

KILLAM EMERGING RESEARCH LEADER AWARD AND GRANT

The Killam Scholarship and Prize Programs were established in memory of Izaak Walton Killam through the Will of his wife, Dorothy Johnston Killam, and through gifts made during her lifetime. Their primary purpose is to support advanced education and research at five Canadian Universities including the University of Calgary.

1. PURPOSE OF AWARD

The Killam Emerging Research Leader Award is presented to up to three individuals (one per Tri-Council) who have, at an early career stage equivalent to 10 years after starting their first independent academic appointment, made outstanding contributions to research in an area of research recognized by CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC. No individual may receive the award more than once. **For the purpose of this award, one Tri-Council alignment must be declared in the application, and no individual will be eligible in more than one Tri-Council area of expertise.**

Recipients will receive a \$3,000 cash prize, a \$5,000 research grant, and a commemorative certificate at the annual Killam Reception.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The Killam Emerging Research Leader Award and Grant is open to academic staff at the University. Candidates must have begun their first independent academic appointment within ten years of the nomination deadline (**no earlier than June 1, 2016**), with allowance made for parental or medical leaves. An independent academic appointment is a faculty appointment at a university that requires research or scholarship not under the direction of another person and allows the supervision of research by students as required by an undergraduate or graduate degree program. This is typically an Assistant Professor appointment or equivalent.

While Faculty members may be nominated for multiple University of Calgary Killam Awards in a given year, scholars are only eligible to receive one University of Calgary Killam Award per year. This includes the Killam Memorial Chairs, Killam Annual Professor Award, Emerging Research Leader Awards, Research Excellence Award, Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Award, Undergraduate Mentorship Award, and the McCaig-Killam Teaching Award. This provision is in place to ensure that UCalgary can recognize as many deserving scholars as possible each year.

3. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

The University of Calgary is committed to an equitable, diverse, and inclusive campus and recognizes that diverse faculty, staff, students, and alumni benefit and enrich the work, teaching, learning and research experiences of the entire campus and broader community. We are committed to removing barriers that have been, and continue to be, encountered by equity-deserving, including women, Indigenous peoples, visible/racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+.

The Killam Selection Committee reflects this commitment in its composition and deliberations. Nominators must also consider equity, diversity, and inclusion of eligible faculty from all equity-deserving groups, including women, Indigenous peoples, visible/racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+.

4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Candidates must have demonstrated:

- Contributions and impact to knowledge and innovation;
- Successful promotion, dissemination, and/or management of research activities; and
- Training of graduate students and other highly qualified research personnel.

5. NOMINATIONS

The Killam Selection Committee welcomes nominations from Deans. A maximum of three nominations for each Tri-Council area of expertise are invited from the Cumming School of Medicine and the Faculty of Arts; a maximum of two nominations from the Faculty of Science and the Schulich School of Engineering; and a maximum of one nomination for each award is invited from each of the other Faculties.

Nomination Package:

1. Signed letter of nomination by the Dean or Designate. The letter (maximum 4 pages) should clearly indicate the highest degree and year received, outline the significance, benefits or impacts of the nominee's achievements as they relate to several of these categories:
 - Contributions and impact to knowledge and innovation;
 - Successful promotion, dissemination, and/or management of research activities;
 - Training of graduate students and other highly qualified research personnel;
 - Other appropriate contributions.

Forms of research contributions can vary greatly among disciplines. Given that the nomination will be peer reviewed by an interdisciplinary selection committee that includes researchers who may not have direct expertise in the nominee's field, clearly explain the expected level of research contributions (for example: scholarly publications, presentations, software packages, book chapters, exhibitions, performances, etc.) in the nominee's discipline to allow informed assessment of the nominee's research contributions by a variety of experienced researchers.

Descriptions of research contributions should align with the principles of the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#), as the University of Calgary is a signatory.

2. The nominee's curriculum vitae, including a list of their publications focusing on research accomplishments (maximum 10 pages). An **optional** [Killam CV template](#) is available (the link will download a Word file.)

6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The closing date for the submission of nominations to the Research Services Office for 2026 is **June 1, 2026**.

The Faculty's research facilitator, awards staff, or Dean/Associate Dean (Research) must submit to Research Services using the UCalgary Killam Awards Webform by [clicking "Submit a Nomination" on this page](#). Ensure that a **single PDF document** containing all the nomination materials is submitted.

7. SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

Nominations will be adjudicated by the University of Calgary Killam Selection Committee. The Killam Selection Committee shall consist of members from the academic community who have been appointed by the Killam Advisory Committee.

The Research Services Office will contact award recipients and nominating Deans confidentially in September and the public announcement will take place at the annual Killam Reception in October.

8. PRIZE AND GRANT

Each awardee will receive a \$3,000 lump sum cash prize, a \$5,000 research grant, and a commemorative certificate at the annual Killam Reception.

The cash prize will be paid out via payroll in the month following the Killam Reception.

Awardees may use their research grant at their discretion, following restrictions on research expenditures under the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#). Salary payments to the awardee or other University of Calgary academic staff are not permitted. At the time of award, Research Services will inform the awardees of the process to set up their grants.

9. CONTACT

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