

Call for applications: Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) Global Scholars Program 2027-2029 Cohort

<https://www.cifar.ca/global-scholars>

Keywords: Early Career Researchers, natural, biomedical, social sciences, humanities, interdisciplinary research

Funding amount and duration of funding: CAD \$100,000 for research support over two years.

Funder deadline: 4 November 2026 at 12:00 PM (EST)

UCT Internal Deadlines

- **UCT Intention to submit deadline:** Please complete [Intension-to- Submit](#) form by **18 September**
- **UCT eRA:** Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is **REQUIRED** prior to submission to the funder. Applicants should:
 - contact faculty finance/budget reviewer by no later than **18 September**
 - [eRA Internal Approvals forms](#) should reach the Finance Approver by no later than **21 October**

Contacts: Faculty of Health Sciences: FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za ; All Other Faculties - internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

About the Funding Opportunity

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) invites applications for the [CIFAR Global Scholars Program 2027-2029](#) Cohort. The program offers early-career researchers the opportunity to develop and lead high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary research, expand their professional networks and receive focused leadership training in their pivotal first years as independent principal investigators. These experiences accelerate the rise of research leaders who are positioned to drive new discoveries and open new fields of inquiry.

CIFAR welcomes applications from candidates across the natural, biomedical, and social sciences, as well as the humanities. Successful applicants join one of CIFAR's interdisciplinary [research programs](#), collaborating with global research leaders to advance transformative knowledge and address some of the most important questions facing science and humanity.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for the CIFAR Global Scholars program, you must:

- Hold a PhD (or equivalent).
- Be employed at an institution of higher education or research and be **within the first five years of starting a full-time research position** that includes responsibility for both conducting an independent research program and supervising/teaching trainees toward their completion of a degree
- Typically, they would be at lecturer/Senior Lecturer level
- Have started their first independent academic position no earlier than **1 July 2022** and no later than **31 December 2026**
- This position must be secure throughout the full term from **1 April 2027** to **31 March 2029**.

Engage in research that complements the themes and goals of a recruiting CIFAR research program ([see page 5](#)).

- Demonstrate an outstanding record of research achievement and promise of future impact, as shown through reference letters, publications, awards, and other research contributions.
- Show a strong interest in interdisciplinary engagement to extend and enrich the impact of your research.

Please refer to the [CIFAR Global Scholars program](#) for detailed information on the eligibility criteria and application process.

Application Process

How to apply

UCT eRA: Approval via UCT's electronic Research Administration (eRA) system is REQUIRED prior to submission to the funder.

*Applications must be submitted through the [CIFAR online application system](#) and include the required summary statements, research statements, academic CV, narrative CV, and **two reference letters**.*

UCT internal requirements

	Deadline
PI to initiate an eRA Proposal Approval request and alert their faculty finance office of the budgetary support needed	23 September
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request with a draft budget to the Budget Reviewer step on eRA at least 4 weeks before the funder deadline	7 October
PI to submit an eRA Proposal Approval request to the Finance Approver step on eRA at least 2 weeks before the funder deadline	21 October
Approval form and all supporting documents to reach RC&I via eRA at least 1 week before the funder deadline <i>(if applicable, if funder requires institutional sign off)</i>	28 October
PI to submit the application on the funder portal by the funder deadline	4 November

Please to be mindful of any differences between UCT internal deadlines and those set by the external funder. Plan your application timeline accordingly to meet both sets of deadlines.

Contact Information:

Faculty of Health Sciences: FHS.ResearchFunding@uct.ac.za All Other Faculties - internationalgrants@uct.ac.za

Please complete the [intention-to-submit](#) form if you intend applying for this call.