

SGS Award Announcement

To: Graduate Deans; Graduate Chairs/Directors; Graduate Coordinators; Graduate Administrators
From: Debbie Chau, Graduate Awards Officer
CC: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research & Education; John Peever, Vice-Dean, Students; Laura Stathopoulos, Director, Graduate Awards & Financial Aid; Lindsay DeClou, Associate Director, Graduate Awards Operations & Postdoctoral Affairs
Date: November 25, 2024
Re: **2025-2026 C. David Naylor University Fellowships, Endowed by a Gift from the Arthur L. Irving Foundation**

This announcement is for internal purposes only and should not be posted on websites external to the University.

Award Overview

Student Deadline to Graduate Unit:	Date set by graduate unit
Graduate Unit Deadline to SGS:	February 14, 2025
Value & Duration:	\$30,000 for one year
Level of Study:	Master's or Doctoral
Required Legal Status:	Domestic
Results:	Late March 2025

Purpose

The C. David Naylor University Fellowships, funded by Arthur and Sandra Irving, at the University of Toronto were established to support outstanding scholars who are active in community service and commencing the first year of a graduate degree program.

Created by Arthur and Sandra Irving through the Arthur L. Irving Family Foundation, this program honours the University of Toronto's 15th president, Professor C. David Naylor. During his eight-year tenure, Professor Naylor's efforts to combine leadership and academic excellence to strengthen Canada through support for research and education ensured the global success of the University. Thus, the C. David Naylor University Fellowships are focused on attracting outstanding candidates from the Atlantic Canadian provinces who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence and community commitment to graduate programs at the University of Toronto.

Value and Duration

Two prestigious entrance fellowships each at \$30,000 will be awarded for 2025-26 to attract outstanding candidates from [Atlantic Canadian provinces](#) to graduate programs at the University of Toronto. If a recipient's program is funded, these entrance fellowships must be awarded in addition to the program's normal funding commitment.

Eligibility

Each nominee must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- Have strong ties to Atlantic Canada, independent of postsecondary studies;
- Be a graduate of an Atlantic Canadian university (from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland & Labrador, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island) – [see list of Atlantic Canadian universities](#);
- Demonstrate a track record of high academic achievement (e.g., a minimum average of “A-” / 80% / 3.5/4.0);
- Demonstrate outstanding leadership potential and ongoing commitment to community service in one or more endeavors;
- Have been or will be offered admission to the first year of a full-time master’s (research-stream or professional) or doctoral program at the University of Toronto and will subsequently register in a graduate program within the 2025-26 academic year (no later than fall 2025); and
- Be available to participate in an interview as a part of the final selection process.

Selection Criteria

Applicants will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Academic Excellence: transcripts, scholarships, curriculum vitae, letters of recommendation, and contribution to research and development, if applicable;
- Outstanding leadership potential and ongoing commitment to community service in one or more endeavors (including – but not limited to – arts, sports, music, entrepreneurship, or social enterprise);
- Demonstration of strong ties to Atlantic Canada, independent of postsecondary studies;
- Demonstration of potential to be a leader, ambassador, and advocate for the Atlantic provinces, embodying the spirit and culture of the Atlantic Canada; and
- Performance at an interview with the Naylor Fellowship Committee.

Nomination Process

NEW: Graduate units submit their Naylor Fellowships nomination(s) online via the [Naylor Fellowships-SGS Nomination Form](#).

Units should nominate applicants to whom they have provided or expect to provide an offer of admission. There is no quota on the number of candidates that each graduate unit can nominate; however, due to the highly competitive and prestigious nature of the award, please be selective when choosing to put forth candidates.

Nomination Package

The nomination package for each nominee should be scanned as a single PDF-file, containing all nomination materials in the order listed below and uploaded via a completed [Naylor Fellowships-SGS Nomination Form](#). Please submit one nomination form per nominee.

1. A nomination letter from the graduate unit highlighting the strengths of the nominee (1-2 pages). This letter will be used in conjunction with the other materials to assess the application. Using strong and positive language, this letter should focus on:
 - a. 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 or benchmarks of excellence) that would otherwise not be known outside the discipline; and
 - b. Factors used to determine why the student is deserving of this award. Clearly articulate the excellence of the candidate according to the selection criteria of academic excellence, outstanding leadership potential and ongoing commitment to community service (potential and demonstrated)
2. Copies (both sides) of all academic transcripts – legend must be included;
3. One letter of reference (may be from the candidate’s admission file);
4. Nominee’s C.V. (no page restriction);
5. Brief bio by the nominee describing the following (one page max):
 - a. Background information, such as the nominee’s ties to Atlantic Canada, recreational activities the nominee enjoys, awards the nominee has received;
 - b. Academic interests and why the nominee is excited about them; and
 - c. What the nominee hopes to accomplish through graduate school education.

6. Statement by the nominee highlighting their demonstrated commitment to ongoing community service (please highlight recent and planned contributions; one page max).

Submission to SGS

Enter the nominee information on the [new Naylor Fellowships-SGS Nomination Form](#) (one nominee per form) and attach required document 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 designated Graduate Awards Officer should you have any updates to your unit's nomination.

Results

Short-listed applicants will be contacted in mid-March and invited to attend an interview with the Naylor Fellowship Committee, which will take place in early April 2025.

- SGS will provide the graduate unit with an official award offer addressed to the successful candidate, including the terms and conditions of the scholarship for distribution to the candidate;
- To accept the scholarship, the successful nominees must provide the graduate unit with **written acceptance** of both the unit's offer of admission and of the C. David Naylor University Fellowship **within two weeks** of the award offer letter date;
- The graduate unit will **notify SGS** of the applicants' response (both accepted and declined offers);
- If an offer is declined, SGS will offer the scholarship to the next highest ranked candidate on the SGS reversion list (i.e., graduate units may not reallocate an offer within their own department); and
- The David Naylor Fellows will be honoured at an event hosted by the donors later in the year;

Contacts & Resources

Please direct all questions regarding the competition or nomination process to:

Debbie Chau, Graduate Awards Officer
Graduate Awards Office
School of Graduate Studies
debbie.chau@utoronto.ca

Website: <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/naylor-fellowships/>