**OFFICE OF THE
VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH &
INNOVATION**

904 KANEFF TOWER
4700 KEELE ST
TORONTO ON
CANADA   M3J 1P3
T 416 736-5479
F 416 736-5512
vpri@yorku.ca
www.yorku.ca/research

Memo

To:	Deans
Cc:	Associate Deans Research
From:	Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation
Date:	December 11, 2020
Subject:	SSHRC Impact Awards 2021

INTRODUCTION

Please review the following programmatic details and internal process for the 2021 SSHRC Impact Awards and share the information with your respective Research Directors, Research Officers, and faculty members.

Building on York's strong track record of successful nominations, including the 2019 Insight Award and the 2018 Partnership Award, all eligible SSHRC-funded researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.

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

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 entirely by SSHRC.

Award funds are to be used for activities that promote and further develop the work being honoured. In recognition of the crucial role that postsecondary institutions play in mobilizing research knowledge, at least 10 per cent of each award must be used to promote the recipient's research achievements. 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.

The SSHRC Impact Awards are comprised of the following categories:

- o **_[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 must have significantly advanced understanding in their research fields in the social sciences and humanities. The exceptional quality and impact of their research, and their ongoing efforts to share the results of this work, must have greatly enriched Canadian society and contributed to social, cultural, economic and intellectual life in Canada and/or internationally.

- o **_[Talent Award](_) ($50,000):_** The Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual who, on April 1, 2021, 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.

- o **_[Insight Award](_) ($50,000):_** The Insight Award recognizes outstanding achievement arising from a single or multiple research projects funded partially or completely by SSHRC. It is given to an individual or team whose project(s) have significantly contributed to knowledge and understanding about people, societies and the world. The research outcomes must have led to demonstrable impact within and/or beyond the nominee's field of research and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

- o **_[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 social sciences and humanities research 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.

- o **_[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/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

INTERNAL NOMINATION & REVIEW PROCESS

- 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 **Monday, February 22, 2021**.

- For the Talent award, FGS may submit up to two (2) nominations. The deadline for internal submission is no later than **Monday, February 22, 2021.**

- 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.***

- SIRI Specialist (Emma Doran) will work with Faculty-based research support personnel, nominees, and nominators (if applicable), to prepare final documentation for submission to SSHRC. The nomination in the Talent category will be supported by the FGS Research Officer, Judy Tse.

Internal Nomination Components

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.

Internal nominations should be sent by email to edoran@yorku.ca by **Monday, March 1, 2021** as a single pdf file in the following order:

1. Institutional nomination process (one page maximum). Note that this is to be used by SSHRC for program monitoring only and will not to be shared with the jury. Please provide a description of how equity, diversity and inclusion have been considered in:

   o the Faculty's decision-making processes and criteria for nominating candidates, noting how the Faculty manages its nomination process, and who is involved in the decision (e.g., committees, vice-president-level administrators, deans / department heads);

   o 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

   o training and development activities related to unconscious bias, equity, diversity and inclusion for administrators and faculty involved in the nomination.

2. Institutional nomination letter and rationale (three pages 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:

   o the name, position and affiliation of the nominee (and any co-applicants) and the award category in which they are being nominated;

   o a description of the SSHRC-funded research that forms the basis of the nomination, , with relevant SSHRC file numbers (this could include one or more

legacy grants, e.g. Standard Research Grants or Community-University Research Alliances);

- o a description of the SSHRC-funded research project's achievements, significance, challenge, impact and outcomes;

- o a summary of the nominee's overall contribution to their fields of research;

- o 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;

- o examples of success in widely sharing, and encouraging application of, resulting knowledge within and/or beyond the academic community; and

- o evidence that outcomes resulted in significant and positive impacts, relative to discipline-specific norms, in Canada and/or internationally.

3. Information supporting the nomination, including as appropriate a detailed list of research contributions, outcomes and other activities. The supporting information should be grouped into the following categories, as appropriate:

- o Publications
- o Conference presentations
- o Graduate students supported or trained
- o Creative outputs
- o Other research contributions
- o Awards and prizes
- o Activities
- o Outcomes

The length of this section is dependent on which Impact Award is being considered:

Gold Medal	Up to 6 pages covering span of nominee's career
Talent Award	Up to 2 pages (if relevant)
Insight, Connection and Partnership Awards	Up to 3 pages

When referring to SSHRC-funded initiatives, please cite all relevant SSHRC file numbers.

4. Career interruptions and special circumstances (one page maximum, if relevant). This section is NOT mandatory.

- o **Career interruptions** occur when researchers are taken away from their research work for an extended period for health, administrative, family, community-based responsibilities or other reasons.

- o **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.

5. SSHRC CV of the nominee and team members (for up to six team members, including the nominee, if applicable). Note that the SSHRC CV is distinct from the Canadian Common CV.

6. The names, positions and institutional affiliations of three established referees, who are authorities in the field, who have confirmed that they will provide letters of support.

Note that it is the responsibility of the nominee and their Faculty to secure commitments from letter writers prior to submission of the internal nomination to VPRI. This will help to ensure that, should the nominee be selected by VPRI to move forward with their nomination, the letters are received at York prior to submission of the final nomination file to SSHRC.

Please note referees cannot be:

o   from the same institution as the nominee;

o   individuals who are, or were involved in, the SSHRC-funded research project(s) being put forward in this nomination; or

o   perceived as being in a conflict of interest with the nomination.

TIMELINE

DATE	MILESTONE
Early January 2021	Nominees contact referees, with SIRI support as required
March 1, 2021	Internal nominations due to VPRI
Week of March 1, 2021	MAAC Review
Week of March 8, 2021	Feedback sent to nominees
March 30, 2021	Full application and ORS Checklist, both in hardcopy, due to SIRI
April 1, 2021	SSHRC deadline

RECOMMENDATIONS
For all files

It is recommended that:

o   each of the criteria in the call for nominations be addressed specifically;

o   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: Emma Doran, SIRI Specialist, Office of Research Services, edoran@yorku.ca.