



THE McLEAN AWARD

GUIDELINES AND NOMINATION INFORMATION

The McLean Endowment was created in 1995–96 by a gift of \$1 million from Mr. William F. McLean, alumnus and benefactor of the University of Toronto. The McLean Endowment is administered by the University's Connaught Committee. The principles of peer review and high academic standards which dictate the distribution of funds from the Connaught Fund also apply to the distribution of funds from the McLean Endowment. The McLean Endowment will be preserved in perpetuity and the real income from the endowment will be matched annually with proceeds of the University's Connaught Fund to create the annual McLean Award in the amount of \$150,000.

Nomination Deadline: November 17, 2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of the McLean Endowment is to support outstanding **basic** research at the University of Toronto in the following fields: engineering sciences, physics, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and the theory and methods of statistics. One McLean Award will be made annually.

The specific purpose of the McLean Award is to provide meaningful support to an outstanding researcher relatively early in their career by assisting the awardee to attract and support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows of great promise as part of their research team. The award recipient will be known as the *McLean Senior Fellow*. Graduate students and post-doctoral fellows receiving support from the Award will be known as *McLean Graduate Fellows* and *McLean Post-doctoral Fellows*, respectively.

The McLean Award may be spent only on financial support for the graduate students and post-doctoral fellows on the research team and any necessary travel and related expenses associated with these individuals. Funds from the Award cannot be used for equipment or other infrastructure support, nor can they be used for the personal compensation of the Awardee.

ELIGIBILITY

Full-time faculty members whose primary employer is the U of T and are within **twelve years or less of having received their Ph.D.**, as of the submission deadline, undertaking research in one or more of the McLean-eligible fields identified above. The window of eligibility may be extended if a nominee has experienced significant interruptions in their academic career.

Final determination of the eligibility of nominees and area of research will be made by the adjudication panel.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The University of Toronto embraces diversity and is building a culture of belonging that increases our capacity to effectively address and serve the interests of our global community. We strongly encourage

applications from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities. The University also acknowledges that scholars have varying career paths and that career interruptions due to personal circumstances can be part of an excellent academic record. Review panel members have been instructed to give careful consideration to—and to be sensitive to the impact of—career interruptions in their assessments.

In order to be considered for this opportunity, all nominees are required to complete the University of Toronto's Employment Equity Survey, available through [Employee-Self Service](#), by no later than the nomination deadline. Applicants may voluntarily self-identify in any of the groups or select “prefer not to answer.” Aggregated results as of the closing of this posting will be sent to the Manager, Inclusive Excellence & Research Development within the Division of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VPRI), and may be accessed by only a small number of designated senior administrators within VPRI. Any information directly related to you is confidential and cannot be accessed by the reviewers or VPRI staff. The aggregated information will be used by VPRI as part of our ongoing efforts to identify barriers to participation and embed principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the administration of internal funding programs. If you have already completed the survey, thank you; your responses will be included in the aggregated results.

Nominees are also asked to describe how equity, diversity and inclusion will be considered in training and development plans.

Review panel members are required to complete [unconscious bias education](#) or provide confirmation of similar training.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

Nomination materials must be submitted to the Connaught Secretariat (connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca) in PDF format as **one** file, using the naming convention **LastFirst_McLeanNomination_2026-27**.

The PDF file must contain the following documents, in this order:

1. A letter (up to two pages) from the Chair/Director of the academic unit, or Dean/Principal of a non-departmentalized division, which addresses the following:
 - an outline as to why the nominee should be considered for this award, with emphasis on demonstrated excellence in the field and contributions to/impact on the field, society and, if applicable, industry;
 - the nominee's record of research contribution, specifically addressing publication norms within the discipline; and
 - an explanation as to how this award could help the nominee advance their research program.
2. A statement (up to three pages) summarizing the nominee's research program, addressing the following:
 - the demonstrated and sustained impact of the nominee's achievements;
 - the significance and promise of this area of research;
 - the nominee's future research plans, identifying both short-term and long-term objectives;
 - concrete strategies to embed equity, diversity and inclusion in the recruitment, training, and mentorship of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows;

- impact on Indigenous individuals, communities, peoples, topics, lands, or areas of interest, if applicable; and
 - an explanation of any significant career interruptions and/or special circumstances that may have affected the research productivity.
3. A complete C.V., including a list of **all** refereed publications and research awards or distinctions and a discussion of the nominee's **three most significant research contributions**.
4. a) The name, institutional affiliation, and contact information for three internationally recognized experts in the field (who represent no conflict of interest¹ and can comment objectively), who will submit letters of support describing the scholarly standing of the nominee and the significance of their research program.
- b) The letters of support from these three referees. **Letters of support must be sent directly, by the referee, to the Connaught Secretariat (connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca) by no later than December 1, 2026.**

Letters of support must address the following:

- the level of excellence and impact of the nominee's scientific and scholarly contributions to date; and
- the significance and promise of the nominee's research program.

The nomination package is to be submitted, by the nominator, to the Connaught Secretariat (connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca) by the submission deadline.

The onus is on the nominator to ensure that the nominee's research program meets the mandate of the McLean Award. Please note that candidates may not be considered for both the McLean and Connaught Mid-Career awards in the same year.

BUDGET

No budget is required. The successful nominee will receive \$150,000 to support their research within the eligible expenditure categories set out above. The pace of expenditure of the funds is at the discretion of the awardee, although the funds must be spent within five years of the award start date.

ADJUDICATION

The two principal criteria applied in adjudicating the award will be:

- demonstrated excellence of the nominee's scientific and scholarly contributions to date; and
- the significance and promise of the nominee's research program, including concrete strategies to embed EDI in trainee recruitment and mentorship.

These factors will be given approximately equal weight but, where necessary to choose between two relatively equal nominations, additional weight will be given to contributions to date.

The disciplinary panel, comprising University of Toronto faculty members, will review the nominations and formulate their recommendation based on the above criteria. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Connaught Committee for final approval.

¹ The Canada Research Chair (CRC) program has an applicable COI policy: [Conflict of Interest Policy \(chairs-chaire.gc.ca\)](https://chairs-chaire.gc.ca)

REPORT

The Recipient may be asked to report on the impact of the award by the Connaught Committee, during or after the term of the Award. These reports should briefly describe the impact of the Award on their research program, including a list of all McLean Graduate Fellows and McLean Post-doctoral Fellows.

CONTACT

For program inquiries, contact the connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca