

Petro-Canada-McMaster University Young Innovator Award

Petro-Canada and McMaster University are pleased to join together in celebrating the achievements of an outstanding faculty innovator. The Petro-Canada – McMaster University Young Innovator Award is a program that provides an opportunity to build on the connection between research and teaching by engaging undergraduate students in research projects. The Award is financed through a \$250,000 endowment provided by Petro-Canada, and a matching annual contribution by McMaster University's Office of the Vice-President Research. **This year, we are excited to be able to offer TWO Petro-Canada – McMaster University Young Innovator Awards. Deans will be asked to forward, to the MacPherson Institute, two nominations from their Faculty.**

This Award is unique in that it:

- recognizes the research achievements of an innovative scholar within the first eight years of his or her research career; and,
- provides funding support to the scholar to enable the active participation of undergraduates in their research endeavour.

The Award provides a means for the University to encourage creative thinking about how undergraduate students might participate in university research, to learn how undergraduate education might benefit from research, and to provide, over time, several innovative working models of active student involvement in university research.

The Award consists of:

- campus-wide recognition for innovative research achievement by a new faculty member;
- \$23,000 in funding support towards a project to actively involve undergraduate students in research.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications for 2021 are due to the Dean's Office in the candidate's Faculty by **Monday, March 8th, 2021 at 4:30PM**. Deans must forward Faculty nominees to the MacPherson Institute at MIgrants@mcmaster.ca by **Friday March 12th at 4:30PM**.

ELIGIBILITY

All full-time McMaster faculty members are eligible for this Award, but only during the first eight years following the receipt of their PhD. The project should be completed in the year following receipt of the Award.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

The nomination process consists of two parts:

- 1) The first part occurs at the Department and Faculty level and evaluates the research accomplishments of the nominee.
- 2) The second part occurs at the institutional level and evaluates the undergraduate project proposal.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

The application package consists of TWO parts:

- **Part One (Research Accomplishments)** – This section will be used by the Dean of the Faculty, or designate, adjudicates the research achievements of the candidate, and in the case of multiple applications from within the Faculty, the Dean can select up to TWO Faculty nominees for this round of funding.
- **Part Two (Undergraduate Project Proposal)**: This section will be used to determine the winner from among those on the short list. The project proposals of those candidates on the short list will be reviewed by a qualified panel of academics. The panel will select the Award recipient(s) by choosing the most innovative and promising project proposal.

Part One: Research Accomplishments

The first part is meant to qualify the applicant as an innovative researcher. The candidate should collaborate with his or her departmental Chair to assemble the case for excellence. The evidence submitted must include:

- confirmation of completion date of PhD;
- an up-to-date curriculum vitae; and,
- a brief (two-page) letter from the Chair outlining the reasons for considering the candidate's research work as exceptional.

This might include such information as a description of the candidate's research goals, research accomplishments to date, other honours or prizes, impact on the graduate program, impact on the work of colleagues, etc. If there is more than one potential nominee in a department, it is the Chair's responsibility to put forth the single best candidate each year.

Part Two: Undergraduate Project Proposal

Each candidate will draft and submit a Project Proposal for engaging undergraduate students with their research. The Project Proposal should be **no longer than five pages** and should include the following sections: a statement of goals and expected outcomes, a method or process, a budget, a timeline, a plan for evaluating the impact of the project on the undergraduate program, and a plan for sharing the results of the project with the McMaster community.

It is this Project Proposal that will be used to determine the winner from among those on the short list. The project proposals of those candidates on the short list will be reviewed by a qualified panel of academics. The panel will select the Award recipient(s) by choosing the most innovative and promising project proposal.

NOTE: The complete package is first submitted to the Dean of the Faculty for review. The Dean of the Faculty, or designate, adjudicates the research achievements of the candidate, and in the case of multiple applications from within the Faculty, can select up to two Faculty nominees to put forward. All candidates identified in this manner are assumed to meet the innovative research requirements of this Award. As a group they make up the "short list" for Part 2 of the Award procedure.

For More Information: please contact MIgrants@mcmaster.ca