



**Call for Proposals: 2023/24 Faculty Mid-Career and Promotion (MidPro) Fund**  
**Deadline for applications: February 8, 2024**

In 2023-24, the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean (OVPD) will pilot a Mid-Career and Promotion (MidPro) Fund to support mid-career UTSC teaching and tenure stream faculty pursuing professional opportunities that advance their progress toward promotion to Professor or Professor, Teaching Stream. Promotion in the teaching and tenure streams reflects significant scholarly achievement, whether in research, creative professional activity, educational leadership and achievement, pedagogical and professional development, or teaching. The MidPro fund aims to ensure that all U of T Scarborough faculty have the support necessary for such achievement.

Proposals should hew closely to University of Toronto criteria for promotion in the Teaching and Tenure Streams. Proposals from teaching stream faculty will make clear how the proposed activity will support the faculty member's efforts toward (1) demonstrating educational leadership and/or achievement and/or (2) pedagogical/professional development. Proposals from Tenure Stream faculty will make clear how the proposed activity will help the faculty member (1) establish a wide reputation in their field of interest and/or (2) demonstrate a deep engagement in scholarly work.

Funds should be tied to significant and clearly defined activities. For example, a mid-career faculty member might seek funding to support the completion of a monograph or significant peer-reviewed article, service as the editor of a prominent journal, knowledge mobilization efforts that amplify a model of effective teaching, or an effort to effect meaningful policy change regarding teaching and learning. This list is meant to suggest possibilities; it is not exhaustive, and we look forward to proposals for support of a wide range of activities.

All full-time UTSC UTFA-appointed faculty (tenure stream or teaching stream) at the rank of Associate Professor are eligible to apply. We especially encourage applications that address and advance established and emerging OVPD priorities and activities, including, but not only, the success of Black, Indigenous, and racialized faculty; teaching stream faculty success; disability and able-ism; and support for academic administrators. Preference will be given to those applicants without access to other university funds to support the proposed activity.

### **Fund Allocation**

- We expect to fund 5-7 proposals, with no MidPro award exceeding \$12,000.
- Funds must be spent by February 28, 2025. Unspent funds will be returned to the OVPD.
- Faculty may use funds to support a 0.5 course release, with approval from the Department Chair and Dean. The appropriateness and timing of a course release must be determined in consultation with the chair and in accordance with departmental needs. If the request is for a course release, please append a letter from the Chair indicating their support. The Dean will review all proposed course releases.

### **Adjudication**

- MidPro proposals will be reviewed by a subcommittee of the Mentoring Excellence and Diversity (MEAD) Advisory Committee, an interdisciplinary committee struck by the Vice-Dean Faculty

Affairs, Equity, and Success and staffed by librarians and faculty from the teaching and tenure streams across UTSC's campus. Subcommittee members will recommend allocation of funds to the Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success.

- Reviewers will consider the following when adjudicating MidPro proposals:
  - Significance and clarity of proposed activities;
  - Extent to which proposed activity addresses promotion criteria in the applicant's stream;
  - Extent to which proposed activity addresses and advances institutional initiatives;
  - Feasibility of proposed activity, including likelihood that work can be completed within the award period (March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025); and
  - Appropriateness of proposed budget (the adjudicating committee may adjust budgets to reflect available funds).

### **Oversight and Accountability**

Successful MidPro proposals may be posted on the website of the UTSC OVPD. Successful applicants will provide a brief final report to the MEAD Advisory Committee and OVPD. Submission of this report is required for faculty to be eligible for future OVPD funding.

2024 is the first year MidPro funds will be offered. The OVPD will review the application and adjudication process as well as funding outcomes before committing to ongoing faculty support through this mechanism.

### **Application and Questions**

Applicants must complete an [online application](#) by 5pm February 8, 2024.

Questions? Contact [deanhr.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:deanhr.utsc@utoronto.ca) or drop in to the online [Office Hours for Faculty and Librarians](#) Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 4-5 pm.