CONNAUGHT NEW RESEARCHER AWARD — GUIDELINES

"The primary purpose of the Fund is the promotion of research and the application of the professional expertise and resources of the University to matters of public interest in all research fields. ...Connaught funds shall be used to support outstanding research by individuals or groups of scholars in the University. Grants are intended to encourage research of exceptional calibre or the development of new areas of research by scholars of outstanding achievement. Awards will be made in accordance with the most exacting standards of peer review."

Excerpt from the Connaught Fund Terms of Reference

Application Deadline: December 1, 2017

PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to foster excellence in research and innovation by providing support for new University of Toronto faculty members who are launching their academic careers. These awards are intended to establish a strong research program, thereby increasing the faculty member's competitiveness for external funding.

Up to $1,000,000 has been earmarked for this year’s competition. A majority of the available funds will be allocated through awards of up to $10,000; the remaining funds will be allocated to top-up a limited number of these awards to a maximum of $35,000. Top-up funding will be provided to the highest ranked proposals that also identify a specific need for the additional funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include all full-time tenure stream appointees at the Assistant Professor level who are, as of the date of application, within five years of a first tenure-stream Assistant Professor appointment (at UofT or elsewhere) AND within ten years of having completed a PhD or equivalent. The aforementioned window of eligibility may be extended if an applicant has experienced significant interruptions in her/his academic career. Eligibility related questions should be addressed to Connaught Secretariat in advance of the submission deadline. Final determination of eligibility will be made upon receipt of an application.

Individuals who received funding under the previous Connaught New Staff Matching Grant program are not
eligible to apply to the Connaught New Research Program; however, Individuals who received funding under the previous Connaught Start-Up Grant program may apply.

Individuals who have received funding from the Connaught New Researcher program are not eligible to reapply, however, unsuccessful applicants may reapply for funding from this program once more in a subsequent competition.

APPLICATION

Application is to be made using the form available on the website and submitted via MRA (My Research Applications). The submission deadline is December 1, 2017.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Eligible expenses are to be consistent with the appropriate tri-agency guidelines for NSERC Discovery grants, CIHR Project Grants or SSHRC Insight grants, with the exception of laptops which should only be included in application budgets when required for project-specific purposes (as opposed to general research). Proposals should clearly describe what role all research personnel will play in the research project. Questions on eligible expenses should be directed to the Connaught Secretariat.

Below is a sample of a Connaught New Researcher Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Item</th>
<th>Description/Justification</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student</td>
<td>Portion of salary for 1 graduate student</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airfare (round trip)</td>
<td>Air travel for PI and 1 Graduate student from destination to destination ($800 per person) this travel relates to collecting of research samples.</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Travel Per Diem*</td>
<td>Per Diem for PI and 1 Graduate student for 10 days in Canada @ $55.00 X 2 per day</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Travel Accommodations</td>
<td>Hotel room for 9 days @ $100</td>
<td>$900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Sample Analysis</td>
<td>Lab consumables (description of said consumables etc.)</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of Research Results</td>
<td>Expenses for preparing research manuscript to be published</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$9,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Add more line items as needed by re-clicking over corner of table and choosing insert-rows below)

ADJUDICATION

Submissions will be directed for adjudication to the Connaught Review Panel designated by the applicant. Given the breadth of research activity presented to each panel, submissions should be written with a non-specialist audience in mind. Review Panels retain the right to redirect a submission to another panel as they deem appropriate. Applications will be judged solely on the basis of the information supplied in the submission, no supplemental information is permitted. Assessment criteria will be consistent with those applied by external agencies. Elements considered in this evaluation are equally weighted and consist of:

- Demonstrated capacity of the applicant to carry out research project proposed
- Clarity of research methodology
- Project’s potential contribution to advance knowledge through development of disruptive, innovative or transformative concepts
- Potential impact of research, including training of HQP (Highly Qualified Personnel)
- Justification for funding requested

Inasmuch as one of the goals of this program is to assist new scholars in increasing their competitiveness for external research support, applicants are requested to provide information on their strategy for using Connaught Fund support and/or the anticipated research outcomes resulting from this support to attract additional external research sponsorship, especially from the three federal granting agencies - CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC which contribute toward the University’s allocation of Canada Research Chairs.

Award recommendations are formulated by the Panels and forwarded to the Connaught Committee. The Connaught Committee makes final decisions on all Connaught awards. Award results will be released by May 2018.

DURATION OF AWARD

Funds will be made available to successful applicants by June 2018. The normal duration of a Connaught New Researcher Award is 2 years, with possibility for extension under exceptional circumstances. A written request must be submitted to Connaught Secretariat at least 1 month prior to the original fund end date.

QUESTIONS

Inquiries regarding this program should be addressed to connaught.secretariat@utoronto.ca