OVERVIEW

The Western Research Scholar Awards program provides additional funding to scholars who have been successful in securing an externally funded postdoctoral position through a Tri-Agency Fellowship to come to Western and work with a faculty researcher at Western University.

Grounded in the guiding principles of the Western Research Strategic Plan "*Mobilize for Impact!*" (2022-2027) which fits within the broader context of the wider institutional goal "*Towards Western at 150,*" the Western Research Scholar Awards program aspires to:

- attract diverse postdoctoral talent from a global candidate pool, who will contribute positively to research excellence;
- enhance support for promising research programs; and
- foster a vibrant and inclusive environment for scholars and position them for success as early career researchers.

Western Research, on behalf of the Vice-President (Research), will be administering the program which is funded by Western University.

1.0 Western Research Scholar Awards Program

The Western Research Scholar Awards are intended to attract and support the most promising postdoctoral scholars to conduct research-intensive projects on a full-time basis at Western. Recipients of externally funded postdoctoral awards through a Tri-Agency Fellowship (minimum award of $70,000 per year) will be eligible to receive this additional funding to assist in establishing a strong research foundation.

Awardees will be highlighted on Western Research's website and may be promoted through communication channels.

1.1 Award Value

The award includes$10,000 per year in the form of a salary stipend plus a travel/research allowance in the amount of $5,000 per year, for up to two years with a maximum total award value of $30,000 fully funded by Western Research.

Alternatively, this award can be utilized as a combination of stipend, recoverable benefits, and research allowance, pending agreement by the Supervisor, Applicant, and Western Research. Once the budget is finalized, stipends and research allowance are not interchangeable. Funds must be used for the purpose and the research activities for which they were awarded.

1.2 Award Period

Funding will be awarded for a maximum term of two years to coincide with the external award funding start date. The externally-funded award must be received and start on or after January 1, 2025.

If the external award is of shorter duration than two years, the Western Research Scholar Award amount and duration will be pro-rated for the term of the external award. If the external award duration is longer than two years, the maximum duration of the Western Research Scholar Award remains at two years, with a maximum value of $30,000.

If, for any reason the term of the Sponsor award is not fulfilled, or if there are any funds remaining at the end of the award term, funding will be returned to the source VPR account.

2.0 Eligibility

a. Applicants must be successful in securing an externally funded postdoctoral position to start no earlier than January 1, 2025 through a Tri-Agency Fellowship that provides a minimum award of $70,000 per year for up to two-years to come to Western and work with a faculty researcher at Western University.

b. The applicant must be successfully registered as a postdoc with the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, meeting all requirements to hold an active postdoctoral fellowship at Western University, including having secured all necessary permits, visas, or documentation required by all relevant jurisdictions. More information can be found on Western's School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' website. Applicants may contact Mihaela Harmos (mharmos@uwo.ca) for any immigration or appointment-related issues.

c. Applicants must not have previously received a Western Research Scholars Award through this program or in conjunction with the Western Postdoctoral Fellowship award program.

3.0 Budget

All budget items must comply with Tri-Agency policies, the Tri-Agency Funding Administration Guide, specifically as outlined in the original externally-funded fellowship program (CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC).

4.0 Adjudication

Applications will be reviewed to ensure eligibility criteria have been met by a representative from the Office of Research Services and forwarded for final review and decision to the Associate Vice-President (Research).

All decisions are final. There is no appeals process.

5.0 Application Submission

5.1 Key Dates:

March 2025	WRSA Program Launch *This is an open competition, and applications will be received throughout the year.*
January 1, 2025	Successful candidates' externally funded fellowship earliest start date

5.2 Application Package

The applicant must submit a complete online Western Research Scholar Award Application Form via the submission portal here.

This one-page online form **must include the corresponding ROLA ID** submitted by the supervisor of the postdoctoral fellow for the externally funded application. *Without this ROLA ID, the application will be considered ineligible.*

Western Research, in consultation with an Associate Vice-President (Research), reserves the right to exclude from competition any submissions that are incomplete or inconsistent.

5.3 ROLA Proposal

The **Principal Supervisor** (in consultation with the Western Research Scholar Award Applicant) must submit a Western University ROLA Proposal for the Western Research Scholar Award application. ROLA proposals must be complete and consistent with the application and be approved by all relevant parties through the ROLA system.

Please contact rolahelp@uwo.ca if assistance required.

6.0 Award Process

Successful candidates will be notified by Western Research along with their faculty and host supervisor. A notice of decision will be issued along with the terms and conditions of the award. The research account will be set-up under the Supervisor.

All research proposals involving human research ethics and/or animals must be approved by the appropriate Western certification committee. It is the faculty supervisor's responsibility to ensure postdoctoral scholars are noted on applicable approved protocols and any disclosure of research output is within the bounds of their approved ethics.

Recipients are responsible for conducting research in accordance with the policies of the Tri-Agencies and Western.
- **Tri-Agency Policies**
- **Western Policies**

7.0 Recognition and Reporting

All Western Research Scholars should acknowledge the support of Western Research in all related presentations and publications.

Western Research seeks to collect information on outcomes and impact of this funding opportunity to evaluate the efficacy of Western's investments and the benefits to the research community.

It is expected that successful candidates with their host supervisors must submit a final report to the appropriate Tri-Agency, and must also send a copy to Western Research (intgrant@uwo.ca), no later than 3 months after the termination of the award.

8.0 Program Contact

This program is administered by the Office of Research Services, Western Research. For assistance, please contact internal grants: intgrant@uwo.ca.

Other support is available:
The Postdoctoral Scholar appointment process at Western is administered by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. [Mihaela Harmos](mailto:), Postdoctoral Services Coordinator, is the primary contact for all inquiries related to appointments.