



2025 Researcher of the Year - Program Terms

Key Dates	
Call for Nominations	October 1, 2024
Nominations Submitted to VPRI	December 3, 2024
Nominations Confirmed	Mid-December
Full Application	January 13, 2025
Award Notification	March 2025

Objective

Established in 2009, the Researcher of the Year (RoY) award recognizes and celebrates excellence in research and creative scholarly activity at UBC Okanagan (UBCO). Publicly recognizing researcher’s achievements via this award provides the opportunity for the office of the VPRI and the University as a whole to celebrate research excellence and commend the faculty who have made highly significant and valuable contributions to knowledge, society, culture or innovation over the past two years.

Award details

UBCO Faculties and Schools are welcome to nominate up to three individual faculty members in these award categories:

- Health
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Natural Sciences & Engineering

There is one award per category.

Eligibility

- Any member with a full-time academic appointment in the tenured or tenure-track research stream at UBC Okanagan is eligible for the award.
- Individual faculty may only be nominated in one category.
- Previous recipients of an award are ineligible for the same award for a period of 10 years.
- Nominations recognizing early-career and established scholars in all disciplines are encouraged. Early career nominees are defined as scholars who are less than 10 years from their highest degree at the time of nomination; the eligibility period can be extended for legitimate career interruptions. Established scholars are defined as scholars who are 10 years and more from their highest degree at the time of nomination.



Application process

1. Internal Nomination Process. Faculty members may not apply for the award on their own behalf; they must be nominated by their Faculty Dean. For the purposes of this program, UBC Okanagan Faculty Deans include the Director of the School of Education, the Director of the School of Engineering, and the Regional Associate Dean for the Southern Medical Program.

Faculties and Schools are responsible for determining their own internal selection processes. Each Faculty is invited to bring forward up to three individuals for nomination to the VPRI Office. To ensure the nominations are aligned with UBCO's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion, a transparent and equitable internal selection process is expected¹. Guides and best practices to support an equitable nomination and internal selection processes can be found on the [Canada Research Chair](#) and [VPRI EDI](#) resources pages.

2. Faculty / School notify the VPRI Office by December 3. Deans shall provide the names of up to three faculty members by sending an email to vprawards.ubco@ubc.ca by December 3, 2024 at 12 p.m. Please attach a nomination form for each nominee. Once reviewed, the VPRI Office will provide a confirmation to the Dean and individual nominee that the notice is received and meets the eligibility requirements.

3. Nominees submit a full application package to the VPRI Office by January 13. Nominees shall submit their application package to vprawards.ubco@ubc.ca by January 13, 2025, at 12 p.m., which includes the following items:

- **A document prepared by the nominee** that clearly addresses each of the selection criteria. (Maximum three-pages).
- **A full UBC curriculum vitae.** Nominees are encouraged to explain any breaks in their careers.

Review procedure

The selection committee is chaired by the Associate Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation, and is composed of past RoY recipients and members of the UBCO research community. Final rankings and recommendations from the selection committees will be shared with the Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation, who will make the final decisions.

Selection criteria

Nominees will be evaluated for their contributions to research excellence and leadership in the category in which they are being nominated, as appropriate to their career stage. The award will be adjudicated using the following selection criteria:

¹ The VPRI Office reserves the right to ask for details regarding the internal selection process.



1. **Record of Impact:** A record of research that demonstrates a major impact in or beyond their field for established nominees, or the potential for a major impact for early career nominees (30%);
2. **Recent Significant Contributions:** Up to three significant contributions or breakthroughs in research within the past two years in the category they are nominated, with an ability to communicate the nature and significance of their work, either within or beyond academia (e.g., through conferences, exhibitions or productions, outreach activities, community or industry engagement) (30%);
3. **Demonstrated Leadership:** Demonstration of leadership and exceptional service in their field through supervision, major collaborations, major team grants or initiatives, national or international meeting or exhibition coordination, leadership in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, and/or community/partner engagement (40%).

Award details and recognition

The Office of the VPRI will profile each recipient via a coordinated public announcement that highlights the most recent year's recipients and their work. Award recipients should be prepared to be available for interviews with the VPRI Communications team to provide insight into their research and their backgrounds in order to help inform this announcement.

In keeping with standard practice, names of Researcher of the Year recipients cannot be released to the media or formally announced by Faculties or recipients themselves until the UBCO VPRI Office has made its official public announcement. These announcements are done in consultation with Faculties and recipients to gain maximum exposure for all involved. Prior to this initial announcement, Researcher of the Year recipient names are confidential and should not be released to the public in any form.

Recipients may informally use their Researcher of the Year titles before the official announcement in limited cases, including when applying for research funding, but are asked to please first check with the Office of the VPRI.

After the public announcement has taken place, award recipients will be invited to an intimate dinner with UBCO Leadership and other special guests where their success will be further recognized and celebrated.

Finally, Researcher of the Year recipients will also receive a cash prize of \$1,000, and invited to participate on the Researcher of the Year selection committee for a three-year term.

Program contact

Please direct any questions to Nicole Bennett, Internal Programs Manager, VPRI Office, UBC Okanagan, nicole.bennett@ubc.ca.