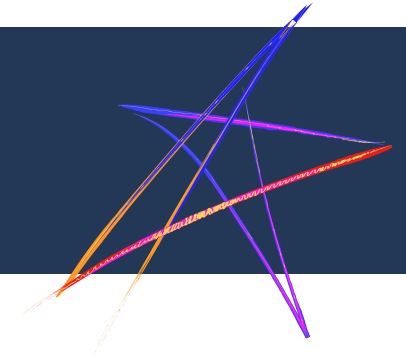


# The Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Prize for Mental Health Research



## 2026 Application Guidelines

The Royal-Mach-Gaensslen Prize for Mental Health Research was established in 2015, and is awarded annually to recognize and support outstanding research scientists in Canada with a focus in the area of mental health.

This annual national prize provides funding to exceptional researchers who are affiliated with a Canadian academic or clinical research institution in the field of mental health and who are 45 years of age or younger, to encourage them to continue to pursue their research interests in Canada. It recognizes those with a demonstrated track record in research with excellence in scientific rigor, innovative thinking, imagination and originality, and a clear ability to work in partnership with other disciplines and/or research teams external to the institution with which they are affiliated.

The award of \$100,000 is available annually to one person or a research team of up to three persons per competition. The Prize is awarded with the expectation that the recipient(s) will continue to demonstrate excellence in their field of work. If no appropriate candidate is found, the Prize will be deferred for one year.

We strongly encourage applicants with a wide variety of experience and diverse backgrounds to represent Canada's English and French linguistic duality; the need for balanced gender representation; persons who have lived experience of recovery from a mental illness; as well as individuals from immigrant/refugee/ethno-cultural/racialized communities in Canada; LGBTQI2S+ communities; and people with disabilities.

## Eligibility and Criteria

1. Candidates shall be outstanding researchers who are 45 years of age or younger at the deadline date.
2. Candidates are Canadian citizens living in Canada, or residing abroad but committed to return to Canada within six months from the date of the Prize. Non-Canadian citizens who are currently residing in Canada and who intend on living in Canada for the 12 months following award of the prize are also eligible.
3. **Eligible leaves** (e.g., maternity, parental, medical, bereavement) will be credited at twice the amount of time taken; part-time leaves will be taken into consideration, calculated according to the percentage of leave taken, and credited at twice the amount of time taken.
4. Candidates will have a primary affiliation with a Canadian academic / research organization.
5. Research shall be in a mental health discipline.
6. Candidates must hold an MD (or equivalent) and/or a PhD.
7. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible.
8. The Selection Committee will use the following weighted criteria in assessing applications:
  - Applicant's career to date, including most significant contributions to research and/or to practical applications. This is in line with **DORA's** approach to responsible research assessment [30%]
  - Applicant's academic and/or clinical leadership potential [30%]
  - Research program, strategy and vision, including dissemination and translation plans [25%]
  - Strength of letters of reference [15%]

## Funding and Payment

The Prize is a \$100,000 unrestricted grant, to be used at the recipient's sole discretion for personal support, research operations and/or research equipment. The full amount of the grant may be awarded to one recipient or divided among a team of up to three recipients. Disbursement of the Prize to the recipient(s) shall take place at the presentation to the Prize winner(s).

## Review Process

- Applications must be received by the deadline of **October 1, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.** Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by email within one week.
- Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee in November 2026.
- Applicants will be notified of funding decisions by December 2026.
- The Prize will be awarded in Ottawa.

## Application Documents

Please create an application file with the following documents in the order listed:

1. A completed and signed application form
2. A cover letter written by the applicant; this letter should provide an introduction to the applicant and highlights of your research and accomplishments (maximum 2 pages)
3. A 1,000 word summary of your research on a separate page
4. A CV [free form; 50 pages maximum] highlighting the following sections, presented in this order:
  - a. education (degrees and credentials);
  - b. employment experience (academic and non-academic; please indicate primary affiliation);
  - c. prizes, awards, recognitions;
  - d. peer-reviewed publications;
  - e. other publications or research outputs (e.g., clinical guidelines; datasets, quality of care metrics);
  - f. complete research funding history;
  - g. supervision, mentoring;
  - h. knowledge translation activities, intellectual property and transfer activities;
  - i. academic research presentations;
  - j. interviews and media communications;
  - k. other academic activities;
  - l. partnership activities (e.g., roles in collaborations, partnerships, networks);
  - m. leadership roles (e.g., roles on advisory committees, working groups, task forces, editorships, community and client engagement or education).
5. Three signed letters of support (see application form for details)
6. Confirmation that the applicant is a Canadian citizen, has landed immigrant status in Canada, or a primary affiliation at a Canadian academic/research institution (e.g., a photocopy of the main page of the applicant's passport and work permit (as applicable)). Non-relevant sections and identifiers may be redacted, however date of birth and citizenship must be visible to verify eligibility.

Please submit a single searchable PDF file to [research.awards@theroyal.ca](mailto:research.awards@theroyal.ca); please title and submit as indicated: *Last Name\_First Name RMG Prize Application.pdf*

**Questions** should be directed to [research.awards@theroyal.ca](mailto:research.awards@theroyal.ca).