaching-stream) with a primary appointment at UTSC who are at least 6 years post-tenure. In addition to having well-established careers, nominees demonstrate exceptional research achievement and recognition in any field(s) of knowledge, as well as considerable impact beyond academia (e.g., on communities, society and culture, policy, professional practice, or the economy).
2. Term: The award period is from July 1st to June 30th.
3. Nomination Process: Nominations will be submitted by UTSC's Department Chairs or Center Directors. Each Chair/Director may submit a maximum of one nomination for each stream per year. Chairs/Directors cannot be nominated for the UTSC Distinguished Scholar Award during their tenure in those positions. In accordance with the University's policies on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), nominators are encouraged to consider individuals from underrepresented groups. Self-nominations will also be accepted.
4. Nomination Materials: Complete nomination dossier includes:
 - Nomination letter (2 pages maximum): Written in clear, non-specialist language the nomination letter needs to:

- indicate the award stream for which the nominee should be considered. A faculty member's research agenda, not their department, would determine whether they will be nominated for stream A (Sciences) or B (Social Sciences & Humanities)
 - detail the reasons for the nomination
 - contextualize the impact of the nominee's research achievements and funding record, as well as their potential impact, to national and international disciplinary norms of excellence
 - address the Selection Criteria detailed below (include impact metrics if applicable)
 - if applicable, detail any circumstances that have affected the nominee's productivity (e.g., parental leave) and highlight any EDI considerations
- Nominee's current Curriculum Vitae, highlighting the research contributions, research achievements and funding record, as well as knowledge mobilization activities. Indicate the role played by the nominee in the generation of the research contributions (i.e., the intellectual participation and leadership). If applicable, detail any circumstances that have affected the nominee's productivity (e.g., parental leave) and highlight any EDI considerations.
5. **Submission:** There is one submission deadline per academic year: February 1st (or the next business day if February 1st falls on a weekend or holiday). Nomination dossier should be submitted electronically as a single PDF document to the Office of the Vice-Principal, Research and Innovation at researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca. Questions may be sent to the same email address with the Subject "Distinguished Scholar Award". Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.
6. **Selection Criteria:**
- Significance of research contributions
 - Research excellence and funding record. The award is made on the basis of the quality of the research program of the nominee and the opportunity for enhancement of the research through the availability of additional research funds
 - Impact beyond academia. Contributions of the nominee's work in solving community needs, advancing societal issues, developing innovation, and other broader impact
 - Potential impact. Although quality of the research program is clearly a fundamental criterion for the final selection, the award will not generally be made solely on the basis of past achievement
7. **Financial Requirements:** Awarded funds must be spent within the award period, with a possible one-year extension. The received funds are available to be used for any of the following:
- For costs related to research, in accordance with the University of Toronto financial guidelines (<https://finance.utoronto.ca/policies/>)
 - As a donation to UTSC (e.g., for a student fellowship/scholarship in the awardee's name, to support one of the UTSC OVPRI's internal funding initiatives)

8. **Limitations to Nominations:** Recipients of the Distinguished Scholar Award cannot be re-nominated for the same award.
9. **Other Conditions:** Awardees will deliver a public lecture arranged by the Office of the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation.