

## Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellowship

### Guidelines for universities

#### INTRODUCTION

Following a rigorous review and consultation process, the Board of Directors of the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation approved the establishment of a renewed Fellowship program in April 2025. The Fellowship is a central tool in the Foundation's 2025–2028 mission to support academic excellence, societal engagement, and increased intellectual outreach. The award is a public recognition of the Fellows' outstanding academic achievements and a promise of future transformative contributions. Beyond the active three-year phase, the Foundation's Fellowship remains an honorary lifetime appointment, encouraging ongoing ties between the Foundation and its alumni.

#### MAIN POINTS

The Foundation nominates up to four (4) Fellows per year, chosen among full professors at Canadian universities, for a mandate of three (3) years.

The Fellowship is of a total value of \$300,000 per Fellow:

- | \$70,000 as prize;
- | \$50,000 as research grant;
- | Up to \$100,000 as possible additional research grant;
- | Up to one (1) year of teaching buy-out, with \$80,000 in compensation paid to the university.

The use of the research grant is governed by guidelines established by the Foundation, while ensuring a flexible program that stimulates and supports intellectual innovation. The Fellow's home university has the option of retaining up to 10% for administrative costs on research grants, which will be paid directly to the Fellow's home university. Annual reports on expenditures will be required.

Candidates' research must be linked to one or several of the four Foundation themes (Human Rights and Dignity; Responsible Citizenship; Canada and the world; People and their natural environment) and must integrate itself in the general field of humanities and social sciences.



Fellows will join other community members (Scholars, Fellows, and Mentors). Involvement in the Foundation's programming is strongly encouraged. The Foundation requires Fellows to participate in the Foundation's annual summer schools and a second event organized by the Foundation each year; participation in Foundation conferences is encouraged but not mandatory; before the end of their term, all Fellows give a presentation on their research (P. E. Trudeau Talks). During their term, Fellows will identify themselves as "Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Fellow."

### **IMPACT**

The Fellowship program is aiming to have an impact on several levels.

For Canadian society, the Fellowship must promote public dialogue informed by scientific research across various disciplines, generations, ideologies, and languages.

For the Foundation, the Fellowship will strengthen its intellectual role and visibility. Fellows are a pillar of the Foundation's intellectual reputation. The Foundation encourages diversity of ideas and perspectives in order to foster a vibrant intellectual community.

For Fellows, the Fellowship supports innovative, sometimes unconventional and transformative research in academia and beyond. It offers a stimulating interdisciplinary environment. Scholars and Mentors form a community that expands the Fellows' network. Fellows remain affiliated with their universities but receive independent support and serve as institutional bridges between the Foundation and their respective universities.

For universities, the Fellowship can increase the external recognition of their researchers and provide access to flexible research funding. Universities act as partners to the Foundation in the pre-selection of candidates.

### **CANDIDATES**

Candidates

- ✓ are senior academics in Canada who are leaders in their field. They are academics holding a full-time tenured appointment in a Canadian university at or near the rank of Full Professor with a national or international reputation;



- ✓ tackle important current issues in social sciences and humanities intersecting with one or more of the four themes of the Foundation;
- ✓ propose a research project that is innovative and socially significant, pushing research and thinking in new directions;
- ✓ have a demonstrated commitment to supporting graduate students;
- ✓ have a proven record of academic excellence, as established by their prior success in obtaining research grants;
- ✓ are effective communicators willing to engage with a range of actors in society.

Candidates must be nominated by their home universities. Direct applications are not accepted. Canadian universities with one or more doctoral programs in the humanities and social sciences are invited to submit **up to three nominations per year**; all other Canadian universities may submit **one nomination per year**.

### NOMINATION PACKAGE

A nomination package for the Fellowship must include the following elements:

- 1) a presentation letter from the candidate, explaining their interest in the Foundation's Fellowship program;
- 2) a letter of nomination from the candidate's home university;
- 3) a three- to five-page presentation of the proposed Fellowship research project, including links to previous or ongoing research and the expected impact of the Fellowship research funding;
- 4) the candidate's academic curriculum vitae (max. 20 pages);
- 5) three recommendation letters.

The 2026 Fellowship nomination process opens on September 1, 2025, and closes on November 15, 2025. No nomination will be accepted after November 15, 2025, at 5 p.m. (ET). Incomplete or partial applications are not accepted.

A complete package must be submitted by the home university to the Foundation by email: [nominations@trudeaufoundation.ca](mailto:nominations@trudeaufoundation.ca)

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an in-person interview in Montreal (QC) in the week of February 23, 2026. Successful candidates who have been chosen as 2026 Fellows will be informed by the end of April 2026.

Please address any questions to Mai-Gee Hum, Program Director ([mghum@trudeaufoundation.ca](mailto:mghum@trudeaufoundation.ca)).