



Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

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Date: December 10, 2025

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

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

Re: **2026 SSHRC Impact Talent Award Competition**

Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce that the **2026 SSHRC Impact Talent Award** competition (\$50,000) is now open. The Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement and 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. GPS may nominate one individual to the national level.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must hold a SSHRC doctoral scholarship or fellowship, or postdoctoral fellowship, on April 1, 2026
- Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada

Selection Criteria

- Challenge – ambition and importance (25%)
- Achievements – impact and outcomes (75%)

For detailed eligibility and selection criteria information, please refer to the [SSHRC Talent Award website](#).

Overall Application Process

Eligible students are nominated by their department through the [GSMS portal](#). Interested students should contact their departments for their internal deadlines. This application process is two-fold:

1. Departments nominate a student using a “mini-package”.
2. Only the selected nominee and their department is contacted to complete a full package. This full package requires additional documents to be written and submitted by the nominee and/or department. Complete full package details are available on the [SSHRC Talent Award website](#).

Once a candidate has been selected by the Adjudication Committee, the GPS will work with the candidate and his/her department to obtain the additional information needed for



preparation of the final submission package to SSHRC.

GSMS Application Process (Department Instructions)

Deadline for Departments to submit the “mini-package”: **Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 4:00pm** via the GSMS portal.

Quota for Departments: There is a submission limit of **one nomination per Department** only.

1. Log into the GSMS portal and search for SSHRC Impact Talent Award
2. Answer the questions under the Question Tab
3. Upload the following five (5) documents as separate PDFs:
 - a. Summary of work undertaken (4 pages total)
 - i. 1 page: Brief summary of the work undertaken by the candidate, including relevant SSHRC file number(s) and a summary of the nominee’s overall contribution to their field of research
 - ii. 3 pages (max) (completed by the department): Provide support of the rationale for the nomination. Include, as appropriate, a detailed list of research contributions, outcomes and other activities (e.g., publications, conference presentations, graduate students supported or trained). Other research contributions, outcomes and activities may also be included. When referring to SSHRC-funded initiatives, please cite all relevant SSHRC file numbers
 - b. [SSHRC CV](#) (completed by the student)
 - c. List of Four Referees (completed by the student)
 - i. The names, phone numbers and email addresses of **four referees** whom would be contacted for letters of support if the candidate’s submission is selected to go forward as the nominee for the Impact Talent Award.
 - d. The [Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information](#) form (completed by the student)
 - e. The [Consent to Disclosure of Nomination Content for Promotional Purposes](#) form (completed by the student)

Please contact grad.awards@ualberta.ca should there be any questions.

Sincerely,

Awards Services
Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies