2018 SSHRC Impact Awards

Talent Award Application Process

SSHRC Impact Awards are designed to build on and sustain Canada’s research-based knowledge culture in the social sciences and humanities. The awards recognize outstanding researchers and celebrate their achievements in research, research training, knowledge mobilization and outreach activities funded partially or completely by SSHRC.

Award funds are to be used for activities that promote and extend the work being honoured. In recognition of the crucial role that postsecondary institutions play as researchers’ knowledge mobilization partners, a minimum of 10 per cent of each award must be used to promote the research achievements of the recipient. Individual recipients and their institutions may choose to devote additional funds, including a higher percentage of the award funds, to these activities.

**Talent Award**

McMaster is able to submit 1 Talent Award nomination to SSHRC. As this is a very competitive competition and prestigious award, McMaster reserves the right not to submit any applicant.

**Value: $50,000**

The Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual who, on March 6, 2018, holds a SSHRC doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship or scholarship (including, but not limited to, a Canada Graduate Scholarship, Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship or Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship).

The Talent Award is given to an individual who maintains academic excellence, has a talent for research and knowledge mobilization and has demonstrated clear potential to be a future leader within and/or outside the academic sector.

The Talent Award may be taken up as a fellowship to fund the recipient’s doctoral or postdoctoral research over a one-year period, or may be used, within one year of receiving the award, in the form of a grant to support research, knowledge mobilization or other research-related activities. A minimum of 10 per cent of the award funds must be used to promote the recipient’s research achievements.

**SSHRC Selection Criteria for the Talent Award**

1. **Challenge—Ambition and importance (15%)**:
   - originality and significance of the body of work within the nominee’s fields of research.

2. **Achievements—Impact and outcomes of the project (75%)**:
   - originality and significance of nominee’s body of academic achievement and research, including quality of publications relative to stage of career;
   - evidence of impact of the nominee’s work within their fields of research and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community;
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- nominee’s ability and commitment to communicate research results within and/or beyond the academic community;
- level of nominee’s engagement with, and quality of training and mentoring provided to, students, emerging scholars and participants, relative to nominee’s career level; and
- nominee’s demonstrated potential for leadership and societal contributions within and/or beyond the academic community.

3. Capability—Strategy for promotion (10%):
- nominating institution’s commitment to promoting the impact and outcomes of the nominee’s achievements, and the quality of the strategy for doing so.

Eligibility
A nominee must:
- be a citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the time of nomination;
- be an active social sciences and humanities researcher or student;
- hold a SSHRC funding pertinent to the award category;
- be in good standing with SSHRC;
- be affiliated with an eligible institution; and
- if the recipient of an award, maintain affiliation with an eligible institution for the duration on the award.

Nominees:
- cannot nominate themselves;
- can be nominated in two sequential years for the same award, following which two years must pass before they can next be nominated in the same category;
- can be nominated in only one category in any year; and
- can be nominated in a subsequent year for a different SSHRC Impact Award.

Note: Current members of SSHRC's governing council, as well as Impact Awards jury members, are not eligible to be nominated.
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McMaster Internal Process

Since award winners are selected according to criteria which are even more competitive than a typical doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship, there is a **two-stage** internal review process in place at McMaster to help identify the strongest application that McMaster can forward to SSHRC.

**Two-stage internal review process key dates:**
Stage One Letter of Intent (LOI) package is due on **Monday, January 22, 2018**
Stage Two application is due on **Tuesday, February 20, 2018**

McMaster's SSHRC Talent Nomination package is due on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018**
Please refer to following pages for complete details.

**The SSHRC Impact Awards Web Site Information is now available**

If you have any questions, or concerns about the SSHRC Talent Award Competition, please send an email to graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca.
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STAGE 1

Stage 1: Letter of Intent (LOI) Package must include the following documents:
DUE-Monday, January 22, 2018

 Applicants must submit, through their departments, a Letter of Intent (LOI) complete package, to the School of Graduate Studies. Please supply all documents as one PDF to graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca. McMaster’s email system only delivers messages whose total size is less than 25 megabytes. If your PDF exceeds 25 megabytes, please send it as 2 PDF’s.

All documents, except for the SSHRC CVs and letters of support, must:
- be presented in portrait orientation;
- start on a new page; and
- use 12-point Times New Roman or comparable font.

1. Graduate Studies Approval Form (included in the email announcement):
   To be completed by the proposed supervisor, applicant and department
   The approval form is included as a separate PDF document attached to the same email as this document. Please note the important text in red on the approval form about benefit costs for postdoctoral fellows.

2. A covering letter of two pages maximum that includes:
   The letter will assist the Vice-Provost/Dean of Graduate Studies with the cover letter required for the final submission of the application to SSHRC.
   To be completed by applicant and department
   - the name, current position and institution of the person proposing the nomination;
   - the award category;
   - the name, position and affiliation of the nominee and any co applicants;
   - a brief summary of the SSHRC funded work that is being put forward for consideration, including relevant SSHRC file numbers (this could include one or more legacy grants, e.g., Standard Research Grants or Community-University Research Alliances, and/or one or more active/ongoing grants);
   - a summary of the nominee’s overall contribution to their fields of research;
   - the names, current positions, affiliations and areas of expertise of three referees who support the nomination;
   - the name and co-ordinates of a contact person (typically, someone in the Research Office or Graduate Studies Office) to whom all inquiries and correspondence, including results, will be sent;
     o Dr. Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
     o deangrad@mcmaster.ca
3. **Rationale for nomination:**
   
   *To be completed by the applicant in conjunction with the proposed supervisor*

   **An attachment of up to two pages detailing the rationale for the nomination**

   This section should be used to describe the program of work, research activities and achievements relevant to the Impact Award for which the candidate is being nominated, including:

   - the significance, challenge and impact of the achievements for which the nomination is being put forward;
   - the level of engagement with, and the quality and scope of training and mentoring provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and indication of the nominee’s career level;
   - a description, including evidence of research achievements, and, where applicable, impact and outcomes of the initiative;
   - examples of success in widely sharing, and encouraging application of, resulting knowledge and benefits within and/or beyond the academic community; and
   - evidence that outcomes resulted in significant and positive impacts in Canada and/or internationally.

4. **SSHRC CV and consent forms:**
   
   *To be completed by the applicant*

   Nomination packages must include a signed, printed copy of:

   - the nominee’s and team members’ **SSHRC CVs** (for up to six team members, including the nominee); the
   - **Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information** form; and
   - **Consent to Disclosure of Nomination Content for Promotional Purposes** form.

   Each SSHRC CV should be signed on the first page. Ensure that the online versions of all nominee’s and team members’ SSHRC CVs (not the Canadian Common CV) have been completed and are up to date, as SSHRC will capture data from these.

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**ADJUDICATION PROCESS**

**SGS (LOI) Internal Adjudication Process**

The adjudication process will be looking very closely at how the application meets the selection criteria set out by SSHRC. This will need to be carefully articulated and justified in the applicants supporting documentation.

**Week of January 29, 2018**

SGS Anticipated Notification to **Stage 1 Endorsed and Non-Endorsed Candidates.**
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STAGE 2

STAGE TWO: PDF of Full Application Package due to Graduate Studies no later than:
Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 12:00 noon

1. Revised Stage 1 documents:
   Any changes to documents from your Stage 1 package must be made and revised documents are to be resubmitted

2. Information supporting the nomination rationale (up to two pages):
   This section provides further information supporting the rationale presented in the rationale for the nomination document submitted in stage 1. It may include, as appropriate, a detailed list of research contributions, outcomes and other activities mentioned in more general terms than in the rationale for nomination document from Stage 1 (e.g., publications, conference presentations, graduate students supported or trained). Other research contributions, outcomes and activities may also be included. When referring to SSHRC-funded initiatives, please cite all relevant SSHRC file numbers.

3. Letters of support, of up to two pages each, from three referees:
   Please contact your referees as soon as you are informed you have been endorsed to proceed to Stage 2. The following are complete instructions for the reference letters:
   Three letters of support must be provided for the nominee. Referees must be established authorities in the fields and cannot be from the same institution as the nominee. In addition, they cannot be individuals who are or were involved in the project being put forward. Referees cannot be individuals who could be perceived as being in a conflict of interest with the nomination. Letters of support with multiple signatories will not be accepted.
   Note: In the case of the Talent Award, referees may be affiliated with the nominee’s current institution.

Letters of support must:
   • be dated and signed;
   • show an official letterhead;
   • be a maximum of two pages;
   • include the referee’s position, affiliation, email address and telephone number;
   • include the nominee’s name and the period of time and capacity in which the referee has known the nominee; and
   • offer an overall assessment of the nominee’s accomplishments, including examples of how these achievements fulfill the evaluation criteria outlined above.

Referees should not send their letters directly to SSHRC, but, rather, to the School of Graduate studies by emailing graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca.
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FINAL STAGE 2 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

**Monday, February 26, 2018** – The School of Graduate Studies will confirm with the applicant if their SSHRC talent application will be forwarded to SSHRC to the federal competition.

If there is a nominee for the Talent Award, The School of Graduate Studies will submit the nomination package to SSHRC by their deadline of **Tuesday, March 6, 2018**.

REFERENCES

Links to assist you and your supervisor with the required documents:

**McMaster’s Strategic Research Plan:**
[https://research.mcmaster.ca/research-publications/annual-reports](https://research.mcmaster.ca/research-publications/annual-reports)

**Individual Faculty References:**
Faculty of Health Sciences Strategic Plan
Faculty of Humanities Vision Statement
[https://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/about/our-vision/](https://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/about/our-vision/)
Faculty of Science Strategic Research Plan