



IZAAK WALTON KILLAM MEMORIAL POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Application guide for the 2027-2028 competition

Please enquire with individual departments and units regarding their internal application deadlines.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
About the Program	2
Overview of Application and Nomination Process	2
UBC-Vancouver Campus: Application and Nomination Process	2
UBC-Okanagan Campus: Application and Nomination Process - College of Graduate Studies (CoGS)	3
University-Wide Adjudication Process	3
Eligibility Criteria	3
Selection Criteria	3
Other Sources of Funding	4
External Awards	4
Teaching and Other Academic Duties	4
Application Process and Deadlines	4
Preparing the Application	4
Application Form	4
Attachments	4
Formatting Requirements for Attachments	4
Research Proposal (maximum of two pages)	5
Ancillary Materials (optional, maximum of one page)	5
Personal Statement (maximum of one page)	5
Special Circumstances (maximum of one page)	5
Curriculum Vitae (free-form, maximum of five pages)	6
Letter of Support from the Proposed UBC Supervisor	8
Letters of Reference	8
Important Notes about Submitting Letters	9
Transcripts for Doctoral Studies Only	9
Review of Departmental Nominees	10
Selection of Successful Candidates	10

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The prestige of the UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships Program, one of the top postdoctoral fellowship competitions in Canada, is due in large part to the participation of departments and units in soliciting applications from outstanding candidates, bringing their nominees to the attention of the adjudication committee at the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS), and guiding successful candidates during the 24 months of their fellowship.

G+PS greatly appreciates the work that the staff and faculty of all participating departments and units invest in the competition and thanks them for their continued involvement in the program's success.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Killam Scholarship and Prize Programs were established in memory of Izaak Walton Killam through the will of his wife, Dorothy Johnston Killam, and through gifts made during her lifetime. The primary purpose of the programs is to support advanced education and research at five Canadian universities and the Canada Council for the Arts.

The UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships are provided annually from the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Fund for Advanced Studies and are available for most fields of research. It was Mrs. Killam's desire that those selected to receive fellowships:

"...be likely to contribute to the advancement of learning or to win distinction in a profession. A Killam scholar should not be a one-sided person... Special distinction of intellect should be founded upon sound character."

Postdoctoral applicants are selected based on high academic achievement, personal qualities, and demonstrated aptitudes. Consideration is also given to their proposed program of study. The fellowships are awarded for a maximum of two years, subject to review at the end of the first year. The Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship offers an annual stipend of \$60,000 over the tenure of the award.

The number of new awards offered presently varies between four and six per year.

More information about the UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships may be found on our [website](#).

Please direct questions to killam.fellowships@ubc.ca.

OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION AND NOMINATION PROCESS

The application process and requirements are explained in detail in this document. The responsibilities of the applicant, the UBC department or unit receiving the application, and G+PS are summarized below.

[UBC policies and procedures](#) may be amended from time to time and such amendments are binding upon successful candidates.

UBC-Vancouver Campus: Application and Nomination Process

1. To ensure that candidates will be properly supported in their research at UBC, all postdoctoral applicants must submit their application to the UBC department or unit of their interest. List of [departments and units at the Vancouver Campus](#). The deadline for receipt of completed applications and all supporting documents by the UBC department or unit is determined by each individual department or unit. **Applicants should check with their UBC department or unit to find out their internal application deadline.** Application materials sent directly by the postdoctoral applicant to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS) will not be accepted.
2. Each department or unit informs potential applicants about the Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships competition and the department or unit's related deadlines.
3. Each department or unit vets the application packages received for eligibility and completeness and convenes a committee to review applications received.
4. Each department or unit at the UBC-Vancouver campus may forward **one** nominee to G+PS by **Friday, November 6, 2026 at 4:00 pm PT** (Reminder: This is the department nomination deadline – applicants apply by their UBC department's earlier internal application deadline).
5. Each department or unit must notify applicants who were **not** recommended to G+PS of their status.
6. In February/March, G+PS will inform all department postdoctoral nominees of their results in the competition (offered, waitlist, or not offered).
 - UBC host department or unit (with guidance from G+PS) prepares formal letters of offer and, if necessary, letters of invitation to initiate immigration paperwork. New fellows are jointly appointed by the host department or unit and G+PS.



UBC-Okanagan Campus: Application and Nomination Process - College of Graduate Studies (CoGS)

- Prepare Full Killam Application – Monday, August 31, 2026 to Monday, October 5, 2026: Applicants work with their proposed supervisors to prepare their applications in consultation with their Associate Deans of Research. Applicants arrange for official transcripts and referee letters to be submitted and prepare all required application materials.
- Applicant CoGS Killam Deadline – **Monday, October 5, 2026, 5:00 p.m. (PDT)**: Applicants submit a complete application to CoGS as a single PDF file (postdoc.ok@ubc.ca).
- Referee CoGS Killam Deadline – **Monday, October 5, 2026, 5:00 p.m. (PDT)**: Referees submit letters of reference addressed to the UBC Killam Selection Committee (postdoc.ok@ubc.ca).
- CoGS Killam Committee Selection – Tuesday, October 6, 2026 to Tuesday, October 27, 2026: CoGS convenes the Standing Review Committee to review applications and select four UBCO finalists.
- Notification of Nominees – Tuesday, October 27, 2026: The four selected UBCO finalists, their supervisors, Associate Deans of Research, and Deans are informed. Relevant units complete nomination forms for finalists.
- UBC Okanagan Killam Deadline – **Thursday, November 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m.**: Deadline for Associate Deans of Research and/or School or Department Heads to submit completed Nomination Forms to CoGS.
- UBC Killam Deadline – Friday, November 6, 2026, 4:00 p.m.: CoGS forwards nominees' applications to UBC Vancouver's Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS) for consideration and notifies unsuccessful applicants and their supervisors.

University-Wide Adjudication Process

1. The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (G+PS) provides information about the Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships competition on its website and makes an announcement to UBC departments and units.
2. G+PS receives nominations from UBC departments and UBC-Okanagan until the departmental nomination deadline in November 2026. **Applicants must have already sent their application documents to their proposed department/unit by their UBC department/unit internal application deadline.**
3. G+PS convenes the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships and Prizes Committee to adjudicate nominations received from departments or units.
4. G+PS notifies nominees (both successful and unsuccessful) and departments or units about competition results (in late February/early March of the next year).
5. UBC host department or unit (with guidance from G+PS) prepares formal letters of offer and, if necessary, letters of invitation to initiate immigration paperwork. New fellows are jointly appointed by the host department or unit and G+PS.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Please refer to the Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship [webpage](#) for eligibility criteria.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Please refer to the Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship [webpage](#) for selection criteria.



OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

External Awards

Postdoctoral applicants are encouraged to apply for other research awards tenable at UBC (e.g., the [Tri-Agency Canada Postdoctoral Research Award](#) (CPRA) and [Michael Smith Health Research BC](#)). In the event applicants are successful in obtaining both a Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and other external postdoctoral awards, they are required to accept the external funding, and **take up the external award within six months of the earliest possible external award start date**. A stipend covering the difference between the regular Killam stipend and the other award (if the latter carries a lower dollar value) will be offered, provided that this protocol is in keeping with the regulations of the agency granting the other award. These Killam Fellows will still be considered Killam scholars.

Teaching and Other Academic Duties

Fellows are permitted to undertake teaching or other academic duties for up to a maximum of six credits, i.e., one six-credit course in either of the two years OR one three-credit course in each of the two years of the fellowship. Any teaching arrangements must be made with the department concerned and remunerated by the department as appropriate.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

Preparing the Application

Applicants must complete the application form and append the documents indicated under “Attachments”. You are responsible for submitting a complete application to the department or unit before the internal deadline.

Application Form

The application form for the 2027-2028 competition is available on the Killam webpage. The form is designed to be completed on your computer using the “TAB” key to navigate through the document. Once you have completed and saved your application, please “save as” a PDF before submitting to your proposed department.

You are asked to include a copy of the application checklist with your application so that the department or unit receiving your application may verify the contents of the application package.

ATTACHMENTS

In addition to the application form, please submit the following materials to the department or unit to which you are applying:

- Research proposal (maximum of two pages)
- Ancillary materials (optional, maximum of one page)
- Personal statement (maximum of one page)
- Special circumstances (maximum of one page)
- Curriculum vitae (maximum of five pages)
- One letter of support from your proposed supervisor
- Two letters of reference (in addition to your supervisor’s letter of support). Letters of reference are to be submitted directly to your department or unit by the referee prior to the departmental deadline
- Up-to-date official transcripts for doctoral studies only

Formatting Requirements for Attachments

Attachments must adhere to the formatting requirements below:

- Pages must be 8 ½" x 11" (216mm x 279mm).
- Insert a minimum margin of 2cm (¾ inch) around the page (top, bottom and sides).
- Use single spacing.
- Use a minimum font size of 12-point, black type.



- Feel free to include hyperlinks in your text, to lead adjudicators to online resources with further information on an activity, project, or other resources.

Please save your documents as PDFs before submitting to your proposed department.

Research Proposal (maximum of two pages)

The primary required output of the proposed research must be scholarly in nature. Applications in which the primary required output is a creative or artistic work, such as a novel, script, painting, sculpture, musical composition, performance, or architectural design, are not eligible.

The proposal should be written in clear, non-technical language that allows a non-specialist to comprehend the overall content and importance of the work. Members of the Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships and Prizes Committee are from a broad range disciplines and may not have expertise in your area of study.

Although the fellowship may be used to extend or expand upon doctoral work, it must be made clear that you are not intending to use the award to wrap up a thesis. While it is expected that a postdoctoral fellow will be taking the next step beyond the PhD thesis, you must differentiate clearly between the postdoctoral project and the thesis research. Feel free to include hyperlinks to provide links to additional information.

As applicants must make UBC their base, it is important – particularly for applicants whose primary research materials are elsewhere – to indicate what travel is involved, to where, and for how long. You should describe how you will deal with the remoteness of the primary materials.

The adjudication committee is very interested in “fit” with the selected UBC department or unit and the university’s research programs. You must provide information on how your research relates to that of specific campus programs and advisors. If a colloquium is envisioned, a possible title should be proposed. If you will visit in classes, please suggest which ones. Since inter-disciplinarity is often a valuable dimension (the Killam Trusts declares that a candidate shall not be “a one-sided person”), specific details on proposed inter-departmental connections are welcome.

Ancillary Materials (optional, maximum of one page)

You may provide up to one extra page of ancillary materials such as figures, graphs, images, works cited, and references.

Although UBC departments or units may wish to review manuscripts, artwork, videos of performances, etc., any materials in addition to the one extra page shall not be forwarded to G+PS. The extra page may not be used as a continuation of the research proposal document.

Personal Statement (maximum of one page)

Address the following:

- Describe your research experience and relevant work experience
- Describe your personal qualities through other activities such as athletic/artistic achievements, leadership activities, community engagements, volunteerism, etc.
- Describe your career aspirations
- Include details concerning what teaching, if any, you will be doing and how it is related to your work

Special Circumstances (maximum of one page)

Identify any circumstances that might have delayed or interrupted your academic and/or career advancement, scientific research, other research, dissemination of results, training, etc.

- **COVID-19 research/career impacts:** Optional, use this document to outline any impacts COVID-19 has had on your research output and/or career progression. Note any adjustments you have made to maintain research and/or career progression.

The Special Circumstances document is **required only if**: your PhD completion is outside the eligibility window, or if you already have a postdoctoral appointment at UBC. See details below:



- **Justification for extension of eligibility window:** Applicants must have completed all requirements of their PhD no more than 24 months (**for this competition, no earlier than April 30, 2025**) prior to the anticipated fellowship start date. The period of eligibility may be extended for applicants who have had their career interrupted or delayed for the purpose of childrearing, illness, or health-related family responsibilities.

If you are outside the eligibility window, identify any family or health responsibilities that might have delayed or interrupted your career progress **after** the completion of your PhD requirements. Note that your eligibility window will only be extended by the duration of the delay(s) or interruption(s), *to a maximum of one year*. Description must include the start and end dates, the impact areas, and the reason(s) or a brief explanation of the absence.

- **Justification for continuing appointment at UBC:** If you have already started your postdoctoral fellow appointment at UBC, provide a rationale for continuing your appointment at UBC.

Curriculum Vitae (free-form, maximum of five pages)

Use your own CV template while adhering to the 'Formatting Requirements for Attachments' section above. Include all requested information in each section and provide as much detail as possible within the five-page limit.

1. Academic Background

Provide a complete record of your current and past degree programs, including all Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctoral degrees. List degrees in reverse chronological order based on start date (most recent first).

For each degree, provide the following information:

- Degree name (e.g., Bachelor of Applied Science, Master of Arts, or Doctor of Philosophy in Experimental Medicine)
- Discipline/specialization (optional: include the area of specialization or your program of study if applicable)
- Institution name
- Degree status (e.g., in progress, completed, or withdrawn)
- Start date (include month and year; use YYYY/MM)
- Completion/expected completion date: (include month and year; use YYYY/MM, if expected please write "expected" before the date, e.g., expected 2027/05)
- For completed degrees, provide the date when all degree requirements were fulfilled. Typically, this would be the date of acceptance of the final corrected copy of your thesis following a successful defense, not the conferred or convocation date.
- For ongoing programs, provide the expected completion date, as above.

Additional requirements:

- Record every degree separately, even if incomplete or you transferred between programs.
- If you transferred from a Master's program to a PhD without completing the Master's:
- Record the Master's program separately as "transferred to PhD, *date of transfer*"
- Record the PhD separately as "in progress" or "completed"; use the date you were first officially registered in the PhD program as the PhD start date
- If you are pursuing joint doctoral studies, record each component of the program separately as applicable.
- Provide supervisor information for each degree where applicable.

2. Academic, Research, and Other Relevant Work Experience

List your current and previous positions, including both academic and relevant non-academic roles, in reverse chronological order based on the start date (most recent first). Provide context to explain the scope, relevance, and significance of your experience where appropriate.

For each position, provide:

- Position title



- Institution/organization
- Start and end date (Include month and year; use YYYY/MM. If current, indicate "Present.")
- Nature of work, including a brief description of your primary responsibilities and key contributions
- Additionally, note how you gained the experience (employment/internship/assistantship/volunteer, etc.) and specify the time and arrangement as appropriate (such as full-time/part-time; contract/limited-term/volunteer; paid/unpaid). Examples:
 - Employed, limited-term part-time contract (paid)
 - Internship, full-time (unpaid)
 - Volunteer role, part-time

3. Awards, Recognitions, and Credentials

List your most relevant awards, licences, professional designations, or other distinctions that support your application. List entries in reverse chronological order by the year received (most recent first). Prioritize entries that best demonstrate your scholarly excellence, research achievement, leadership, communication skills, and other qualities relevant to your application.

For each entry, provide:

- Name of the award, recognition, or credential
- Type (e.g., scholarship, fellowship, award, honour, licence, professional designation, distinction, prize)
- Awarding organization
- Selection process or source if applicable (e.g., competitive or non-competitive; federal, provincial, institutional, professional association, non-profit, etc.)
- Period held (start and end dates in YYYY/MM; if current, indicate "Present")
- Monetary value (if applicable, provide the total value of the award, not the annual stipend)
- Status (if applicable, indicate whether the award was accepted or declined)
- Brief description (optional) describing the significance, selection criteria, relevance, or other context that would help assess the recognition

4. Research Funding History

List grants and other funding specifically for research, as opposed to awards and scholarships (which should be in section 3, above). Include only funding for projects in which you held a formal role. If you have not received or participated in funded research, the header should remain, but the section may be left blank.

For each entry, provide:

- Project title
- Funding organization
- Year awarded
- Your role (e.g., principal investigator, principal applicant, co-applicant, co-investigator, collaborator)
- Principal applicant/principal investigator (if you were not the lead applicant)
- Total funding amount (provide the total amount awarded for the project)
- Project status (e.g., ongoing or completed)
- Brief description (optional) outlining the project's objectives, your contributions, or the significance of the funded research, where additional context would strengthen your application

5. Publications, Presentations/Conferences, and Other Works

Use a citation style appropriate to your field. For each entry, include:

- Type (e.g., journal article, book chapter, poster presentation)
- Status (e.g., published, in press, accepted, submitted)



- Role (your authorship position / presenter role)
- Peer review (publications only): peer-reviewed (yes/no/unknown)
- Selection/adjudication (presentations/conferences, etc., if applicable): invited, selected, contributed, etc.
- Event details (presentations/conferences only): conference name, location, year

Note: Publications and presentations listed here may be reviewed by adjudicators as part of the assessment. Where possible, make cited materials accessible (e.g., by including links).

6. Significant Contributions and Experiences (up to 3)

Provide up to three entries for the contributions and/or experiences that best support your fit for the postdoctoral award. Keep each entry focused. For each entry, include:

- Brief description
- Your role
- Evidence of impact
- Why it matters for your fellowship application

If a publication or presentation is one of these entries, you may reference it briefly here with associated narrative; full citation details belong in section 5 above.

7. Other (catch-all; include teaching/supervision as relevant)

Use this section for experiences you want to highlight that do not fit in the sections above, including teaching and supervision (only if you have them), plus any other relevant experience. For each item include:

- Activity type (teaching, supervision, committee/service, outreach, etc.)
- Your role
- Scope and relevant details (e.g., number of students, dates, timeframe, etc.)

If you don't have anything to add, keep the header; the section may be left blank.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM THE PROPOSED UBC SUPERVISOR

The proposed supervisor should give evidence of being intellectually engaged with the applicant's project. For guidance, the supervisor may comment on the following:

- The applicant's research potential, and include information that supports the selection criteria and other personal qualities
- The quality of the proposed research [e.g., the new approach / method / knowledge the nominee will bring and the impact the applicant's research will have]
- The degree of 'match' between the applicant and the supervisor and the potential benefit to each
- The research environment (e.g., lab equipment and facilities) and/or access to resources (e.g., archival materials and academic/community networks)
- The support that is available to the applicant's career development (the opportunity to train further in the area of research)
- The benefit the applicant will bring to UBC

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Two additional letters of reference are required from individuals capable of making an informed assessment. (Additional letters will not be accepted by G+PS, and an application without **two** reference letters will be considered incomplete.)

One letter should be from a person who is very familiar with your research and other abilities and can assess your past and potential contributions to research (normally, your doctoral thesis supervisor).



The second letter should be from a person who is sufficiently familiar with your research and abilities to provide a meaningful assessment of your application in relation to the evaluation criteria.

Referees must be able to evaluate the applicant's research potential. For guidance, they may comment on the following:

- The applicant's academic achievement and research contributions [e.g., how valuable these have been and are expected to be]
- The applicant's other personal qualities, and provide example(s) that illustrate(s) the applicant's well-rounded, sound character
- The quality of the proposed research [e.g., how does it expand or depart from the applicant's previous research?]
- The benefit of undertaking the proposed research at the University of British Columbia

Important Notes about Submitting Letters

Each application submitted to G+PS must be accompanied by one letter of support from the proposed UBC supervisor and two letters of reference from individuals familiar with the applicant's research and other abilities.

- Letters must be submitted directly to the UBC department or unit by their internal deadline.
- Please have your referees email the letter directly to the department or unit.

Requirements for the letters:

- Only letters **signed** by the author are acceptable
- Must be on institutional letterhead (where possible)
- Emailed original and scanned letters sent by email directly to the department or unit from the referee are acceptable
- Letters are confidential, and the contents of the letters are not to be viewed by the applicant

TRANSCRIPTS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES ONLY

A complete application must include:

- A copy of up-to-date official transcripts for doctoral studies only; and
- Where applicable, an additional supporting document, such as proof of registration and/or proof of completion

Up-to-date transcripts are defined as official transcripts:

- Dated or issued during the fall session of the year of application (if you are currently registered); or
- Issued after the last term completed (if you are not currently registered)

Official transcripts are defined as transcripts issued by the institution's registrar's office. Submit only one copy of the transcript legend. Transcripts obtained from other sources, such as those downloaded or printed from a student account on the institution's website, are not considered official.

If your transcripts are in a language other than English or French, you must provide a certified translation into English or French, in addition to your transcripts issued in their original language.

If your institution does not issue transcripts, or if your doctoral program does not include coursework, you must provide proof of registration.

Proof of registration is a document that confirms your current registration status in a doctoral program. It is also required if:

- Your doctoral transcript does not indicate the session or term in which you started your doctoral program; or
- Your doctoral transcript does not demonstrate that you are currently registered in the program

If you have completed your doctoral degree, your transcript must indicate the date on which all degree requirements were completed. If this information is not included on your transcript, you must provide proof of completion.



Proof of registration and/or completion must confirm, where applicable:

- Your program of study
- Your registration status
- The date on which you started the program of study
- That your institution does not issue transcripts; and/or
- For proof of completion: The date on which all requirements of your doctoral degree were completed

Proof of registration and/or completion may be provided in the form of a letter bearing the institution's official seal or stamp, or a letter signed by the dean of graduate studies, confirming the required information.

Where to send transcripts: Transcript must be sent directly to your UBC nominating unit or department, not to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. For applicants from UBC Okanagan, please send transcripts directly to the College of Graduate Studies (postdoc.ok@ubc.ca).

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENTAL NOMINEES

The UBC Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships and Prizes Committee, composed of senior faculty members from various disciplines, many of them former recipients of various Killam awards, reviews the nomination packages.

Departmental nominees are judged on the basis of the [selection criteria](#) listed above.

SELECTION OF SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

The UBC Killam Postdoctoral Fellowships and Prizes Committee presents the highest-ranked candidates to the UBC Killam Memorial Fellowships Committee and the Killam Trusts. G+PS then makes offers to the top four to six candidates. Candidates deemed worthy of the fellowship, but ranked lower in the competition, are informed of their wait-listed status and may be presented with an offer if a higher-ranked candidate is either unable to accept the fellowship or is able to enter UBC with external funding. Unsuccessful nominees and their UBC nominators will also be notified of the status of their nomination.

All nominees will receive notice of the status of their nomination by early March.

Questions? Please direct questions to killam.fellowships@ubc.ca.