

KILLAM GRADUATE SUPERVISION AND MENTORSHIP AWARD

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 Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Award is presented to an individual who has a record of excellence in the supervision and mentorship of Masters and/or PhD students at the University of Calgary. The recipient will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a commemorative certificate at the annual Killam Reception.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The Killam Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Award is open to academic staff at the University of Calgary who have been involved in graduate supervision for a decade or more. This length of service is stipulated not to exclude junior faculty, but to recognize that, in the case of PhD students, completion of the degree and successful beginnings of a career often takes five or more years.

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.

No individual may win the Killam Graduate Supervision and Mentorship award more than once.

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 groups, 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+. to its previous two competition years. In such a way, a faculty eligible to nominate one candidate will nominate at least one woman over three competitions.

4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Demonstrated excellence in graduate mentorship and supervision, supported by evidence of impact, including:

- creating effective working relationships and constructive interactions with graduate students;
- offering appropriate guidance, feedback, and support, and involving encouragement, openness, trust and mutual respect throughout and beyond the students' graduate education;
- incorporating practices that effectively develop excellence in students' research abilities; and
- leadership in broader training environment for graduate students, beyond the nominee's direct supervision.

5. NOMINATIONS

The Killam Selection Committee welcomes nominations from Deans. A maximum of three nominations for each award 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.

On a fixed schedule (a 2:1 basis – see the table below), nominations will rotate between Supervisors who work in a lab-based setting (more typical of Medicine, Science, Engineering and some Social Sciences) and those who mentor students' independent projects (more typical of Humanities, Fine Arts, some Social Sciences and Education).

AWARD YEAR	ELIGIBLE SUPERVISORS
2026	Lab-based setting
2027	Lab-based setting
2028	Independent (non-lab based)
2029	Lab-based setting
2030	Lab-based setting

The recipient of the award will be invited to participate in at least one Supervisory Development workshop organized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Nomination Package:

1. Signed letter of nomination by the Dean of the Faculty in which the nominee resides. The letter (maximum 3 pages) should address the nominee's qualifications for the award.
 - a. The letter should clearly explain the expected level of graduate supervision and mentorship in the nominees' field, as this can vary significantly by rank and discipline. 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, this context will allow the committee to complete an informed assessment of the nominee's contributions to graduate supervision and mentorship.
2. A statement of philosophy of mentorship/supervision and a description of contributions to graduate mentorship (prepared by the nominee; maximum 5 pages).

3. Evidence of positive impact in graduate mentorship. Up to three testimonial letters from former graduate students may be included in the nomination package.
4. Curriculum vitae (an **optional** [Killam CV template](#) is available) Link will download a word document.

Note: The entire nomination package including the CV **must not exceed 30 pages** (not including testimonial letters from former graduate students). Research Services will remove any additional pages from the nomination package prior to forwarding to the Killam Selection Committee.

Supervisory record: As part of the review process, the Faculty of Graduate Studies will provide the Killam Selection Committee with a report verifying the nominee's supervisory record at the University of Calgary, including the numbers of graduate students the nominee has supervised and co-supervised.

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. CONTACT

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