New Scholar Award

Program Purpose
The purpose of the UTSC New Scholar Award is to recognize and encourage the outstanding research activities and achievements of early career faculty at the University of Toronto Scarborough. The program aims to support and celebrate research that has had, and is bound to have, not only scholarly significance but also an impact beyond academia. The award is open to all full-time professorial faculty (including teaching-stream) with a primary appointment at UTSC who are within 10 years of receiving their PhD or terminal degree. 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 be full-time faculty members (including teaching-stream) with a primary appointment at UTSC who are within 10 years of receiving their PhD or terminal degree. Extensions will be granted for parental leave, medical leave, or other special circumstances, including EDI considerations. In addition to nominees' achievements and reputation within their fields, the extent to which their research has had, and is bound to have, a scholarly impact, and an impact beyond academia (e.g., on society, culture, policy, professional practice, the economy) will be considered.

2. Term. The award period is from July 1st to June 30th.

3. Nomination Process: Nominations should be made by Department Chairs or Centre Directors. Chairs or Directors may submit a maximum of one nomination for each stream annually, and they cannot be nominated for the UTSC New 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 are not accepted.

4. Nomination Materials: Complete nomination dossier includes:

- Nomination letter (2 pages maximum): Written in clear, non-specialist language, avoiding verbatim replications of letters of reference for career promotion, and signed by the Chair or Director, 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) as well as any EDI considerations

- Nominee's current Curriculum Vitae: Include a comprehensive list of the nominee's education, training, research funding, and awards & honours received. If applicable, detail any circumstances that have affected the nominee's productivity (e.g., parental leave) and highlight any EDI considerations. Intellectual and leadership roles played by the nominee in the generation of the research contributions should be specified.

- Summary of nominee's key achievements (500-word maximum). This summary will be used for public announcements of award recipients.

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 dossiers 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 "New Scholar Award". Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

6. Selection Criteria:
   - Outstanding achievements demonstrated during the nominee's research training at the graduate and/or post-doctoral level
   - Excellence of the nominee's ongoing research activities
   - The nominee's achievements in attracting research funding
   - The nominee's involvement in the research training of highly qualified personnel (HQP) and undergraduate students
   - Recognition of the nominee as demonstrated by previously received honours and awards
   - Involvement of the nominee in the promotion of research and outreach activities

7. Financial Requirements: Awarded funds must be spent within the award period, with a possible one-year extension. We encourage award recipients to consider the monetary

award in the context of facilitating graduate and/or undergraduate student interactions and activities. 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 New 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.