

Guidance for Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards Nominators

General instructions

One nomination allocation allows you to recruit one individual to the specified level of award (doctoral or postdoctoral).

The designated contact for the Impact+ Training Awards at your institution provides the documentation you require to complete the nomination process.

Share the *Nomination Form* and *Nomination Form Instructions* with each nominee.

Consult the *Nomination Form Instructions* for detailed instructions on how to complete the nominator sections of the *Nomination Form*.

Submit the completed and signed *Nomination Form* to your institution's designated contact.

The designated institutional contact will submit the *Nomination Form* to the agencies.

In addition to the documents provided by your institutional contact, the following websites provide useful information:

- [News Item](#)
- [Questions & Answers](#)

Indirect and direct research training support

The Impact+ Training Awards provide direct funding to the award holder and are not administratively associated with your grant funding. The awards are administered by your institution according to the [Tri-agency research training award holder's guide](#) and not the Tri-agency guide on financial administration.

For nominators of postdoctoral researchers, depending on the internal policies and processes associated with hosting postdoctoral researchers at your institution, there may be certain financial obligations and additional costs that are not eligible to be deducted directly from the Impact+ Training Awards and will need to be paid by another source of

funds (e.g. the institutional cost of mandatory benefits is eligible to be paid using the nominator's agency grant funds).

Reuse of allocation following decline or ineligibility of nominee

If the original nominee declines the award, then the nominator may nominate a new candidate in the second wave of nominations.

Should a nominee from the second wave turn down the award, then the nominator may nominate a new candidate before December 31, 2026.

Priority Research Areas

The Impact+ Training Awards will invest in research in eight priority research areas:

- Advanced digital technologies (AI, quantum, cybersecurity)
- Health, including biotechnology
- Clean technology and resource value chains
- Environment, climate resilience, and the Arctic
- Food and water security
- Democratic and community resilience
- Manufacturing and advanced materials
- Defence and dual-use technologies

Nominators must recruit nominees whose research projects align with at least one of these priority research areas. While the nominator's research grant does not have to specifically be within one of the eight identified priority research areas, they must be able to facilitate the nominee conducting research in one of the identified areas.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

The three agencies are acting on evidence that 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. This principle informs the commitments

described in the [Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#) and is aligned with the objectives of the [Tri-Agency EDI Action Plan](#).

Special circumstances

The agencies encourage nominators to take into consideration special circumstances that may have affected a nominee's research, professional career, record of academic or research achievement or completion of degrees. These may include administrative responsibilities, maternity or parental leave, child-rearing, illness, disability, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context, trauma, loss, family responsibilities or the impact of a pandemic. Nominees can explain their special circumstances directly to their nominator, and if a special circumstance risks making a nominee ineligible, the nominator should contact the agencies to discuss appropriate action.

San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC, along with other Canadian research funding agencies, are signatories of the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#). The agencies are committed to meaningful assessment of excellence in research funding and to ensuring that a wide range of research results and outcomes are considered and valued as part of the assessment process. They will continue to work to ensure that their strategies, policies and guidance align with DORA.

Privacy, confidentiality and conflicts of interest

Nominators must respect conflict of interest rules in place at their institutions for the review and selection of admissions and award applications. For additional information, nominators may refer to the [Conflict of interest and confidentiality policy of the federal research funding organizations](#), the [Access to Information Act](#) and the [Privacy Act](#).

The Official Languages Act

Under the [Official Languages Act](#), federal institutions, including the agencies, must ensure respect for the rights of individual Canadians to receive services from federal institutions and organizations that provide services on their behalf in the official language of their choice.

The agencies are committed to promoting equitable access by

- ensuring that their funding opportunities enable the participation of both official language communities
- providing nominators and nominees with equitable access to the information and resources in the official language of their choice
- monitoring and promoting the participation of official language minority institutions, researchers and students in their programs

Nominations can be submitted in either official language. All nominees are entitled to receive service in the official language of their choice.

Research security

Due to the list of priority research areas, recipients of the Impact+ Training Awards are likely to participate in research that aims to advance a [Sensitive Technology Research Area](#), as defined under the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC Policy\)](#).

While the STRAC Policy does not apply to scholarship and fellowship programs, such as the Impact+ Training Awards, nominators who are a recipient of a grant that is subject to the STRAC Policy requirements — or who are expecting to apply for such a grant in the future — should be aware that these requirements may extend to their prospective nominees.

Prospective nominees who have an active affiliation with or are in receipt of financial or in-kind support from a [Named Research Organization](#) must terminate this relationship before joining any research team that is supported by a grant in scope of the STRAC Policy and that aims to advance a [Sensitive Technology Research Area](#). Consult the [Tri-agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#) for more information on the requirements that apply to federal grants subject to the STRAC Policy.

Where applicable, nominators are encouraged to conduct open-source due diligence to verify a prospective nominee's affiliation(s) and sources of funding or in-kind support. Institutions may provide support to nominators in doing so, via their institutional research security offices, where available.

For further guidance on research security, institutions and researchers are encouraged to consult the [Tri-agency Guidance on Research Security](#) and associated [resources](#), including the Government of Canada's [Safeguarding Your Research](#) portal and the [Safeguarding Science Initiative](#).