

# SGS Award Announcement

**To:** Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators  
**From:** Sarah Pickering, Postdoctoral Administrative Officer  
**CC:** Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; Charmaine Williams, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid; Lisa Haley, Senior Advisor & Manager, Program Completion and Postdoctoral Services  
**Date:** June 15, 2020  
**Re:** **2020-21 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program**

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## Award Overview

<b>Applicant deadline to Faculty:</b>	<b>Date set by Faculty Research Office</b>
<b>Faculty nomination deadline to SGS:</b>	<b>September 11, 2020</b> (list of faculty nominations due to SGS)
<b>Letter of endorsement made available:</b>	September 25, 2020 (to successful nominees)
<b>Nominee ResearchNet submission deadline:</b>	October 1, 2020 8:00 p.m. (EDT)
<b>Required Legal Status:</b>	Domestic and International
<b>Results:</b>	Mid-February 2021 directly from Banting

## Purpose

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships Program is intended **to attract and retain top-tier postdoctoral talent**, both nationally and internationally; develop their leadership potential; and position them for success as research leaders of tomorrow, positively contributing to Canada's economic, social and research-based growth through a research-intensive career.

Seventy fellowships are awarded annually, divided evenly between Canada's three federal granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC). There are a total of 140 awards active at any one time.

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program is unique in its emphasis on the synergy of research goals and projects between the following:

- applicant – individual merit and potential to launch a successful research-intensive career
- host institution – commitment to the research program and alignment with the institution's strategic priorities

# Eligibility to Apply

Applicants and the proposed host institution must meet specific eligibility criteria within several categories. Applications that do not meet all of the eligibility criteria will not be accepted. ([view complete requirements on the Banting website](#))

1. Applicant eligibility:
  - (a) Citizenship and location of host institution
  - (b) Eligibility window for degree completion
2. Host institution eligibility
3. Other eligibility restrictions

**NEW:** [Extension to eligibility window for degree completion](#)

In order to encourage equitable access to excellent candidates, the window of eligibility can now be extended by a cumulative maximum of **three years, if the applicant had their career interrupted for extenuating circumstances**. Examples of such circumstances include but are not limited to: parental leave, illness, health-related family responsibilities, mandatory military service, disruptions due to war, civil conflicts and/or natural disasters in the country of residence, socio-economic reasons, etc. **The list of specific allowable reasons for extending the window has been removed.**

**NEW:** **Sex- and Gender-based Analysis Plus (SGBA+)**

In order to ensure the research we fund is impactful and relevant to the diversity of the population we now require applicants to systematically examine how differences in identity factors, such as sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, age and mental or physical disability, affect the outcomes of research and the impacts of research findings. Applicants are now encouraged to take SGBA+ principles into account in their proposed research (see Application guide -[Task 10 – Research Proposal](#))

**Reminder:** **Natural disasters has been added to the list of allowable reasons for career interruptions.**

**Reminder:** **Research respectfully involving Indigenous communities:**

The proposed research must be in accordance with the policies and principles outlined in the following two main documents:

[Tri-Council Policy Statement: Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)

[SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)

Proposed supervisors must describe how collaborations are developed and provide details corroborating information included in the research proposal.

**Reminder:** **Deadline for submitting referee assessments:**

Applicants may now customize the deadline by which referees must submit their assessments. By default, the *Assessment Required Deadline* in ResearchNet is set for two days before the applicant's deadline. For more information, please consult [Task 8](#) of the Application guide.

**Reminder:** **Mobility and choice of host institution:**

All applicants should clearly justify their choice of host institution and supervisor, and they should highlight the anticipated benefits with respect to fulfilling their career aspirations. If they have already been at the proposed host institution **for more than 6 months**, they must justify their decision to remain at the same location. There should be a direct correlation between the strength of the justification and the amount of time already spent at that institution. Only in rare circumstances will a Banting PDF be awarded to an applicant who is staying at the same institution or within the same research environment where they completed their PhD, PhD-equivalent or health professional degree.

**Reminder:** **Extensions to eligibility window for degree completion.**

In order to encourage equitable access to excellent candidates, additional allowable reasons of career interruptions were added.

**Reminder: Eligible referees.**

An assessment cannot be completed by the proposed supervisor unless that person is currently your supervisor or has been your supervisor in the past.

**\*To review all new program items and important reminders, please see the [2020-21 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship competition launch memo](#).**

## Endorsement Process

Given the limited number of fellowships awarded annually, universities are encouraged to carefully consider and **support only the highest quality applicants** from both Canada and abroad. In keeping with the aim of attracting postdoctoral fellows to Canada, units are encouraged to endorse new foreign candidates. In addition, careful consideration must be given to ensure gender equity in the endorsement process. U of T Faculty Research Offices receive allocations and are therefore limited in the number of applications they may put forth for endorsement by the School of Graduate Studies.

**Applicants must be nominated by their Faculty** (e.g. Faculty of Arts and Science) to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to receive the [endorsement of the University](#). Supervisors wishing to support a candidate's application must contact their affiliated Faculty Research Office to inquire about the Faculty's internal deadline, application and selection process (see faculty contact info under "Contacts & Resources" section). **Applications submitted outside of the affiliated Faculty competition and therefore without the official endorsement of Dean of Graduate Studies will be deemed ineligible by the Banting Secretariat.**

University of Toronto graduates who wish to pursue their postdoctoral fellowship at another institution must apply through their proposed host institution, abiding to their internal selection process and deadlines. The School of Graduate Studies will complete the Fulfillment of Degree Requirements Form for the candidate, who must [request it by email](#) from the Postdoctoral Fellows Office. Those who have not completed their degree requirements yet are asked to submit the form to their graduate unit for completion.

**\*Faculty of Medicine – Please note:** Each affiliated hospital will hold its own competition as well. It is separate from Faculty of Medicine (via GLSE) and may have a different deadline and application process. Applicants will need to decide where to apply because it will determine where the award will be held and paid from (if successful).

## Selection Criteria

Applications received by Banting will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria. Applicants, supervisors, departments, and faculties are encouraged to consider these criteria when developing their applications and when selecting nominees to be forwarded:

1. **Research excellence and leadership in the research domain** - demonstrated capacity for research excellence based on track record as defined by quality of applicant's research contributions, and demonstrated capacity for leadership in the research domain defined by the sphere of influence achieved to date by the applicant.
2. **Quality of the applicant's proposed research program** - examined in terms of the potential of the proposed research program (taking into consideration feasibility, timelines and novelty of research), executed in the proposed institutional environment, to position the applicant for significant impact through a research-intensive career (potential for significant impact).
3. **Institutional commitment and demonstrated synergy between applicant and institutional strategic priorities** – examined in terms of:
  - o demonstrated commitment of institution to support the development of the applicant's research and leadership capacity through institutional support (funding, facilities, equipment, etc.) and professional development; and
  - o demonstrated alignment and synergy between the applicant's research ambitions and the institution's potential to benefit strategically from its engagement with the applicant (alignment with institution's strategic priorities)

See the Banting Postdoctoral Fellows [selection committee guide](#) for further information.

## Application Process [\[see Application Guide\]](#)

1. The Banting application is initiated by the applicant through the [ResearchNet](#) Application System with the CV data components created using the [Common CV](#) system.
2. Applicants intending to take up the fellowship at the University of Toronto should first contact their fellowship supervisor to request the support of their application and if granted, inquire about the specific nomination/selection process and associated deadlines implemented by their Faculty Research Office. **The University of Toronto does not have access to applications on ResearchNet.** Therefore, candidates may be asked to submit a copy of their entire application, including a copy of the confidential online referee assessment forms to their Faculty Research Office.
3. Applicants must be nominated by their Faculty (e.g. Faculty Arts and Science) to the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to receive the endorsement of the University. Those nominated to SGS will be issued a [Letter of Endorsement](#) signed by the Dean of Graduate Studies necessary to complete the online application process at least one week before the ResearchNet deadline date. Only applications endorsed by the Dean of Graduate Studies will be accepted by the Banting Secretariat.
4. Nominees must also obtain (from the institution that conferred their degree) a [Fulfillment of Degree Requirements Form](#) and attach this completed document to their online application. Applicants who require this document from U of T must [request it by email](#) from the Postdoctoral Fellows Office **before Sept 4th**.
5. Candidates are responsible for uploading all required documents to ResearchNet to complete the application and submission process. Only the referee assessment forms are to be completed and submitted online by the referees. **It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all components of the application are complete (including references) and the application is submitted via ResearchNet by the deadline of October 1, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. (EDT).**

### **Important application reminders:**

**Mandatory arm's length referee:** All applications must have at least 1 arm's length referee from among the 3 invited referees. The arm's length referee cannot be:

- a relative or close friend, or have a personal relationship with the applicant;
- in a position to benefit from the funding of the application;
- affiliated with the applicant's current and/or proposed institutions;
- professionally affiliated with the applicant, as a result of (but not limited to): being their supervisor or trainee; collaborating, publishing or sharing funding with the applicant, or having plans to do so in the immediate future.

**Supervisor's statement (page limit)** - The maximum length of the statement is four (4) pages.

*At the University of Toronto, we strive to be an equitable and inclusive community, rich with diversity, protecting the human rights of all persons, and based upon understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of every person. We seek to ensure to the greatest extent possible that all students and employees enjoy the opportunity to participate as they see fit in the full range of activities that the University offers, and to achieve their full potential as members of the University community.*

## Contacts & Resources

U of T nomination/selection process:

See Faculty Research Office contact information (see table below)

Banting Program information: [see website](#)

Banting PDF [Review Process](#) (Overview and Selection Committees Guide)

School of Graduate Studies Contact:

**Sarah Pickering**, Postdoctoral Office

[sgs.postdoc@utoronto.ca](mailto:sgs.postdoc@utoronto.ca) 416-946-5254

Faculty	Faculty deadline for Banting applications (Expected month - contact directly to confirm); current as of June 2020	Applicants submit application directly to:	Point of contact for applicants and supervisors:	Faculty Administrative Contact	Additional Instructions (for applicants & supervisors)
Applied Science and Engineering	August 12, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">David Duong</a>	
Architecture, Landscape, and Design - Daniels	August 4, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Shirley Chan</a>	
Arts and Science	August 1, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Christine Yarish</a>	
Dentistry	August 28, 2020	Graduate Unit	Graduate Unit	<a href="#">Lisa Hutchinson</a>	
Information	TBC / Contact Faculty Office	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Anna Pralat</a>	Contact the Dean to discuss proposed applications early.
Kinesiology and Physical Education	TBC / Contact Faculty Office	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Luc Tremblay</a>	
Law	August 7, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Carla Serpe</a>	
Management	August 28, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Sasha Lucas</a>	
Medicine	July 31, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Debbie Chau</a>	Students wishing to have their fellowship administered via affiliated hospital need to contact the research office at the hospital for their application and deadline.
University of Toronto Mississauga	August 12, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Carla DeMarco</a> , <a href="#">Rong Wu</a> and <a href="#">Maeve Doyle</a>	UTM has an internal adjudication process to determine which applications are going forward from the UTM campus, based on their allocation.  ** NOI is required to fill out <a href="#">here</a> **
Music	August 7, 2020	Faculty Research Office	Faculty Research Office	<a href="#">Steven Vande Moortele</a> , Associate Dean Research	The Faculty of Music conducts an internal adjudication process to determine nominations based on the Faculty's quota. Details will be forwarded to faculty members in advance of the deadline. Additional information for applicants may be found on the <a href="#">Faculty of Music's Research webpage</a> .

Faculty	Faculty deadline for Banting applications (Expected month - contact directly to confirm); current as of June 2020	Applicants submit application directly to:	Point of contact for applicants and supervisors:	Faculty Administrative Contact	Additional Instructions (for applicants & supervisors)
Nursing	TBC / Contact Faculty Office	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Shefali Ram</a> and <a href="#">Marian Smith</a>	
OISE	August 4, 2020	Faculty Research Office	Faculty Research Office	<a href="#">Madeleine Taylor</a> and <a href="#">Lara Cartmale</a>	There will be an internal adjudication process to determine the applicants who can apply for this fellowship. Communications will be sent out to Faculty.
Pharmacy - Leslie Dan	August 11, 2020 by 5pm	Graduate Unit	Graduate Unit	<a href="#">Mike Folinis</a> and <a href="#">Sam D'Alfonso</a>	There will be an internal adjudication process to determine the applicant(s) going forward based on departmental quotas. Communication will be forwarded to the Faculty closer to the deadline.
Public Health – Dalla Lana	July 31, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Lee Vernich</a> and <a href="#">Caroline Godbout</a>	
University of Toronto Scarborough	August 17, 2020 (by 12noon)	Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation	Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation	<a href="#">Sharon George</a>	<p>Instructions for Supervisors:</p> <p>1) Supervisors wishing to support a candidate's application must notify the UTSC Office of the Vice-Principal, Research (UTSC VPRO) of the planned application in advance of the UTSC internal deadline.</p> <p>2) Supervisors are responsible for the preparation of the Supervisor's statement in consultation with their chair/director.</p> <p>3) The UTSC VPRO will carefully select only the highest quality applicants from both Canada and abroad within its allocation in accordance to the stated Selection Criteria.</p>
Social Work	August 3, 2020	Faculty Office	Faculty Office	<a href="#">Renee Leroux</a>	