



2023 Researcher of the Year Program Terms

KEY DATES	
Call for Nominations	Mid-October 2022
Internal Nominations to Faculty Dean or School Director	Mid-November 2022
Nominations to VPRI Office	December 1, 2022 (12 noon)
Full Application Deadline	January 11, 2023 (12 noon)
Award Notification – Internal Announcement	Mid-February 2023
Award Notification – Public Announcement	May 2023

Objective

Established in 2009, the Researcher of the Year (RoY) award recognizes and celebrates excellence in research and creative scholarly activity at UBC Okanagan (UBCO).

The award and the award ceremony bring the campus research community together and provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and senior administrators to celebrate research excellence. The annual RoY awards commend the faculty who have made highly significant and valuable contributions to knowledge, society, culture, or innovation over the past two years.

Award details

UBCO Faculties and Schools are welcome to nominate up to three individual faculty members in these award categories:

- Health
- Social Sciences & Humanities
- Natural Sciences & Engineering

There is one award per category.

Starting next year, the VPRI Office is considering adding 3 new categories and alternating between these and the discipline-specific categories every other year:

- Champion of Interdisciplinary Research
- Champion of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion – Research Practice
- Champion of Community Engagement / Partnership Research

Eligibility

Any member with a full-time academic appointment in the tenured or tenure-track research stream at UBC Okanagan is eligible for the award. Individual faculty may only be nominated in one category.



Previous recipients of an award are ineligible for the same award for a period of ten years. Nominations are encouraged from early-career and established scholars in all disciplines. Early career nominees are defined as scholars who are less than 10 years from their highest degree at the time of nomination; the eligibility period can be extended for legitimate career interruptions.

Nomination process

STEP 1) Nominations to the Dean of the Faculty or Director of the School – mid-November 2022

Faculty members may not apply for the award on their own behalf; they must be nominated. Any member of the UBC Okanagan community (faculty, students, staff, and alumni) may submit nominations to the Dean of the nominee's Faculty, or to the Director of the nominee's School by mid-November 2022.

Faculties and Schools are responsible for determining their own deadlines and internal selection process as needed. To ensure the nominations are aligned with the [institutional commitment](#) to equity, diversity, and inclusion, a transparent and equitable internal selection process is expected¹.

STEP 2) Nominees selected by Faculty / School and notify the VPRI Office – December 1, 2022

Each Faculty and School are invited to bring forward up to three individuals for nomination to the VPRI Office. Deans and Directors shall provide the names of the faculty members by sending an email to vprwards.ubco@ubc.ca by **December 1, 2022, 12 noon**. This step is non-competitive.

STEP 3) Nominees confirmed by the VPRI Office - Each nominee will be emailed by the VPRI Office to confirm the nomination and encourage their full application to the competition.

Application process

A completed application package must be submitted to vprwards.ubco@ubc.ca by **January 11, 2023, 12 noon**. Each package will consist of a single PDF document that includes the following items:

- 1. A completed RoY Nomination Form** indicating the category the nominee is being put forward for, their career stage (early career or established), and signatures (from the nominee, nominator, and the Dean of the Faculty, or Director of the School). Use the form provided.
- 2. A document prepared by the nominee** which clearly addresses EACH of the selection criteria by highlighting the impact of their research, the most significant contribution(s) or breakthrough(s) in research over the past two years, and their demonstrated leadership and a proven ability to make a difference in their field (e.g., through researcher supervision, major collaborations, EDI, interdisciplinarity, and/or, community/partner engagement). Maximum 3-pages.

¹ The VPRI Office reserves the right to ask for details regarding the internal selection process.



3. **A full UBC curriculum vitae.** Nominees are encouraged to explain any breaks in their careers.

4. **Two letters of reference in support of the nomination.** One letter should be written by the individual who put forth the nomination. The other letter can be from anyone internal or external to UBC. The reference letters should clearly address the selection criteria and highlight the nominee's achievements over the past two years. Maximum 2-pages, each.

Guidelines for reference letters

Refer to the Canada Research Chair [Letters of Reference](#) website for tips on best practices, format, and limiting unconscious bias when writing a letter of reference. It is important the letters of reference provide insights into the quality of the nominee in reference to the program's selection criteria as appropriate for the nominee's career stage.

Review procedure

Three selection committees (one for each category) will evaluate the nomination packages. Each committee will be chaired by the Associate Vice-Principal, Research, and will be composed of past RoY recipients and members of the UBCO research community.

Final rankings and recommendations from the selection committees will be shared with the Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation, who will make the final decision.

Selection criteria

Nominees will be evaluated for their contributions to research excellence and leadership in the category they are being nominated in, as appropriate to their career stage.

The award will be adjudicated using the following selection criteria:

1. **An excellent record of research that demonstrates major impact** in their field for established nominees, or the potential for major impact for early career nominees (30%);
2. **Up to three most significant contributions or breakthroughs in research within the past two years** in the category they are nominated; and demonstration of a commitment and ability to **communicate the nature and significance of their work**, both within and beyond academia, for example through conferences, outreach activities, community or industry engagement (30%); and
3. **Demonstrated leadership and a proven ability to make a difference in their field**, for example through researcher supervision, major collaborations or leadership in EDI, interdisciplinarity, and/or, community/partner engagement (40%).



Award details

Recipients of this award will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and a video produced by UBC Studios that will feature their research. Recipients will also be profiled on the [UBCO VPRI web pages](#). The awards will be announced at the UBC Okanagan Researcher of the Year Awards Reception in May 2023.

Award recipients will be required to:

- be available for interviews with UBC Studios in February and filming in March 2023
- attend the Researcher of the Year event on May 4, 2023, to accept their award
- participate on the Researcher of the Year selection committee for a three-year term
- participate in one community-engagement event (date TBD)

Program contact

For any questions regarding this program, please contact:

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