

## Distinguished Research Award - Terms of Reference

The Distinguished Research Award is the highest honour conferred by Trent University for research and scholarly activity.

### Assessment Criteria:

An award will be made annually to a member of the Trent Faculty, including Professors Emeriti, in recognition of a full career of internationally recognized intellectual contributions, including:

- Consistency in the production of scholarly materials appropriate to the scholar's discipline;
- Significant contributions to research and scholarly activity as documented by organizations that advance research, professional technical committees, and/or professional, literary, and artistic associations;
- Significant direct contributions towards the training of high qualified personnel (HQP);
- Receipt of research funding, at levels appropriate to the scholar's discipline.

### Eligibility:

All Trent University tenured faculty are eligible for the award. This includes tenured faculty from all programs, departments, and schools including professional schools and professors emeriti (within three years of retirement). Faculty must have been employed at least six (6) years (2 Award cycles) at Trent to be eligible for nomination. (Note: Personal leave circumstances and sabbatical periods will be considered by the Selection Committee.)

Past recipients of the Award will not be eligible for further nomination for a period of three (3) years.

The award will rotate annually among humanities, social sciences and natural sciences research. The nominator will confirm the principal research discipline within which the candidate should be considered. **Faculty members who conduct natural science based research are eligible to be nominated for the 2025 award.**

### The Selection Committee:

Nominations will be considered by a Research Award Selection Committee of eight persons, six voting and two non-voting:

The selection committee is comprised of the following people:

- Vice-President, Research and Innovation (Chair, non-voting);
- Provost and Vice President Academic;
- Chair of the Internal NSERC Committee on Research;
- Chair of the Internal SSHRC Committee on Research;
- Chair of the Internal Health Sciences/Studies Committee on Research;
- Graduate Student Association Representative (selected by TGSA);
- A faculty representative selected by the Deans (should be reflective of the years call);
- Senior Director, Office of Research and Innovation (Secretary, non-voting)

## **Nominations:**

The nomination submission will be in two stages.

1. Nominations of eligible candidates for consideration may be made to the Vice President, Research and Innovation by any member of the Trent community by **December 10, 2024** (name and a single paragraph outlining eligibility).
2. Nominators will be advised by the Vice-President, Research and Innovation if they should proceed to compile the full dossier for nomination.  
The deadline to submit the full nomination dossier to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation is **February 10, 2025**. Nominators are expected to prepare the documentation for those nominated by the submission deadline.

Nomination dossiers shall include:

- A letter on behalf of the nominating department/program/school highlighting the nominee's major scholarly accomplishments.
- The nominee's current C.V.
- Supporting letters from other colleagues both internal and external to Trent University. A minimum of two letters from international references which attest to the nominee's contributions as a major scholar to the respective field.
- Copies of three or four publications that best represent the nominee's research contributions.

## **Process:**

- The Committee will meet, as required, to review policy, short-list candidates, and to select a recipient. At the first meeting, committee members will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement.
- Committee members must attend all meetings in order to participate in the final adjudication meeting. The meeting(s) will occur in March.
- The Committee will reserve the right not to grant an award in any given year.
- The Award, which may be taken in the form of a research grant, is currently valued at \$1,000.

- The Award recipient will be confidentially advised of the honour (to accept/decline).
- The Award will be announced to the Trent University Senate under embargo at the Spring meeting and presented at the Celebration of Excellence in Teaching and Research ceremony.
- Trent University's Communications department will develop, in conjunction with the recipient, an announcement of award story to be held under embargo and released at a future date.
- Award recipients will be asked to present a public lecture addressing some of their research within 12 months of receiving the award.