DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Izaak Walton Killam

Postdoctoral Fellowship Competition Guidelines 2026/2027

Lauréats KILLAM Laureates

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

The intention of the Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship program is to attract recently graduated scholars of superior research ability to Dalhousie University, and to provide the recipients with the opportunity to establish themselves as productive members of the academic community. The doctoral degree is understood to be a degree awarded primarily for the completion of independent research, which is publishable in the normal, refereed scholarly manner that is characteristic of a discipline.

Those persons who meet the above qualification but hold a permanent academic position to which they will return, will not as a rule be considered in this competition. Exceptions may be made in the case of individuals who, for example, are substantially changing their field of research or who come from countries in which immediate employment is guaranteed to all competent PhD holders.

Applicants are not required to have completed their doctorate at the time of application; however, they must do so prior to taking up the fellowship.

There are no restrictions regarding nationality of applicants, but successful candidates must meet all Canadian Immigration requirements.

Since these Fellowships are intended to attract new scholars to Dalhousie, those scholars already at Dalhousie are not eligible to apply. You are ***not eligible to apply*** if you:

a) hold a PhD or JSD degree from Dalhousie or are currently completing a PhD or JSD degree at Dalhousie.

b) have held previously or hold as of the application deadline an academic or research appointment of any kind at Dalhousie or King's College.

c) fulfilled all PhD requirements prior to September 15, 2023, unless you qualify for an eligibility window extension based on the criteria found in Appendix II.

If a Fellow holds another award valued at less than the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship, the external award will be supplemented to the full Killam value as an “Honorary Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship”.

TENURE
Fellowships are awarded for a term of two years. If an honorary Fellow holds external funding for less than two years, a full Killam Fellowship will be awarded for the remainder of the two-year period. This fellowship may be taken up at any time between May 1, 2027 and January 1, 2028.

VALUE
Approximately 4 to 5 new fellowships are awarded annually. The fellowships are valued at **up to** $60,000 annually including a $50,000 taxable stipend, full benefits, a relocation allowance for transportation to and from Halifax, a one-time research allowance ($3,000) and a conference travel grant ($1,000).

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE
A relocation allowance is provided to meet the cost of transportation to Halifax, by the most direct route, from the place of residence at the time of being offered the award. Reimbursement will not exceed the cost of economy airfare for the Fellow and spouse. The cost of children's travel and/or transporting personal effects is not included.

TEACHING
Fellows may engage in teaching or other similar duties in the University. Such activities must not substantially reduce the Fellow's ability to progress in their research. If the Fellow is willing, teaching duties may be negotiated up to a maximum of one 3 credit hour class per term (but no more than 6 credit hours within a given academic year). The standard stipend must be paid by the employing department for all negotiated teaching duties. No other paid work at Dalhousie or elsewhere may be undertaken by a Fellow without the permission of the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies.

EVALUATION CRITERIA
Submitted applications are initially pre-screened by individual graduate departments, with only the top two candidates put forward for consideration by the University Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee. Those Faculties operating without a department structure may be permitted to submit a limited number of additional applications to the University level committee.

The evaluation criteria applied at both the department and university level is equally weighted between two categories, adapted from the evaluation criteria previously applied in Banting PDF competitions:
Applicant's research excellence and leadership in the research domain (50%)

- Demonstrated capacity for research excellence based on track record as defined by the quality of the applicant's research contributions (Research history and impact relative to career stage) and demonstrated capacity for leadership in the research domain as defined by the sphere of influence and impact achieved to date by the applicant (considering research programs, institutions, communities and society at large)

Quality of the Applicant's Proposed Research Program (50%)

- Potential of the proposed research program, carried out with the proposed supervisor at Dalhousie, to position the applicant to have significant impact through a research-intensive career. Factors considered include the quality of the proposal in terms of novelty/originality, feasibility and significance; the environment in which the research will be conducted; and alignment of the proposed research with faculty and institutional research priorities.

Killam Scholars are not only recognized for their exceptional academic achievement and research potential, but also their capacity to contribute meaningfully to their disciplines and to society by

- Enhancing the scholarly, research, and creative achievements of Canadians;
- Strengthening and expanding the contributions of Canadian universities to research, innovation, and knowledge advancement; and
- Fostering international understanding and collaboration between Canadians and people around the world.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the competition are generally announced in March, and all successful, wait-listed and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

As a first step in the application process, you should contact the Department to which you intend to apply to discuss the feasibility of your application and the potential for support from a faculty member. To complete the application, please adhere to the following guidelines:

Applications must be submitted through the FGS Online Scholarship Portal.

When completing the application and associated documents, please note the following requirements:

1. Review and consider the evaluation criteria listed above.
2. Use plain language and avoid technical jargon when preparing the Lay Summary.
3. Use the Dalhousie email address of your prospective supervisor when sending the Supervisor Information and Support Letter request in the portal. It is important to follow up with your prospective supervisor to ensure that the letter is submitted by the application deadline.
4. When preparing your CV, note relevant employment experience, dates, employer, and position. If presently employed, state clearly whether this is a permanent position (see General Qualifications). Also include scholarships and awards and conference presentations. Maximum of six (6) pages. Documents exceeding 6 pages will be deemed ineligible. You do not need to include your publication list within the CV, as a bibliography-style publication list is uploaded as a separate document.

5. Provide names and addresses of **three referees** who do NOT hold an appointment at Dalhousie University. Referees should be familiar with your work and in a position to evaluate your research potential and able to provide a substantive evaluation of your ability. **Please contact these individuals** in advance to provide them with a copy of your CV/proposal and **ensure that they are aware of the submission deadline**. Email addresses of referees must be institutional/company/government addresses, not personal email accounts. Please note that FGS departments reserve the right to contact referees to confirm references.
6. If you have completed your PhD, we require confirmation of completion from your Doctoral University. If you have not yet completed your PhD, we require a confirmation of enrollment from your Doctoral University.
7. For your publication list, indicate co-authors, title, journal or publisher, and date of publications. **Do not send copies of publications.** Do not include content which is unrelated to your publication record (Such as extended elements of your CV or literature reviews tied to your research proposal).
8. When preparing your research proposal, note that it will be reviewed by academics from a wide range of disciplines. Use plain language and avoid the use of discipline-specific technical jargon. Be sure to highlight the significance of your intended activities and its relationship to the intended supervisor's research activity/network. There is a four (4) page limit **including references.** Proposals must be single spaced, with size 12 font and 1" margins. Attachments with more than 4 pages or with condensed font will be deemed ineligible.

Applicants assume total responsibility for ensuring that their applications are complete and received in the portal by the posted deadline.

Applicants should not submit any additional documentation except when specifically requested by the Department. Only the documentation submitted in the portal will be forwarded to the University Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship Committee.

APPENDIX II – Allowable Extensions to Eligibility

The window of eligibility can be extended by a cumulative maximum of two years if the applicant had their career interrupted for one or more of the following reasons:

- parental leave
- illness
- health-related family responsibilities
- mandatory military service
- disruptions due to war, civil conflicts and/or natural disasters in the country of residence

"Career interruption" refers to a period when the applicant was not working (full-time or part-time) and when their research output was completely interrupted.
Additionally, for health professionals who have engaged in post-degree non-research-related clinical training (e.g., residency), the eligibility window can be extended by the duration of this training.

For other professions that require post-degree, non-research-related training to be certified by a professional body, please consult the Killam Administrator to confirm whether an extension to the eligibility window is allowable.

No other exceptions will be allowed.

Interruptions used to extend the eligibility window for degree completion must have occurred after the fulfilment of your degree requirements and before the application submission deadline.

"Fulfilled all requirements of the degree" refers to the date that the applicant completed all the steps required for obtaining their degree. Although these requirements may vary by institution and degree type, they normally include thesis defense corrections and thesis deposition. Note that convocation is not considered a degree requirement.