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Date: April 17, 2026

To: Prospective Students, Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, and Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

Re: **2026 Canada Impact + Research Training Awards – Doctoral Competition (Wave 2) - Revised April 21, 2026**

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce the details of the 2026 Canada Impact + Research Training Awards (CIRTA)– Doctoral competition (Wave 2) at the University of Alberta (U of A). The CIRTA program (\$40,000/year for up to three years) is a targeted, one-time initiative designed to recruit international or returning Canadian doctoral students to Canada.

Departments are to note the new nomination process from the Wave 1 competition round. **Prospective doctoral students and their proposed supervisor must submit the application package directly to the students' admitting department.**

Eligibility

Prospective doctoral students eligible to submit their application through the U of A are to review the CIRTA program [website](#) for complete program information. It is the prospective student and their proposed supervisor's (Faculty member/nominator) responsibility to read all eligibility criteria and instructions on the [CIRTA website](#) and [GPS's website](#), and be familiar with the application process before applying.

Research Priority Area Eligibility: The onus is on the prospective doctoral student and their proposed supervisor to ensure the candidate's research aligns with one of the priority areas as listed on the [CIRTA website](#) and [GPS's website](#).

Faculty members (nominators) must hold an active Tri-Agency grant (CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC) with payments scheduled for the 2025–26 or 2026–27 fiscal years (see "For Nominators" at [Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards: Q&A, FAQ # 19](#) for eligible grants and for additional Q&A nominating information).

The nominator and nominee are to select the agency whose research mandate most closely aligns to the nominee's research subject matter. In most cases, the agency will be the same as the agency of the nominator's grant.

Application & Nomination Process

Each department may submit a maximum of two doctoral nominations to GPS, and must be submitted via the GSMS Awards Portal; nominations for doctoral candidates will not be accepted by email or Fresh Service. Departments are to submit the following documents (via GSMS):

- a) [Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards – Nomination form](#)
 - o Prospective doctoral students are to complete Parts 1-4 as the “Nominee”, and ensure page 10 of the form is signed
 - o Proposed supervisors (Faculty members) are to complete Part 5 as the “Nominator”, and ensure page 10 of the form is signed. Nominators are also to ensure all grant information, including the reference number, is included or the nomination may not be reviewed.
 - o Leave *Part 6: Institution information and nomination confirmation* blank. GPS Dean of Graduate Studies will sign as the institutional authorization should the candidate be selected to move forward for national review following the university adjudication.
- b) Prospective doctoral student’s up-to-date CV

Departments are to ensure all form fields (excluding Part 6) and signatures lines are complete and legible after the nomination documents are uploaded to GSMS.

May 1, 2026: deadline for prospective doctoral students to submit a completed application for admission to the doctoral program.

May 12, 2026: deadline for departments to submit the completed nomination package to GPS via the GSMS Awards Portal. Departments are to ensure the [Canada Impact+ Research Training Awards – Nomination form](#) and CV are complete in their entirety and uploaded properly to GSMS, or the nomination may not be reviewed. **Late submissions of nominations will not be accepted, and changes cannot be made after May 12.**

May 13 - 27, 2026: GPS nomination review and adjudication to select recommended candidates for national review. The university’s quota for Wave 2 is 12 doctoral nominations.

June 3, 2026: deadline for GPS to submit recommended candidates to Tri-Council for national review.

Summer 2026: anticipated date results will be shared by Tri-Council.

We wish all prospective doctoral students and their supervisors success in the upcoming competition!

Sincerely,

Award Services