

2019 John Charles Polanyi Prizes Postdoctoral Competition Instructions

The School of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) 2018 John Charles Polanyi Prizes Competition.

In honour of the achievement of John Charles Polanyi, recipient of the 1986 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, the Government of the Province of Ontario has established a fund to provide annually up to five prizes to outstanding researchers in the early stages of their career who are continuing to post-doctoral studies or have recently started a faculty appointment at an Ontario university.

Value of Prizes

The prizes have a value of \$20,000 each and will be conferred in the fall of 2019. They are available in the areas broadly defined as Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Economic Science.

McMaster's Quota

McMaster may submit up to three nominees in each category.
(Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Economic Science)

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for an award, an applicant must:

- Be normally resident in Ontario;
- Have received their doctoral degree from any recognized university in the world on or after September 1, 2015, or, if the doctoral degree has not yet been awarded, be confident that they will have completed all degree requirements by April 30, 2019 (an applicant who was on parental leave between the time of completion of the doctorate and the time of application may have their period of eligibility extended by six months);
- Either be planning to continue to post-doctoral studies, or hold a faculty appointment, in a recognized publicly assisted university in Ontario.

Application Instructions for candidates:

School of Graduate Studies Deadline is Saturday, December 1, 2018

Each applicant must submit to [Dean of Graduate Studies](#) the following documents as **one PDF**:

- The completed [application form](#)
- The applicant's curriculum vitae (updates to which will not be accepted after submission)
- A one-page summary of the doctoral thesis, written by the applicant

2019 John Charles Polanyi Prizes

Postdoctoral Competition Instructions

- A brief statement of the research or scholarship to be undertaken during the period of the award, prepared by the applicant and not to exceed two pages (one additional page is allowed for diagrams, bibliography, etc.)
- Non-technical summary of the statement of research or scholarship, written by the applicant and not to exceed 500 words

The candidate must also provide by **Friday, December 1, 2018**:

- Confidential letters from **four** assessors; at least two of the assessors must not have had any prior personal or professional association with the applicant (e.g., as a supervisor or a member of the applicant's supervisory committee) and ideally are not at a university at which the applicant is, or has been, a student or an employee.
- An assessor's letter should provide an evaluation of the applicant's research or scholarship to date and the research or scholarship to be undertaken. In particular, the assessor should explain why the research is worthy of a John Charles Polanyi Prize, paying particular attention to the selection criteria outlined below:
 - John Charles Polanyi prizes recognize truly outstanding researchers and scholars for their work during their doctoral program and, where relevant, in their research and scholarship after doctoral study. The Selection Committee, when it makes its decisions about the applicants to be awarded the prizes, reviews both the record of research and publications and the description of planned research; neither, alone, is sufficient for recognition with a Polanyi Prize.
- The applicant must ask for the appraisals to be transmitted electronically by the **application deadline of Friday, December 1, 2018** directly to the [Dean of Graduate Studies](#).

Department Application Instructions

- A letter of support is required from the department.
- The letter is due on **December 1, 2018**.
- Department Chairs and/or Proposed Supervisors of the Postdoctoral Fellow or fourth year doctoral applicant are required to provide a letter of support in **Word**
- Among other things, the letter should clarify the nature of the position the applicant will hold during the period of the prize
- The letter of support will assist the AVP/Dean of Graduate Studies to craft the formal Institutional Nomination Letter required as part of the application.
- The Department is required to submit the letter of support by the deadline to graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca.

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Useful links:

For further information, please visit:

[COU website](#)

[2019-20 John Charles Polanyi Prize Announcement](#)

[Selection Process](#)

Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns please contact:

[McMaster School of Graduate Studies - Scholarships](#)

[Council of Ontario Universities Inquiries](#)