Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship Program

Information Session
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School of Graduate Studies
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Statement of Acknowledgment of Traditional Land

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years, it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.
Agenda

• Program Overview
• Eligibility
• Application Details
• Selection
• Questions & Answers
Program Overview
Public Scholarship and Public Impact

Public Scholarship

• Focus on engaging the public through a scholarly agenda.

• This could involve a range of activities, from describing their work in a public forum to partnering with a school, community organization, or cultural institution in an ongoing two-way exchange of knowledge and practices.

Public Impact

• Spans science and technological innovation, as well as cultural innovation, with the goal of social benefit.
What is Public Impact?

The key to defining public impact is explaining the societal benefit and relevance of the work to a general audience.

Every PhD student at the University of Toronto can be a public impact scholar.
Reimagining the PhD Pathway

• Production of impactful research
• Dissemination of impactful research
• Preparing for a variety of careers
• Networking
• Access
Examples of Public Impact (1 of 3)

Social and Cultural Innovation
— work that positively influences culture and society
  e.g., art, literature, social movement, understanding civilizations

Reconciliation and Social Inclusion
— work that forwards our goals of repair with Indigenous communities and other disadvantaged groups
  e.g., facilitating goals of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, creating systems of anti-oppression and anti-racism

Community-Engaged
— work that addresses important questions that are of relevance to and done in partnership with our communities
  e.g., working with a non-profit, working with newcomer groups
Examples of Public Impact (2 of 3)

**Global Scholarship**
— work that has the potential to have impact beyond our local communities or brings diverse global work to our local setting

   e.g., ethnography of Indigenous communities across the globe, multi-site studies

**Social Responsiveness**
— work that is critical to the key questions of today

   e.g., mental health, racial disparities, climate change, COVID-19 research

**Technological Innovation**
— work that harnesses technology to transform our systems

   e.g., artificial intelligence, clinical devices

**Health Care Innovation**
— work that positively influences the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities

   e.g., mental health interventions, new biomarkers for illness, neuroscience of illnesses, health care systems evaluation
Examples of Public Impact (3 of 3)

**Fundamental Basic Discovery**
— work that helps us understand basic elements of our world better
e.g., neuroscientific discovery, theoretical physics and mathematics

**Transdisciplinary/Interdisciplinary**
— work that breaks down disciplinary boundaries to better address questions
e.g., clinical computational neuroscience, mixed methods research designs

**Public Policy**
— work that influences social, economic, local and global policies to transform different sectors of society
e.g., agricultural policy, foreign policy, law, government relations
This program aims to support collaboration and communication to further research, scholarship, and creative practice for the public good.
Key Information

- Fifteen fellows will be chosen every year to participate.
- Each fellow will be awarded $12,500 for the year ($10,000 fellowship to be used as a top-up to the recipient's usual funding package and $2,500.00 towards project expenses and / or professional development)
- One year fellowship

APPLICATION DUE DATE
March 1, 2023

START DATE
September 2023
Program Outcomes

Fellows Will Receive

- Cohort experience involving specialized skills training in public scholarship
- Networking and mentorship opportunities with fellows, public figures, public and private institutions, and the media
- Funding to do innovative and impactful research, scholarship, and creative practice

Formats

- Fellowship programming VS programming open to a general audience
- Fellow driven programming VS curated programming
Fellow Responsibilities

- Work on a finite one-year deliverable on their research, scholarship, or creative product (typically dissertation)
- Attend a public scholarship workshop
- Attend monthly fellows’ meetings
- Engage in one or more forms of public communication
- Participate in an annual showcase event
- Participate in program enhancement
- Promote Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship Program
- Attend Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellowship Program activities (at least 75% in person)
Eligibility
Who is Eligible?

• Open to all registered PhD students at the University of Toronto

• Must be registered students in good standing throughout the program duration (i.e., from September 2023 to August 2024)

• Anyone who meets this criteria (including international students, part-time students, and students in the post-funding cohort), is eligible to apply.
What If I Have Other Sources of Funding?

Funding Implications

• All students should have access to the fellowship and not restricted based in their current funding level.

• With respect to funding from the University of Toronto, the fellowship is intended to be held in addition to the regular funding package that supports students’ personal research.

• Some external funding agencies have restrictions on students having additional funding

• Confirm that the terms and conditions of your current funding sources permit holding other additional awards

• Determine how receiving this fellowship may impact your other sources of funding, if any
Application Details
What is the Focus of the Application?

- Normally, your thesis research
- Work with your supervisor on your application
Application Template

- Breakdown of each section, general guidance
Application Requirements (1/2)

- Lay summary (maximum 250 words);
- Description of proposed project (including background, methods and/or approaches; maximum 500 words);
- Description of public impact of work, expected outcomes/learning, and future directions (maximum 500 words);
- Description of work during the one-year timeline of fellowship, including work on project and proposed forms of public engagement (maximum 300 words);
- Statement explaining the principles of EDI in the proposed work, including a description of the EDI issues associated with the work and a plan for integrating EDI considerations into its design and implementation (can include such things as building a diverse team or incorporating different theoretical perspectives, if no EDI principles that pertain, please explain why; maximum 300 words);
Application Requirements (2/2)

• List of collaborators (individuals or organizations) if applicable (no support letters needed at this stage, but collaborator roles can be discussed in the proposal);

• Description of any special circumstances that have affected the applicant’s trajectory, e.g., illness, leaves, child or elder care (optional; maximum 250 words);

• Curriculum vitae;

• Description of the current funding package and research and professional development funds available, and use of the 2,500 allowance (maximum 300 words); and

• Letter of support from supervisor, co-signed by Graduate Chair/Coordinator, which includes a statement that the student is in good academic standing (Form).
Letter of Support

• Fillable PDF template
• Confirms that you are in good academic standing
• Co-signed by supervisor and graduate chair/coordinator
Selection
Application Adjudication

• Quality and impact of proposed inquiry;

• Use of appropriate and impactful methodologies;

• Impact of outcomes/learnings and future directions;

• Excellence of applicant as demonstrated by educational history, other related experience, and future promise;

• Appropriateness of EDI plan and/or considerations;

• Appropriateness of work to be completed during timeline of fellowship (both on project and proposed forms of public engagement);

• Rationale and relevance of proposed use of fellowship funds; and

• Support from supervisor(s) and Graduate Chair/Coordinator.
Building a Cohort

We are committed to supporting diversity in research, scholarship, and creative practice, as well as individuals from under-represented groups, international students, and multilingual students.

In selection, the committee will ensure there is a diversity of backgrounds, identities, perspectives, and disciplines across the cohort of fellows.
2022-2023
Connaught PhDs for Public Impact Fellows

Tenzin Butsang
Department of Public Health Sciences

Jaime Grimm
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Sociology

Rose Schmidt
Department of Public Health Sciences

Wen Yin (Elaine) Cheng
Department of East Asian Studies

Rebecca Lennox
Department of Sociology

Peter Serles
Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering

Maria Roxana Escobar Nanez
Department of Geography and Planning

Margaret Macdonald
Faculty of Information

Anam Shahil
Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

Madison Giles
Department of Public Health Sciences

Sneha Mandhan
Department of Geography and Planning

Erin Willson
Department of Kinesiology

Ali Greey
Department of Sociology

Andrea Mariana Roman Alfaro
Department of Sociology

Jane Zhao
Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation
Why Should I Apply? What Do Our Fellows Say?

New opportunities for connection to the public and other fellows

“I’m looking forward to being part of a community of fellows who are leading the way in making an impact through creative expression, community advocacy, policy change, and more.”

Madison Giles, 2022-23 Connaught Public Impact Fellow

“Learning from and working with the cohort gives me a unique understanding of where the field is moving in a variety of disciplines.”

Peter Serles, 2022-23 Connaught Public Impact Fellow

Intellectual stimulation that comes from discussing a variety of topics from a variety of perspectives

A sense of purpose from translating inquiry to have a greater impact

“At this stage in my academic career, I have realized that the greater impact of research work comes from disseminating scientific information to the general public. Going forward, I can’t imagine not doing this sort of profoundly satisfying and meaningful work.”

Anam Shahil Feroz, 2022-23 Connaught Public Impact Fellow
Questions?

Website: cgpd.utoronto.ca/public-scholarship/connaught/