University of Toronto Scarborough Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

Award Overview

Application deadline: November 1 (should that date fall on a weekend or public holiday, the submission deadline will be the next business day)
Value and Duration: $45,000 (plus benefits) per year for two years
Required Legal Status: Domestic or International
Results: February of the following year

Purpose

The University of Toronto Scarborough (U of T Scarborough) Postdoctoral Fellowships are designed to provide outstanding recent doctoral students advanced training in their field of study. These fellowships are not discipline-specific, but rather can be held in any department or research unit across U of T Scarborough (http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/home/academic-departments-and-programs). Applicants must secure sponsorship of a supervisor (or supervisors) from the professoriate at U of T Scarborough.

Eligibility to Apply

1. Applicants must have recently (normally within two years) been awarded a PhD or equivalent degree. Any special circumstances including sick or parental leaves will be taken into consideration.
2. Applicants cannot currently hold a tenure-track or continuing faculty position at a college or university.
3. Applicants can be citizens of any country, and from any university. Successful international candidates must meet all Canadian immigration requirements.
4. Canadian citizens and Canadian permanent residents must have completed all of the requirements for their doctoral degree no later than six months after the start date of the Fellowship. International applicants must have completed all of the requirements for their doctoral degree before the start date of the Fellowship.
   
   NB: Completion does not mean convocation, but rather the completion of all the requirements necessary to receive their doctorate.

5. The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.

Value and Duration

Each award will provide $45,000 (plus benefits) per year for a maximum of two years and are tenable only at U of T Scarborough. Both fully funded and partially funded fellowships are available. Fully funded fellowships will provide $45,000 (plus benefits) per year. Partially funded fellowships require supervisors and/or units to contribute half the stipend ($22,500) plus benefits per year. Supervisor and/or unit contributions to a partially funded fellowship must be paid from an
account held at UTSC, as the primary research site for the Postdoctoral Fellows is on the UTSC campus. Supervisors can supplement the fully funded and partially funded fellowship stipends with additional funding, so the total amount paid to the postdoctoral fellow may exceed $45,000 (plus benefits).

1. Fully funded fellowships or a combination of fully and partially funded fellows awarded will normally be dedicated to applicants from each of the disciplines including the physical and life sciences, social sciences and humanities disciplines.

2. Applicants can apply for a fully funded fellowship, a partially funded fellowship, or indicate a willingness to accept either.

3. Given the competitive nature of the program, faculty can only support ONE Postdoctoral Fellow application each year.

4. While U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Fellows may not concurrently hold another postdoctoral fellowship, Canadian citizens and Canadian permanent resident applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for the appropriate NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR postdoctoral fellowship in addition to applying for a U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Fellowship.

**Application Process**

The application deadline is **November 1** (should that date fall on a weekend or public holiday, the submission deadline will be the next business day), with start dates for the postdoctoral fellows no earlier than March 1, and no later than November 1, of the year following application. Incomplete applications or late submissions will not be considered.

Decisions will be made in February of the following year, and successful applicants will have two weeks from the time the decisions are announced to accept or decline the fellowship.

**Applicant Components:**

1. Applicants must submit their **CV and a completed U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Fellowship application form** ([http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/research/internal-funding-programs](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/research/internal-funding-programs)) in a single PDF document to the Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation (researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca). Any questions regarding the Postdoctoral Fellowship program should be directed by email to researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca, with the subject **Postdoctoral Fellowship Program**.

   i. The form includes a one-page proposal in which the applicant should describe their proposed research project in clear, non-specialist language suitable for an interdisciplinary audience, highlighting the importance and impact of the research and how it fits into their academic/professional goals. Reference lists or bibliographies are not necessary for the proposal.

2. Applicants must arrange for their proposed supervisor(s) to send their completed U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Supervisor form to the Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation (researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca).

   i. Proposed supervisor(s) must have a tenure-track or tenured (primary) appointment at U of T Scarborough.

   **NB:** Only applications that have the **U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Supervisor form submitted by the deadline** will be considered.
Supervisor Components:

1. Supervisor(s) must have a tenure-track or tenured (primary) appointment at U of T Scarborough.

2. The primary research site for the Postdoctoral Fellows is on the UTSC campus.

3. Supervisors must submit by November 1 (should that date fall on a weekend or public holiday, the submission deadline will be the next business day), a completed U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Supervisor form (http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/research/internal-funding-programs) to the Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation (researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca). Please include the name of the postdoctoral fellow on the subject line of the email. Any questions regarding the Postdoctoral Fellowship program should be directed to researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca, with the subject Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.

i. Prior to its submission, the form must be signed by the Chair or Director of the supervisor’s unit. Co-supervision requires signatures of the Chairs and/or Directors from the units of all supervisors.

4. In the space provided on the form, the proposed supervisor(s) are expected to comment, in clear, non-specialist language suitable for an interdisciplinary audience, on the applicant’s research potential, the quality of the proposed research, the research environment and resources that will be available to the applicant, and how the fellowship will advance the applicant’s career development.

COVID-19 Research Impact Statement

We recognize that COVID-19 has impacted research activities. Accordingly, we invite applicants and/or supervisors to provide information on how COVID-19 has impacted their research activities. This information will be shared with program competition adjudication committees.

Required: Please check no more than two responses.

My proposal is for:

1) Recovery: The award funds research recovery (I was not able to do research, or my research activities have been reduced because of COVID-19 restrictions, and I am seeking funds to recover my research program)

2) Realignment: The award funds realigned research (Restrictions – past, present or anticipated – require that I adjust my research program)

3) Pivot: The award funds a new research agenda or method (Given restrictions and their impact on my research, I am seeking funds to pursue a new area of research)

4) Opportunity: The award funds COVID-19-related research

5) Not relevant: The award will fund ongoing or new work, and COVID-19 has no bearing on this research proposal

Optional: Please specify in no more than 100 words how (if at all) the COVID-19 pandemic relates to/might impact your research proposal.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based upon the following criteria:

1. Excellence of the applicant:
   i. Experience of the applicant relative to career stage and discipline.
   ii. Quality, quantity, and significance of past research activity and published output relative to career stage.
iii. The ability of the fellowship to advance the applicant’s career development.

2. Quality of the proposed research project:
   i. Significance and expected contributions to research.
   ii. Appropriateness and feasibility of the approach.

3. Environment for the Research:
   i. Suitability/sufficiency of the research environment and available resources at UTSC.

Selection Process
Application will be adjudicated by the UTSC Research Advisory Board (RAB). Sub-committees of RAB will be organized by discipline to assess applications. All RAB members will meet to evaluate and recommend top candidates.

Other Important Information
1. Please consult the information regarding postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Toronto on the website of the School of Graduate Studies (https://postdoc.sgs.utoronto.ca).
2. Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is governed by the terms of the CUPE Unit 5 Collective Agreement (http://agreements.hrlandequity.utoronto.ca/#CUPE3902_Unit5). As such, the U of T Scarborough Postdoctoral Fellowships are posted in accordance with the CUPE Unit 5 Collective Agreement.

Competition Results
Results of the competition will be made available in February of the following year and will be e-mailed to the Supervisors by the Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation (OVPRI). Successful applicants will have two weeks from the time the decisions are announced to accept or decline the fellowship. Individual scores/rankings cannot be provided, but if reviewers provide comments in their adjudication documents, that feedback can be shared with applicants upon request.

Post-Award Details
Funding: The Postdoctoral Fellowship award will be transferred to the UTSC Supervisor’s Commitment Fund Centre (CFC).

Final Report: UTSC Postdoctoral Fellowship recipients must submit a 1-2 page final report, describing what was accomplished and impact of the research to the Office of the Vice-Principal Research & Innovation (OVPRI) after the two-year fellowship has been expended.

Acknowledgment: The UTSC affiliation of researchers and support from the OVPRI should be acknowledged in any research outputs arising from this award.

Contact & Resources
For information regarding the selection process, please contact: researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca, with the subject Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.