2026 Killam Annual Professors Competition

The University of Calgary Killam Annual Professor awards honour outstanding University of Calgary academic staff for excellence in research, teaching, and service. These awards are made possible through the Killam Trusts, established by Dorothy Johnston Killam in memory of her husband, Izaak Walton Killam, to advance education and research in Canada.

The awards offered through the UCalgary-held Killam Trusts are distinct from the national Killam Program, which is administered by the National Research Council (NRC) and recognizes scholars across Canada.

1. **AWARD OVERVIEW**

Killam Annual Professors are recognized for outstanding achievement across multiple domains of academic activity. Excellence must be evident in research, teaching at the undergraduate and/or graduate level, and service to academic communities beyond the University of Calgary. Awards are typically granted to mid- to senior-career scholars who have demonstrated sustained excellence over approximately ten years or more.

Up to five Killam Annual Professors will be awarded each year. These awards are tenable only at the University of Calgary, with no more than two granted within the same Faculty in a given year. Awards will generally be distributed across these categories: one aligned with each of the three major federal research funding agencies (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR), and two for transdisciplinary research. Exceptional candidates whose work spans or falls outside these categories will also be considered.

Recipients receive a cash prize of $10,000 from the Killam Trusts.

2.ELIGIBILITY

The Killam Annual Professor Award is open to academic staff at the University of Calgary. Self-nominations are not permitted. The following conditions apply:

- Recipients may receive the award only once in their career.
- Previous recipients of the Killam Memorial Chair are ineligible.
- Current members of the UCalgary Executive or Senior Leadership Teams are not eligible.
- **Cooling-Off Period**: To promote equitable recognition, recipients of either the Killam Annual Professor Award or any award within the Killam Research & Teaching Awards suite are ineligible for nomination in either competition for the subsequent two cycles.
    - *This requirement does not affect eligibility for the 2026 competition. It is included now only to inform nominators of a new requirement in future cycles.*
- **Multiple Nominations:** Faculty members may be nominated for multiple University of Calgary Killam Awards in the same year; however, scholars may receive only one Killam Annual Professor or Research & Teaching Award per year.

Nominations must be submitted by the Dean of each Faculty (or their designated representative). The number of nominations invited from each Faculty is proportional to its share of academic appointments within the university, as follows:

- Cumming School of Medicine and Faculty of Arts: up to three nominations each
- Faculty of Science and Schulich School of Engineering: up to two nominations each
- All other Faculties: up to one nomination each

3. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The University of Calgary is committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive campus. Nominators are expected to proactively consider faculty from equity-deserving groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, visible or racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2S+ persons. Nominations should also reflect diversity in perspectives, disciplines, and approaches.

The Killam Selection Committee reflects these principles in its composition and deliberations. To support a diverse pool of candidates, the Chair and Vice-Chair may solicit additional nominations at their discretion. Nominators are encouraged to consult the [Research and Teaching Awards Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan](#) and refer to resources on the [UCalgary EDI in Research](#) site.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Killam Annual Professors will be awarded to nationally and/or internationally recognized faculty members. A Killam Annual Professor is expected to demonstrate excellence in the following areas:

Research: A record of outstanding research scholarship as evidenced by the research outputs most important within the nominee's discipline or field of study. Research outputs may include (but are not limited to): publications, creative activities, collaborations with businesses, datasets, intellectual property, presented papers, academic publications, reports to government, or software development.

As a signatory to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)](#), the University of Calgary is committed to a broad perspective on evaluating research, recognizing that journal-based metrics alone do not accurately assess the quality and impact of research in every discipline.

Teaching: A record of outstanding teaching as evidenced by such measures as supervision of undergraduate and/or graduate students and evaluations of courses taught.

Academic Service and Engagement: A record of service within the university, professional engagement beyond the university, and outreach to the community. Service work should be described in terms of impacts, such as influence on policy and practice, and can include service to professional bodies, policy and community organizations, and governments.

The three criteria are equally weighted in the evaluation of nominations.

5. NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Nominations for Killam Annual Professors must be submitted by the Dean of the nominee's Faculty. Nominators are encouraged to provide a holistic view of the nominee's achievements, highlighting contributions to research, teaching, mentorship, and service. Evidence should be contextualized to illustrate

the nominee's impact within their field and beyond. Nominators are encouraged to emphasize qualitative and field-specific indicators that showcase the breadth and significance of the nominee's work.

The nomination package must include:

A. **Signed Letter of Nomination from the Dean (maximum two pages).** The letter should address:
    *   How the nominee's accomplishments align with the award criteria.
    *   Significant contributions the nominee has made in relation to these criteria.
    *   How the nominee's work aligns with *Ahead of Tomorrow* and the *Research and Innovation Plan*.
    *   The importance and impact of the nominee's outputs within their discipline or field.
    *   Contact RSO for examples of successful letters: researchawards@ucalgary.ca

B. **Assessment of Research, Teaching, and Service** (maximum 1 page). Prepared by the Dean, this assessment should include:
    *   How scholarly research outputs are evaluated within the nominee's field, including but not limited to bibliometrics, and discipline-specific information about which types of outputs are most common.
    *   The typical level and type of research outputs and funding expected in the nominee's discipline.
    *   An evaluation of the nominee's standing in their field and their contributions to research, teaching, and academic service/engagement.
    *   Any relevant discipline-specific context regarding workload and the nominee's career stage.

C. **Current Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 30 pages) The CV may be in any format, and should include:
    *   A comprehensive list of research outputs, teaching accomplishments, academic service, and other scholarly outcomes.
    *   The Killam CV template (downloadable as a Word file) may be used, but is not required.

Presentation standards:

*   a minimum font size of 11 pt, black type
*   a margin of 2 cm (3/4 inch) – minimum – around the page
*   Smaller text in tables, charts, figures, and graphs is acceptable, as long as it is legible when the page is viewed at 100%

6. **SUBMISSION PROCEDURE**

The closing date for the submission of nominations to the Research Services Office is **March 2, 2026.** The nomination materials must be securely submitted using this form.

7. **CONTACT**

Direct any inquiries to the Research Services Office, Research Awards team: researchawards@ucalgary.ca