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Memo

To: Deans

Cc: Associate Deans Research

From: Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation

Date: October 19, 2023

Subject: **SSHRC Impact Awards 2024**

INTRODUCTION

Please review the following programmatic details and the internal process for the 2024 SSHRC Impact Awards and share the information with your respective Research Offices and faculty members.

Note that the information outlined below is based on the 2023 competition and is subject to change pending release of SSHRC's 2024 launch details. Please refer to the [SSHRC Impact Awards website](#) for updates.

All nominations will be reviewed by the Major Awards Advisory Committee (MAAC), which will provide advice to the Vice-President Research & Innovation (VPRI) to inform the selection of nominations to be advanced to SSHRC.

The procedure outlined below is designed to support the nomination process and to result in the most competitive nominations possible from York University.

SSHRC IMPACT AWARD COMPETITION

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.

A multidisciplinary jury made up of distinguished individuals from academia, as well as the private, not-for-profit and public sectors, from Canada and abroad, will select award recipients according to published criteria.



Note that nominees 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. Nominees can only be nominated in one category in any year.

The SSHRC Impact Awards are comprised of the following categories:

- **Gold Medal (\$100,000)**: The Gold Medal is SSHRC's highest research honour. It is awarded to individuals whose sustained leadership, dedication and originality of thought have inspired students and colleagues alike. Recipients' achievements in research will have significantly advanced understanding in their research fields in the social sciences and humanities. The exceptional quality of their research, the impact of their work and their ongoing efforts to share the results of this work will have greatly enriched Canadian society and contributed to social, cultural, economic and intellectual life in Canada and/or internationally.
- **Talent Award (\$50,000)**: The Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual who, on April 1, 2024, holds a SSHRC doctoral scholarship or fellowship or postdoctoral fellowship. This includes, but is 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.
- **Insight Award (\$50,000)**: The Insight Award recognizes outstanding achievement arising from a research project funded partially or completely by SSHRC. It is given to an individual or team whose project has resulted in significant contribution to knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world. The project's research outcomes must have led to demonstrable impact within and/or beyond the academic community.
- **Connection Award (\$50,000)**: The Connection Award recognizes an outstanding SSHRC-funded initiative to facilitate the flow and exchange of research knowledge within and/or beyond the academic community. It is given to an individual or team whose project has engaged the campus and/or wider community and has generated intellectual, cultural, social and/or economic impacts.
- **Partnership Award (\$50,000)**: The Partnership Award recognizes a SSHRC-funded formal partnership for its outstanding achievement in advancing research, research training or knowledge mobilization, or developing a new partnership approach to research and/or related activities. It is awarded to a partnership that, through mutual co-operation and shared intellectual leadership and resources, has demonstrated impact and influence within and beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

INTERNAL NOMINATION & REVIEW PROCESS

- VPRI is launching this call early to provide Faculties with ample time to undertake their own internal selection process. The attached forms can be used to facilitate a search for nominees.
- For the Gold Medal, Insight, Connection and Partnership awards, Faculties may submit up to one (1) nomination per award, with the exception of LA&PS, which may submit up to two (2) nominations per award. The deadline for internal submission is no later than **January 17, 2024**.
- For the Talent award, the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) may submit up to two (2) nominations. The deadline for internal submission is no later than **January 17, 2024**.
- The MAAC will review all nominations and provide advice to the VPRI about which should be advanced to SSHRC. ***York University may only submit one nomination per category.***
- A SIRI Specialist will work with Faculty-based research support personnel, nominees, and nominators (if applicable), to prepare final documentation for submission to SSHRC and to solicit letters of support. The nomination in the Talent category will be supported by the FGS Research Officer.
- SSHRC will adjudicate the competition and notify York University of results.

Internal Nomination Components

Internal nominations should be sent by email to avogus@yorku.ca by **January 17, 2024** as a single pdf file in the following order:

1. Institutional nomination process (one page maximum) – Please provide a description of how equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in:
 - the Faculty's decision-making processes and criteria for nominating candidates;
 - how the Faculty manages its nomination process, and who is involved in the decision (e.g., committees, vice-president-level administrators, deans/department heads);
 - measures to ensure that individuals from the four designated groups (women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities) are not disadvantaged or overlooked in cases where they have career gaps due to parental or health-related leaves, the care and nurturing of family members, or community-based responsibilities; and
 - training and development activities related to unconscious bias, equity, diversity and inclusion for administrators and faculty involved in the nomination.

These descriptions will be used for SSHRC program monitoring purposes only and will not be shared with the jury.

2. Unsigned draft of the Institutional nomination letter and rationale (three-page maximum). This section should present the nomination and describe the program of research, research activities and achievements relevant to the Impact Award for

which the candidate is being nominated. It should include:

- the name, position and affiliation of the nominee (and any team members) and the award category for which they are being nominated;
 - a description of the SSHRC-funded research that forms the basis of the nomination, with relevant file numbers (this could include one or more legacy grants, such as Standard Research Grants or Community-University Research Alliance grants), summarizing the initiative's achievements, significance, challenges, impacts and outcomes;
 - a summary of the nominee's overall contribution to their field(s) of research;
 - the level of engagement with, and the quality and scope of training and mentoring provided to, students, emerging scholars and participants, and indication of the nominee's career level;
 - examples of success in widely sharing, and encouraging application of, resulting knowledge within and/or beyond the academic community; and
 - evidence that outcomes resulted in significant and positive impacts, relative to discipline-specific norms, in Canada and/or internationally.
3. Career interruptions and special circumstances (one page, if relevant). This section is NOT mandatory.
- **Career interruptions** occur when researchers are taken away from their research work for an extended period of time for health, administrative, family, COVID-19 or other reasons.
 - **Special circumstances** involve slowdowns in research productivity created by health, administrative, family, community-based responsibilities or other reasons (i.e., the researcher was not completely taken away from research work). Nominees from small institutions may indicate their teaching load in this section if the change in workload impacted their research output.
 - SSHRC asks its adjudication committees to consider career interruptions and special circumstances that may have affected nominees' record of research achievements. In doing so, adjudication committee members will be able to more accurately estimate the productivity of each researcher, independent of any career interruptions or special circumstances.
4. SSHRC CV of the nominee and team members (if applicable).
5. List of potential referees (including e-mail address) and a 150-word (max) bio for each.

Please note that applicants are required to submit three letters of support from established referees who are authorities in the field; however, these documents are not required for internal MAAC review. SIRI will solicit letters of support once VPRI has identified nominations moving forward.

Please note referees cannot be:

- from the same institution as the nominee (except for the Talent category);

- individuals who are, or were involved in, the SSHRC-funded research project(s) being put forward in this nomination; or
- perceived as being in a [conflict of interest](#) with the nomination.

Letters of support with multiple signatories **will not** be accepted.

Please note that Associate Deans of Research need to ensure that submitted internal nomination documents have all necessary requirements as outlined above. Any submissions with missing components will be deemed incomplete and will not be reviewed by MAAC.

TIMELINE

DATE*	MILESTONE
Oct 18, 2023	Internal program launch
Jan 17, 2024	Internal nominations due to VPRI
Jan 26, 2024	MAAC Review
Feb 2024	Feedback sent to nominees
Feb 2024	SIRI to solicit letters of support
Mar 2024	Full draft of nomination package due to SIRI for review
Mar 30, 2024	Final nomination package and ORS Checklist due to SIRI
Apr 1, 2024	SSHRC deadline

*Dates are subject to change pending launch of the 2024 competition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For all files

It is recommended that:

- each of the criteria in the call for nominations be addressed specifically;
- all files demonstrate a strong fit with the SSHRC mandate;
- nominees should be an active social sciences and humanities researcher or student;
- nominees hold or have held SSHRC funding pertinent to the award category;
- nominees be at the Associate Professor level or above (Talent Award excepted);
- all files demonstrate tangible and measurable impact of the research described (for example, impact within a body of literature, within a field of study, within a sector of the Canadian public, within public policy, etc.);
- the development of each file being put forward be supported by the corresponding Research Officer or other Faculty research support personnel.

For Gold Medal Files

It is recommended that nomination files demonstrate:

- a 30-40 year career in the social sciences, humanities, and/or fine arts;
- an exceptional track record of publication and other scholarly outputs, as well as a broad scope of research activity;
- success in widely sharing and encouraging application of the knowledge that his or her research has produced in Canada and abroad;
- evidence that the outcomes of their research have had a significant and positive impact on Canadian society, including the nation's intellectual and cultural life;
- an international reputation for research (if appropriate).

Contact: Abby Vogus, SIRI Specialist, Office of Research Services, avoqus@yorku.ca