



MCDONALD INSTITUTE POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR AWARD

Description

The McDonald Institute Postdoctoral Scholar award is a one-year top-up for postdoctoral fellows at a recognized Canadian academic institution. The award recognizes demonstrated excellence across a broad suite of contributions to astroparticle physics research in Canada (e.g., leadership roles in the community, innovation, scientific contribution). This opportunity is limited to postdoctoral fellows in Astroparticle physics. The McDonald Institute will support up to five applications, with a maximum value of \$15,000 CDN each for one year. This award does not constitute base pay but is a top-up of existing contractual amounts to reward exceptional performance.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be a postdoctoral fellow in APP research at a recognized (Tri-Council funding eligible) Canadian academic institution
- The applicant should have completed a Ph.D. within the last five years.
- The applicant must either be working on a postdoctoral appointment or have been offered a postdoctoral appointment that will commence no later than January 15, 2023.
- The annual base pay for the postdoctoral appointment must be declared in the supervisor's letter of recommendation and be consistent with departmental norms at the supervisor's institution.

Application process:

The applicant must provide the following:

- A curriculum vitae of the applicant
- Minimum of 2 letters of recommendation including:
 - o letter from the current or prospective supervisor and;
 - o letter from a researcher outside Canada within the astroparticle physics field who is familiar with the applicant's expertise

Letters of recommendation should provide information on the applicant's achievements and impacts, mentoring and leadership skills, and the applicant's long-term plan to cultivating fair and equitable opportunities for colleagues in the field.

Application documents should be sent to admin@mcdonaldinstitute.ca with "MI PostDoctoral Awards – [Applicant's Last name]" as the subject line.

Timeline:

Competition opens: September 1, 2022

Competition closes: January 15, 2023

Results announced: February 28, 2023

Adjudication

Applications will be adjudicated internally by The McDonald Institute administrative team. The review of applications will be according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Score (0-5)	Weight	Notes
Applicant's research achievement and impacts (15% Supervisor's Letter, 10% 2 nd Recommendation Letter, 10% CV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original Research (theses, publications, talks, IP filings) • Awards and Honours • Evidence of Influence 		40%	
Applicant's demonstrated leadership skills (15% Supervisor's Letter, 10% 2 nd Recommendation Letter, 10% CV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Positions (academic, volunteer, industry, non-profit) • Organizational Work • Mentoring (junior graduate students, TA-ships) 		40%	
Applicant's long-term approach to cultivating fair and equitable opportunities for colleagues in the field (should discuss with supervisor prior to application). (15% Supervisor's Letter, 5% 2 nd Recommendation Letter) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research-community building • Intellectual engagement and exchange across geographic, economic, social, cultural barriers or differences 		20%	
Total Score		/100	
Comment(s) to be shared with applicants from notes above			

- 0 - Did not address the criteria
- 1 - Insufficient answer
- 2 – Partly answers, lacks evidence
- 3 – Moderately answers, lacks evidence
- 4 – Sufficient answer, insufficient evidence
- 5 – Evidence-backed, highest-quality answer