

Memo

To: Faculty Deans

Cc: VP Academic & Provost, Associate Deans Research, Faculty Research Officers and Directors

From: Amir Asif, Vice-President Research & Innovation

Date: July 14, 2021

Subject: 2021-22 York Research Chairs Competition Launch

Please be advised that Faculties are now invited to nominate York faculty members for the York Research Chairs (YRC) 2021-22 competition.

Up to six centrally supported Chairs will be funded for 2022 as follows:

- Up to two Tier 1 Chairs;
- Up to two Tier 2 Chairs; and
- Up to two Early-Career Tier 2 Chairs

New to this year's competition, the distribution of these Chairs will be allocated to two streams: (i) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); and (ii) Social Science, Humanities and Arts (SSHA). To facilitate these allocations, nominees will be asked to self-select their stream for adjudication purposes, and separate STEM and SSHA review committees will be convened to undertake an evaluation of the files.

As well, to account for career interruptions due to COVID-19, the eligibility period for Tier 2 Chairs (both regular and Early-Career) will be extended by one year. Nominees within 16 years of their first academic appointment (i.e., 2005 or later, excluding leaves) will be eligible for regular Tier 2 Chairs, and nominees within six years of their first academic appointment (i.e., 2015 or later, excluding leaves) will be eligible for Early-Career Tier 2 Chairs.

In addition, one VISTA affiliated YRC will be available, which is funded through York's *Vision: Science to Applications (VISTA)* initiative and provides the same level of support as centrally supported YRCs. As well, Faculties may also choose to create additional Faculty-based chairs (subject to Provostial approval) and propose nominees for these chairs.



All YRCs will have a start date of July 1, 2022 and a term of five years. They are to be awarded competitively, based on the criteria of excellence in research and scholarship, contributions to research leadership, and a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) within the York community.

In the case of centrally-supported Chairs, Faculties may submit up to two nominations – however, the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies may submit up to four nominations. Faculty submissions may be any combination of Tier 1, Tier 2, or Early-Career Tier 2 Chairs.

For VISTA affiliated Chairs, the following VISTA-participating Faculties are invited to put forward one additional nominee each:

- Arts, Media, Performance & Design
- Health
- Lassonde School of Engineering
- Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
- Science

In respect of VISTA affiliated nominees, please note the following:

- All nominees must be VISTA researchers (i.e., 80% of the additional nominee's research falls within the VISTA mandate).
- All VISTA nominees are required to submit an endorsement letter from the VISTA Leadership Council along with the Faculty Notice of Intent form.
- The Tiers for these additional nominees are not prescribed; rather, it is left to each Faculty to specify the Tier which best corresponds to the nominee they put forward.
- If multiple Faculties wish to co-nominate the same researcher, the nominee will count wholly against the allotment for each Faculty.
- VISTA affiliated YRCs may not concurrently hold an enhanced VISTA Research Chair.

In the case of any nominations for cross-appointed faculty members, the non-nominating Faculty is asked to include a letter with the full nomination file which clearly outlines their support around teaching release over the term of the Chair, commensurate with the nominee's appointment in that Faculty.

All nominations must be made in accordance with Faculty nomination processes governed by all applicable Faculty policies and practices, and according to a procedure as established by the Faculty. It is minimally expected that an open call will be made, and a Faculty-level committee will review nominations and forward recommendations to the Dean, who will submit materials to VPRI on behalf of the Faculty.

It is also expected that due consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion be reflected in each Faculty's nominee selection process. In this regard, diversity across the four federally designated groups (FDG: women, Indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities/racialized scholars) should be reflected in both the membership of the Faculty selection committee and the nominees themselves. Faculties

can obtain diversity information on their selection committee and nominee pool by requesting a Diversity Composition Report using the following link:
<https://research.apps01.yorku.ca/machform/view.php?id=41988>.

Further details around equity, diversity and inclusion considerations, as well as the required submission of the list of individuals considered for nomination by the Faculty and a report describing equity practices undertaken by the Faculty in their nominee selection process, can be found in the *York Research Chairs Program Guidelines for 2021-22 Competition* document.

Note that regardless of the number of nominations received, there is no guarantee of an award to any particular Faculty.

The nomination phase of the competition involves a two-stage process:

1. A Notice of Intent (NOI) and accompanying equity, diversity and inclusion documentation, due **September 30, 2021**.

The Notice of Intent, which must be submitted by Faculties to VPRI by **September 30, 2021** (electronic copies via email to avogus@yorku.ca), includes:

- A completed NOI Form, inclusive of:
 - Faculty contact, nominee, and chair information
 - 200-word summary of research accomplishments
 - Names and contact information of 6 suggested external reviewers (not in a conflict of interest)
 - Exclusion of potential reviewers (if applicable)
 - Dean's and nominee's signatures
- Endorsement letter from VISTA Leadership Council (if applicable)

In addition, each Faculty must submit their equity, diversity and inclusion documentation **September 30, 2021**:

- The list of individuals considered for nomination by the Faculty.
- Confirmation that at least 50% of nominees considered by the Faculty are from the FDGs.
- A report describing how considerations around equity, diversity and inclusion were integrated into the Faculty's nominee selection process. See the *York Research Chairs Program Guidelines for 2021-22 Competition* for details.

2. A full nomination package, due **December 1, 2021**.

Full nomination packages must be submitted by Faculties to VPRI by **December 1, 2021** (electronic copies via email to avogus@yorku.ca), and include in the following order:

- Signed ORS Checklist
- Letter from non-nominating Faculty outlining teaching release supports (for cross-appointed nominees)
 - A completed Nomination Form, inclusive of Dean's and nominee's signatures
- Description of the proposed research program

- Description of nominee’s expected contributions to research leadership at York
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan
- Curated CV (see instructions in the full application form)

Full nomination packages will be sent by VPRI to external reviewers in early December. Following receipt of external reviews, the STEM and SSHA Strategic Project and Opportunity Review Team (SPORT) committees will each review nomination files accordingly. The SPORT will determine which nominees meet the established expectations for a YRC and will rank those nominees accordingly.

Adjudication summaries from the SPORT committees will then be presented to the Research Chair Advisory Committee (comprised of the Vice-President Academic & Provost, the Vice-President Research & Innovation, the Affirmative Action Officer, the AVP Research, the AVP Graduate, a CRC Tier 1 representative, a CRC Tier 2 representative, and the Chair of APPRC), which will undertake a ranking of the nominations and make recommendations for approval by the President.

An announcement of successful nominations is anticipated in early spring 2022. Following that, feedback explaining the basis for recommendations will be provided to all nominees and their Faculties.

York Research Chairs for this competition will have a start date of July 1, 2022.

York University is an Affirmative Action employer and strongly values diversity, including gender and sexual diversity, within its community. The YRC program actively seeks nominees with diverse backgrounds and especially encourages candidates in equity, diversity and inclusion categories. As well, the Chair selection process will be proactive in acknowledging the potential impact that [career interruptions](#) can have on a nominee’s record of research achievement.

For further information, please contact:

Abby Vogus
SIRI Specialist
Email: avogus@yorku.ca

The **timeline** for the 2021-22 York Research Chairs competition is as follows:

| DATE | MILESTONE |
|------------------------|---|
| September 30, 2021 | Faculties to submit NOIs to VPRI |
| December 1, 2021 | Full nomination files due to VPRI |
| Early December 2021 | Files sent for external review |
| Mid/Late February 2022 | SPORT Review |
| Early March 2022 | Research Chair Advisory Committee Review |
| Early April 2022 | Presidential approval of York Research Chairs |
| Late April 2022 | Notification sent to nominees |
| July 1, 2022 | York Research Chair appointments begin |