
KILLAM UNDERGRADUATE 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 Undergraduate Mentorship Award has been established to recognize excellence in mentorship at the undergraduate level, which may include extensive involvement of undergraduates in research, supervision of undergraduate research projects, and pedagogical practices that promote the integration of teaching and research. No individual may be awarded the prize more than once. The recipient will receive a \$5,000 cash prize and a commemorative certificate at the annual Killam Reception.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The Killam Undergraduate Mentorship Award is open to academic staff currently teaching at the University of Calgary. Previous recipients of the award are not eligible.

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 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+.

The gender quota for the Killam Research & Teaching Awards program is paused for the 2025 competition to ensure award processes and data collection align with the [UCalgary EDI Data Operating Standard](#). While the formal quota is paused, nominators are expected to nominate a diverse range of nominees. This includes both representational diversity and diversity in philosophy, perspective, disciplinary fields, ways of knowing, and

theoretical and methodological variations. The chair and vice-chair of the Killam Selection Committee may choose to solicit additional nominations at their discretion.

4. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Excellence in mentorship of undergraduate research, including:

- supervision of undergraduate research projects that also demonstrates respect and appropriate guidance, feedback and support;
- significant opportunities for the involvement of undergraduates in research; and
- pedagogical practices that integrate teaching and research.

5. NOMINATIONS

The Killam Selection Committee welcomes nominations from Deans. A maximum of three nominations for this 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 Schulich School of Engineering; and a maximum of one nomination for each award is invited from each of the other Faculties.

The recipient of the award will be required to communicate and share his/her teaching methods. Communication can include giving a talk or workshop through the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning, their faculty, or holding an 'open house' in their classroom where other faculty, staff and students can see teaching innovation in action.

Nomination Package:

1. A comprehensive letter from the Dean or Designate that addresses the nominee's special qualifications for the award as these relate to undergraduate mentorship and other specified criteria. The letter should:
 - a. Clearly explain the expected level of undergraduate mentorship in the nominees' discipline, 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 undergraduate mentorship.
 - b. Indicate the candidate's efforts that go beyond the expectations for the rank and the discipline.
2. Three letters from students, including at least one from a former student, supporting the nomination.
3. A description of effective mentoring strategies, written by the nominee, along with a brief statement of opportunities for engaging students in research, using innovative, and/or effective pedagogical practices.
4. Curriculum vitae (an **optional** [Killam CV template](#) is available. The link will download a word document.)

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

6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The closing date for the submission of nominations to the Research Services Office is **May 25** each year. Should the deadline fall on a weekend, nominations may be submitted by the end of the next business day. (Therefore

the deadline in the 2025 competition year is **May 26, 2025** as May 25 falls on a weekend.)

[New in 2025] – 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