



SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators

CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education; John Peever, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards and Financial Aid; Lindsay DeClou, Associate Director, Graduate Awards Operations & Postdoctoral Affairs

Date: December 3, 2024

Re: **2025 CAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards**
2025 John Leyerle-CIFAR Prize for Interdisciplinary Research

When communicating this announcement to your recent graduates, **please provide them with your graduate unit's information**, such as your internal deadline and contact information for submission of the applications to the unit.

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Graduate Unit:	Date set by graduate unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:	February 14, 2025
Value/Duration:	CAGS/ProQuest: two prizes each of \$1,500 John Leyerle-CIFAR: one prize of \$1,000
Level of Study:	Doctoral
Required Legal Status:	Domestic or International
Results:	June 2025

Purpose

The CAGS/ProQuest and John Leyerle-CIFAR awards recognize outstanding Canadian doctoral dissertations that make significant, original contributions to both the academic community and to Canadian society.

The CAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards annually present two awards:

- (1) arts, humanities and social sciences; and
- (2) engineering, medical sciences and natural sciences.

The Awards are granted by the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) and are sponsored by ProQuest.

The John Leyerle-CIFAR Prize for Interdisciplinary Research was established to honour John Leyerle, the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) in the late 1970's, who played an instrumental role in founding the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) in 1978. This prize recognizes an excellent student who is performing outstanding interdisciplinary research.

Value & Duration

CAGS/ProQuest: two prizes nationally each of \$1,500, a certificate of recognition, and an opportunity to attend the 63rd Annual CAGS Conference, to be held Ottawa, November 5–7, 2025.

SGS will award the two CAGS/ProQuest nominees (selected by the SGS Awards Committee to be forwarded to the national competition) \$1,000 each, in recognition of their outstanding doctoral dissertations at the University of Toronto in their respective categories.

John Leyerle-CIFAR: one prize at the University of Toronto of \$1,000 and a certificate of recognition.

Eligibility

Candidates must:

- Demonstrate outstanding work (through their dissertation) which showcases original research and makes significant contributions, both to their respective academic communities and to Canadian society at large;
- Have completed and had their dissertation accepted by SGS between **January 1, 2024**, and **December 31, 2024**; and
- For the John Leyerle-CIFAR Prize: Demonstrate work with strong emphasis on interdisciplinary approach (i.e., combines or involves two or more academic disciplines or fields of study) to an original research topic.

Nomination Process

Graduate units may submit one candidate per award below, for example:

- One (1) candidate to be considered for both the CAGS/ProQuest and the John Leyerle-CIFAR awards; or
- Two (2) candidates: one to be considered only for the CAGS/ProQuest award and one to be considered only for the John Leyerle-CIFAR award.

Interested applicants must submit a copy of their entire application package – scanned and saved as a single PDF (in the order provided below) – to their graduate unit by the **unit's established deadline**. Applicants from doctoral collaborative specialization programs should submit the application to their home graduate unit.

Nomination Package

Completed applications will consist of the following:

1. **For CAGS/ProQuest nominations only:** A nomination letter from the graduate unit (Graduate Coordinator or Chair/Director), which will contribute to the University nomination letter to CAGS, if selected. The Dean of Graduate Studies must sign the nomination letter that will go forth to the national competition, as such this letter should be written in the third person (1 page max);
2. A letter from the applicant's supervisor or Graduate Coordinator describing the reasons for the nomination, clearly addressing why the dissertation constitutes a significant piece of original work (approx. 2 pages);

It would also be helpful to:

- Highlight the outstanding nature of the nominee in comparison to other students within the same program; and
- Include information relevant to the field of study, degree or culture of the department (e.g., publishing norms, degree requirements, grading practices at specific international universities, unusual accomplishments) that would otherwise not be known outside the discipline.

*Nomination letters for the John Leyerle-CIFAR Prize must describe why the applicant's work is deemed interdisciplinary in nature.

3. A copy of the external examiner's pre-defence report, signed and dated by the examiner (if not signed and dated, SGS will authenticate after nomination submission);

4. An abstract of the dissertation in non-technical language not exceeding 350 words, written and **signed** by the applicant. Appendices containing non-textual material, such as charts or tables, may be included (reviewers are not required to review these appended items);
5. A statement written by the applicant summarizing the dissertation in non-technical language that can be understood by individuals outside the field, and clearly addressing how the research is unusually significant and makes an original contribution to the field; and for the John Leyerle-CIFAR Prize, also describe why the applicant's work is deemed interdisciplinary in nature (max 1 page- this item is for SGS reviewers only); and
6. Up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) (no page restrictions); updates to the CV are not permitted after submission. Pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the nominee.

Note: Letters of support from the Dean of Graduate Studies will be prepared and included with candidate applications selected to go forth by SGS to compete in the final CAGS national competition.

Submission to SGS

Graduate Units: Enter the nominee information on the **new** [CAGS-Leyerle-SGS Nomination Form](#) (one nominee per form) and attach required documents in order, as noted above, in a single PDF to the nomination form no later than 4:30pm, Friday, February 14, 2025.

NEW: The Graduate Awards Office will no longer provide a separate email confirmation that your nomination has been received as submission is confirmed through the online form. Please be sure to follow-up with the Graduate Awards Office should you have any updates to your unit's nomination.

Results

The John Leyerle-CIFAR winner and CAGS/ProQuest nominees will be notified by SGS in early April. CAGS/ProQuest announce winners of the national competition in June.

Contacts & Resources

For complete CAGS/ProQuest program information, visit the [Canadian Associate for Graduate Studies' \(CAGS\) website](#).

Please direct questions regarding this competition to:

Graduate Awards Office
School of Graduate Studies
graduate.awards@utoronto.ca