

# 2025-2026 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship

---

## Overview of the Fellowship

As the most prestigious postdoctoral award in Canada, the [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship Program](#) provides the opportunity to bring top talent to join the research community at Western. Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded to the very best postdoctoral researchers, both nationally and internationally, who will positively contribute to Canada's economic, social, and research-based growth. For official information, regulations, and procedures, visit the [Banting website](#). To access the Vanier-Banting Academic CV template, visit the [Canadian Common CV site](#).

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the Ontario Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person.

A full Banting package, including the referee assessments, is to be submitted by the Faculties to [mharmos@uwo.ca](mailto:mharmos@uwo.ca) by August 1, 2024, at 11:59 EDT. NO EXCEPTIONS. All documents must be formatted according to the presentation standards for attached documents as set out by Banting. Incomplete or ineligible applications, or applications that do not conform to the Banting presentation standards for attached documents, will be considered ineligible for institutional endorsement. The Institutional Letter of Endorsement is not required. Applicants selected for institutional endorsement will be provided with a completed Institutional Letter of Endorsement via email in advance of the national competition deadline.

## Timeline

- **March 1:** Call for candidates.
  - to be sent to Associate Deans – Graduate and Associate Deans – Research
  - to be sent to all postdoc supervisors
- **March – June:** Each Faculty sets their own internal deadline to receive application packages (see list of required documents below)
  - Associate Dean – Graduate sets an internal application package submission deadline and sends a call for competitive eligible candidates to their networks.
  - Faculty and/or departmental mentoring teams guide and assist their candidates to complete their application packages. See details below of required documents.
  - By June 30, Associate Dean - Graduate notify each candidate of the committee decision regarding their application package and invites each selected candidate to complete the application.
- **July:** Selected Faculty candidates complete the application. Referee deadlines are the same as the Faculty application deadline, and the three assessments are submitted directly to the Faculty contact.

- **August 1:** Faculties submit a copy of completed applications to [mharmos@uwo.ca](mailto:mharmos@uwo.ca).
- **August 1 – August 8:** University Selection Committee convenes to review submitted applications and to select the applications that meet the competitive criteria and expectations of the Banting Secretariat for the national competition. The University Selection Committee is composed of three faculty members (Faculty affiliations will vary by year, but is intended to represent disciplines across the tri-agencies) and two Associate Vice Provost SGPS.
- **August 8 – External deadline:** Feedback from the university committee is provided to selected candidates to polish their applications. SGPS works with nominees and supervisors to refine the packages. The institution letter of endorsement will be completed and submitted to the selected candidates. Successful candidates upload and submit their application to [ResearchNet](#).

## Competitive Candidates

Please refer to the [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships website](#) for information about the review process and selection criteria, as well as detailed information about what is required as part of the Supervisor's Statement. Please include all of the following components: biography, appropriateness, research environment, professional development, and institutional synergy.

Applications are reviewed by one of three multidisciplinary selection committees based on broad discipline areas: Health, Natural Sciences and/or Engineering, and Social Sciences and/or Humanities.

There are three parts to their assessment:

- 1. Applicant's research excellence and demonstrated leadership.**
- 2. Merit of the proposed research**
- 3. Suitability of the proposed research environment**

## Eligible Candidates

Once you have identified a competitive candidate, make sure they are eligible. Eligibility requirements are set by Banting and are available on the [Banting website](#). All candidates must carefully review the Eligibility Criteria prior to commencing the Western internal process.

## Application Package

For the University selection, a submitted application package must include:

- Cover page, that lists: (this is not required in the official application)
  - Candidate's name
  - Candidate's current degree and program, and proposed program
  - Candidate's name of supervisor(s)
  - Research agency choice – CIHR, NSERC, or SSHRC
  - Lay Title of research proposal
- Lay Abstract of research proposal (maximum of 2,000 characters)
- Research Proposal (maximum 4 pages)
- Supervisor's statement (maximum 4 pages)

- Significance of research contributions (maximum 1 page)
- Significance of leadership contributions (maximum 1 page)
- Fulfillment of degree requirements form (maximum 1 page)
- Special Circumstances (maximum 1 page, optional)
- [3 Assessments from three referees](#) – at least one at arm’s length – sent directly by the referees.
- Canadian Common CV (completed from the CCCV site)

## Research Security Measures

Canadian research is at the forefront of discovery, and today's work is driving solutions to humanity's most pressing challenges. While Canadian-led research is defined by its excellence and collaborative nature, its openness can make it a target for foreign influence, increasing the potential risks for research and development efforts to be misappropriated to the detriment of national security. The Government of Canada has taken steps to protect Canada's world-class research by introducing a series of measures to safeguard it, which includes implementing the new [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#), and launching Canada's new [Research Security Centre](#), as announced in Budget 2022.

Please ensure that any projects proposed by your Banting candidates that advance a sensitive technology research area do not involve affiliations or partnerships with any of the named research organizations.

## DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment)

The agencies have signed the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA), a global initiative whose purpose is to support the development and promotion of best practices in the assessment of scholarly research. It aims to address the negative consequences of unintended overuse of journal publications as a primary quality indicator for research output. As signatories of DORA, the three federal granting councils recognize and value a broad range of contributions and emphasize their quality and impact.

Please assess research excellence broadly and avoid using journal-based metrics (such as Journal Impact Factors) as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research publications.

## Faculty Mentoring Teams

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) recommends that Associate Deans – Graduate and Associate Deans – Research put together mentoring teams that include members who are:

- Supervisors of current and former Banting Fellows
- Research officers, EDI-D officers, and research writing experts.
- Banting Fellows
- Faculty members experienced in Tri-Agency funding or who sit on, or who have sat on, national Tri-Agency or similar selection committees.