

J. GORDIN KAPLAN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Terms of reference and application process

The University of Alberta's most prestigious research award is named after the University's first Vice-President (Research). Two awards, valued at \$5,000 each, are presented annually to recognize outstanding work in each of the following categories:

1. Business, education, fine arts, humanities, law, or social sciences
2. Sciences, health sciences, or engineering.

The award recognizes and honours faculty members:

- Whose research has academic and/or societal impact as recognized within a specific field, discipline, or more broadly.
- Whose commitment to the principles of [Access, Community, and Belonging](#) (ACB) in the research program set an example for the university and broader community.
- Who set a standard of excellence for other University of Alberta faculty, students, post-doctoral fellows, and the community-at-large, as they contribute to our institution's strategic plan for research and innovation, [Forward with Purpose](#).

Selection Process

The award is adjudicated by a committee chaired by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) or delegate. The committee includes one or more Associate Vice-Presidents (Research) and members from the University's research community who are suitably representative of the diversity that exists across the institution and who conduct research in the designated award categories. All adjudicators complete unconscious bias training.

Teaching will not be part of the evaluation except for graduate teaching and supervision relevant to the candidate's research.

The OVPRI will confirm that the selected recipients are members of good standing in their Faculty prior to notification.

Application process

Each candidate is entitled to submit one application per year.

The following information must be submitted as part of the application:

- Statement of the category in which the application is to be considered. For interdisciplinary researchers, please select the category that most closely aligns with your research focus and provide rationale for the category choice.
 - Business, education, fine arts, humanities, law, or social sciences
 - Sciences, health sciences, or engineering

Note: The selection committee reserves the right to change the category for consideration.

- One-page statement of how the candidate's research program incorporates the principles of [Access, Community, and Belonging](#). Access ensures all have the opportunities to succeed and flourish, by dismantling barriers. Community emphasizes connection and shared purpose. Belonging creates an environment where individuals feel seen, valued, and supported.
- Two-page summary, for a multidisciplinary audience, of the candidate's three most important publications, creative works and/or scholarly contributions. In the summary, explain your choice of venues for the dissemination of research results. In addition to the more traditional peer-reviewed journals, you may also include books, chapters of books, articles, monographs, memoirs, special papers, reviews, conference/symposia proceedings and abstracts, patents, creative or artistic works, government publications, book reviews by the candidate or published reviews of their work, research reports, papers presented at scholarly meetings or conferences, and other forms of written scholarly expression, including participation in public discourse and debate, which constitute a contribution to research. **DO NOT include copies of the publications, creative works and/or scholarly contributions with the application package.**
- Letter of support (maximum 2 pages) from an academic or community referee that highlights the candidate's research impact. Research impact is the demonstrable contribution of research processes and outputs to scholarship and society. See [Research Impact Definition](#) for more information.
- Letter of support (maximum 2 pages) from an external assessor in the candidate's field. **Assessors should be experts with no close collegial or trainee link to the candidate from outside the University of Alberta.** Letters should address the candidate's suitability in terms of the criteria for the award and not be a reiteration of their CV. The letter should also include a brief biography of the assessor for the selection committee's information (may be included as a separate page).

The University of Alberta will receive and maintain letters of support in confidence, except under limited and specific circumstances. Please request to have letters of support emailed directly to Leslie Parsad, Coordinator, Internal Research Awards and Funding, Office of the Vice-President (Research and Innovation) at parsad@ualberta.ca.

- Traditional curriculum vitae (not narrative CV)

Deadline and submission

The deadline for submissions is **4:30 p.m. on September 26, 2025**. Please submit the application as a single PDF to Leslie Parsad at parsad@ualberta.ca.

Records from this competition will be managed in accordance with the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.