
**PETRO-CANADA YOUNG INNOVATOR AWARDS
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
2026**

Academic year:	2025-2026
Deadline:	For application deadline please refer to the faculty call for proposals Faculty recommendations must be submitted to the Office of the Vice- President, Research, Innovation, and Impact (OVPRII) by <u>April 23, 2026, at 12PM.</u>
Awards:	Up to two awards, \$10,000 each
Nomination Quota:	1 application from the Faculty of Fine Arts, John Molson School of Business, and the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science 2 applications from the Faculty of Arts and Science

Program Overview

Concordia University is pleased to announce a call for proposals for the 2025 edition of the Petro-Canada Young Innovator Awards.

The Petro-Canada Young Innovator Awards (PCYIA) recognize, promote, and support outstanding and innovative emerging researchers whose work contributes significantly to the training environment of the University and has an impact on society at large. This annual award, made possible by Suncor Energy's generous endowment to Concordia University, is intended to articulate the commitment of Suncor Energy and Concordia to support researchers at the launch of their scholarly careers, and enable them to carry their research forward.

The competition is open to all subject areas related to Concordia's [Strategic Research Plan](#).

The recipients will each receive a \$10,000 research award and hold the title of Petro-Canada Young Innovator for one year.

Eligibility

Full-time tenure-track faculty members at Concordia are eligible to apply from the start of appointment until their fifth year (*in the 2025-2026 competition, this refers to appointments starting in January 2021 or more recently*) and who obtained their highest academic degree within the last seven years (*January 2019 or more recently*).

Time spent in a non-tenure-track position, such as Lecturer, LTA, or postdoctoral fellow, does not count towards the period of eligibility.

Faculty members holding research chairs or special research professorships are ineligible for this award because of their unique status that already includes research support and protected time for research.

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A faculty member can only be awarded the PCYIA once. Unsuccessful nominations can be resubmitted if all eligibility criteria are met. A faculty member cannot be nominated for a PCYIA and for the University Research Impact Award program in the same year.

Nomination and Submission

Each Faculty prepares a call for proposals inviting faculty members to submit applications to the PCYIA competition. In the call, each Faculty indicates the internal deadline to receive applications. The respective Faculty Research Committee (or the equivalent) selects among the applications and submits their recommendations to the Office of the Vice- President, Research, Innovation, and Impact (OVPRII) by **April 23, 2026, at 12 PM**.

Applications to the Faculty must include:

- A lay summary of the proposed project (1 page).
- A description of the project addressing: objectives and expected outcomes, activity plan with a timeline, and significance (up to 5 pages).
- List of References (1 page).
- Budget and justification of expenses.
- A letter of recommendation from a colleague highlighting the innovative aspect of the proposed project (up to 2 pages); and
- A **Tri-agency Narrative**, completed by the applicant, highlighting the candidate's contributions and fit with the award criteria. The Tri-agency CV is an **evidenced-based impact narrative** (maximum five pages in English, six pages in French, 12pt Arial font, single-spaced) from the applicant 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 achieving and providing evidence for impact should be articulated. The CV template should be completed using the section headings, instructions and formatting as outlined by the Tri-Council.

The recommendation by the Faculty to the OVPRII must include:

- A complete dossier of the selected application(s) (as described above); and
- A separate recommendation letter for each application by the Faculty Dean's office describing the reasons for selecting the candidate(s), the quality and innovative aspect of the research/creation, the contribution to their field, and fit with the Strategic Research Plan (up to 2 pages).

Dossiers received will be considered by the University Research Committee who will determine the final awards.

Conflict of interest

The Committee members cannot be in a situation of conflict of interest with respect to a candidate. Conflict of interest includes, and 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.

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Evaluation criteria

The recommended proposals, received by the Committee, are evaluated for the following points:

- Quality and innovative aspects of the proposed project.
- Expected outcomes.
- Impact on graduate student training.
- Overall research/creative activity promise of the applicant; and the
- Appropriateness of project scope and budget.

Should the Committee determine that nominations in a given year do not warrant the title of Petro-Canada Young Innovator, the award will be withheld for that competition.

Award administration and Reporting

The expected start date of the awards is towards the end of May 2026. 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.

The funds awarded are to be spent within one year of the award notice. If the project is not completed within the allotted time, the grant holder must contact the Office of Research (OOR). An award cannot be transferred to another faculty member, a research unit, or a department. In general, only the proposed research project should be supported with the awarded funds, however, small modifications to the approved project are allowed. If a project is terminated before completion, the remaining funds will be returned to the Program envelope.