



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

**RESEARCH IMPACT AWARDS (RIA)
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
2024**

Academic year:	2023-2024
Deadline:	For application deadline please refer to the Faculty call for proposals Faculty recommendations must be submitted to the Office of the VP, Research and Graduate Studies by April 22, 2024 at 12:00pm
Awards:	Up to five awards of \$5,000 each

Program Overview

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the inaugural 2024 edition of Concordia University's Research Impact Awards (RIA).

Up to five (5) awards will be given to Concordia faculty members in recognition of the exceptional impact of their research or research-creation. The awards are intended to honor the diverse ways in which research and research-creation contribute to academic and scientific impact as well as beyond, such as through contributions to society, culture, policy, innovation, and the broader community. We understand that the impact of research and research-creation is not always immediately visible, quantifiable, or direct, but can unfold across different scales and timelines, with its significance varying across disciplines, sectors, and communities.

This award, which is open to all fields related to Concordia's [Strategic Research Plan](#), is designed to embrace this complexity and capture a broad spectrum of impacts. Applicants are encouraged to articulate the nuanced, dynamic, and sometimes unexpected ways their work has made a difference, acknowledging both their challenges and successes in evidencing and achieving impact. Our aim is to celebrate the rich, intricate patterns of influence that Concordia researchers imprint on the world, recognizing that each contribution forms a vital part of our collective endeavor to address the pressing issues of our time.

Recipients will receive a \$5,000 research award and be invited to showcase their impact through featured activities.

A minimum of two awards are reserved for each career-stage category (detailed below) each year, provided there are meritorious candidates.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty members in tenure-track or tenured positions at Concordia can be nominated. Both the candidate and the nominator must meet separate eligibility criteria as detailed below:



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Eligibility of candidate:

- **Emerging Researcher Category** – Includes faculty members who have held a full-time faculty position (at Concordia) for **six years or less** (*for the 2023-2024 Awards, this refers to appointments starting in 2018 or more recently*) and have obtained the highest academic degree within the last **ten years** (*2013 or more recently*).
- **Established Researcher Category** – Includes faculty members who have held a full-time faculty position for **more than six years** (*appointments beginning before 2018*).

Time spent in a non-tenure-track position, such as Lecturer, LTA, or postdoctoral fellow, will not count towards the period of eligibility. All eligible leaves (for example, maternity, parental, personal illness, leave taken by applicants for family-related illness, bereavement), as well as delays related to COVID-19 extend the period of eligibility as twice the amount of leave time. Professional leaves (such as sabbatical or administrative leave) will not extend the period of eligibility.

A faculty member can only be awarded the RIA once in each category. Unsuccessful nominations can be re-submitted if eligibility criteria are met.

Eligibility of nominator

A nominator may be either 1) a researcher from Concordia or from another research institution (can be international) who can speak to the candidate's impacts in the field; or 2) an individual representing an organization outside of academia including, but not limited to, industry, communities, government, not-for-profit organizations, and municipalities.

Nomination and submission

Each Faculty prepares a call for nominations inviting faculty members to submit applications for the RIAs. In the call, each Faculty indicates the internal deadline to receive the applications. The respective Faculty Research Committee (or the equivalent) selects among the applications and submits their top recommendations (maximum 5 for GSC and FAS; maximum 3 for JMSB and FoFA) for adjudication to the University Research Committee by **April 22, 2024 at 12 p.m.**

Applications to the Faculty must include:

- Letters from one nominator, highlighting the candidate's contributions and fit with the award criteria, supported by two referees, academic **OR** non-academic.
- **EITHER** (1) an **evidenced-based impact narrative** (maximum 4 pages, 12pt Calibri, single-spaced) from the nominee that provides a plain language overview of their contribution(s), highlighting the significance of the impact(s) and the ways their work has made a difference to their target audience or stakeholders. Challenges and successes in evidencing and achieving impact should be articulated; **OR** (2) the nominee's **CV, prefaced with a 1-page synopsis** (maximum 15 pages, 12pt Calibri single-spaced) of those items directly related to the impact of the research/research creation that is the subject of the nomination.
- Where applicable, and required to extend the nominee's period of eligibility, an explanation of eligible leaves and reduced research periods, including calculations of the full-time equivalent duration of the delay.

The recommendation by the Faculty to the OVRGS must include:

- A complete dossier of the selected candidate(s), including the three (3) letters and an evidence-based impact narrative **OR** CV with synopsis, as well as the explanation of eligibility extension, where applicable; and
- A cover memo from the Faculty Dean's office outlining the recommendations (maximum 5 for GSC and FAS; maximum 3 for JMSB and FoFA) of the FRC along with the reasons for their ranking, a summary of the impact of the research/research creation linked to each candidate, and their fit with the Strategic Research Plan.

Dossiers received will be considered by the University Research Committee (URC), which will adjudicate the final awards.

**OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES**

Conflict of interest

Committee members (FRC and URC) cannot be in a situation of conflict of interest with respect to a candidate. Conflict of interest includes, but is not limited to, having collaborated (i.e., published or been a co-researcher) with the applicant in the last six years, being involved in the proposed research, or providing a letter of support as part of the application dossier. The committee members must disclose any conflict of interest to the Chair of the committee prior to the start of the adjudication process.

Evaluation criteria

The recommended nominations received by the URC are evaluated on the basis of:

1. **originality, ambition, and significance** of the contribution(s) within the nominee's fields of research **(25%)**
2. **evidence of exceptional impact and influence**, including academic contributions as well as other indicators of impact **(75%)**.

Impact contributions and associated indicators include, but are not limited to, the following (listed alphabetically):

- **Scientific or scholarly impact:** advances to new knowledge generation, and scale of influence (within and beyond discipline or field)
- **Creative impact:** Exhibitions and other cultural contributions, and influence on creative industries
- **Decolonization impact:** Advances to reconciliation and the decolonization of research
- **Economic, environmental, and societal impact:** contributions to sustainability or economic development, or to environmental or social innovations, or to movements at local, regional, national, or international level(s)
- **Interdisciplinary and collaborative impact:** advances related to cross-disciplinary integration and outcomes from collaborative efforts, as well as the fostering of an equitable, diverse and inclusive research enterprise
- **Policy impact:** influence on current policy, guidelines, regulations, laws, standards and/or practices
- **Public scholarship impact:** increased public understanding of, use of and/or interest in certain aspects of scholarly research
- **Technological impact:** advances to state-of-the-art research or technology readiness level; patents, industry adoption and technological solutions to societal issues

Consideration will be given to:

1. challenges in evidencing and achieving impact
2. both short-term and long-term contributions to impact, recognizing the diverse timelines of research impact
3. acceptance, use and influence of the contribution(s) by stakeholders, including members of the research community, relevant partners, specific communities, or others who may benefit from the research
4. the additional time and resources available to nominees who are holders of a research chair relative to those who are non-chairs
5. achieving an equitable distribution of awards across various disciplinary fields and areas of impact

Award administration

The expected start date of the awards is late May 2024. After the award announcement, and upon verification that any compliance requirements (human ethics, etc.) have been met, the funds will be made available in a research account.