



2024 Researcher of the Year - Program Terms

Key Dates	
Call for Nominations	October 2023
Nomination by Faculty Dean	November 22, 2023
Nominations Submitted to VPRI	December 8, 2023
Nominations Confirmed	Mid-December
Full Application	January 17, 2024
Award Notification	Late February 2024

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 annual and subsequent event recognizing research achievements at UBCO brings the campus research community together and provides opportunities for faculty, staff, and research administrators to celebrate research excellence. 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.

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 recognizing early-career and established scholars in all disciplines are encouraged. 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. Established scholars are defined as scholars who are 10 years and more from their highest degree at the time of nomination.



Application process

1. Nomination by Deans or their delegate by November 22, 2023.

Faculty members may not apply for the award on their own behalf; they must be nominated by their Faculty Dean. For the purposes of this document, UBC Okanagan Faculty Deans include the Director of the School of Education, the Director of the School of Engineering, and the Regional Associate Dean for the Southern Medical Program.

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

2. Nominees selected by Faculty / School and notify the VPRI Office by December 8, 2023.

Each Faculty is invited to bring forward up to three individuals for nomination to the VPRI Office. Deans shall provide the names of the faculty members by sending an email to vprawards.ubco@ubc.ca by December 8, 2023, by 12 noon. Use the nomination form provided.

Once submitted, the VPRI will provide a confirmation that the notices of nomination are received and meet the eligibility requirements.

3. Nominees submit a full application package to the VPRI Office (vprawards.ubco@ubc.ca) by January 17, 2024, by 12 noon.

Each application package will consist of a single PDF document that includes the following items:

- **RoY Nomination Form** identifying the nominee's award category, their career stage (early career or established), plus signatures from the nominee and the Dean. You may use the same nomination form from Step 2.
- **A document prepared by the nominee** that clearly addresses each of the selection criteria. Maximum 3-pages.
- **A full UBC curriculum vitae.** Nominees are encouraged to explain any breaks in their careers.

Review procedure

The selection committee is chaired by the Associate Vice-Principal, Research & Innovation, and is composed of past RoY recipients, Associate Deans of Research, 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 decisions.

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



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. **A record of research that demonstrates a major impact** in their field for established nominees, or the potential for a 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 the ability to **communicate the nature and significance of their work**, either within or beyond academia, for example through conferences, outreach activities, community or industry engagement (30%); and
3. **Demonstrated leadership**, for example through researcher supervision, major collaborations, major team grants or initiatives, national or internal meeting coordination, leadership in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, and/or community/partner engagement (40%).

Award details

Recipients of this award will receive a cash prize of \$1,000 and may be featured in a video produced by UBC Studios that will highlight their research. Recipients will also be profiled on the UBCO VPRI web pages. The awards will be announced during an event recognizing research achievements at UBCO. Award recipients should be prepared to be available for interviews with the Communications Team (should the need arise), plan to attend the research recognition event (TBD), and participate on the Researcher of the Year selection committee for a three-year term.

Program contact

For any questions regarding this program, please contact Nicole Bennett, Internal Programs Manager, Vice-Principal Research & Innovation Office, UBC Okanagan, nicole.bennett@ubc.ca.