



Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching recognizes publicly the achievement of teaching excellence, and is intended to publicize such excellence to the University and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of achievement of such inclusive excellence among academic staff, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta.

Funds in the amount of \$1500 will be awarded to recipients.

Eligibility

Any **Continuing** Academic Staff from the following categories (as outlined in the [UAPPOL Recruitment Policy \(Appendix A\)](#)) may apply:

- A1 (Schedule A - Academic Faculty Member, Schedule F - Administrative and Professional Officers (APO) Member, Schedule B - Faculty Service Officers (FSO) Member, Schedule C - Librarian);
- A2.1 (Schedule D - Academic Teaching Staff (ATS) Members (Career, Term 12, Term Recurring))

Normally, applicants will have been granted tenure (or equivalent).

Selection Guidelines

The following was considered in the development of the adjudication criteria for the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching:

- Evidence of a commitment to teaching excellence as outlined in the [Framework for Effective Teaching](#).
- Demonstration of impact and creativity in teaching that enhances learning and engages students.

- Engagement with the commitments outlined in [Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan](#).
- Engagement with the institutional commitments to enhancing access, building interconnected and vibrant communities and promoting experiences of belonging for all members of our community in keeping with [Changing the Story: An Integrated Action Plan](#).

Application Process

Two-Phase Application Approach

In **Phase 1** of the application process, we invite you to submit an expression of interest. This should introduce yourself to the committee, describe how you engage with the institutional commitments outlined in [Braiding Past, Present and Future: University of Alberta's Indigenous Strategic Plan](#) and institutional commitments to enhancing access, building interconnected and vibrant communities and promoting experiences of belonging for all members of our community in keeping with [Changing the Story: An Integrated Action Plan](#). Your expression of interest should also highlight your commitment and dedication to excellence in teaching. Those selected to advance to **Phase 2** will be asked to provide a detailed narrative application, including specific evidence demonstrating their excellence in these areas.

In other words, Phase 1 is about introducing yourself and your story, and Phase 2 is about diving deeper and providing concrete examples and evidence to support that story.

An **Application Template** is available online through the [Awards for Teaching Excellence](#) website.

Translation services are available upon request at no cost to the applicant.

Multi-Modal Application

You are welcome to submit your application in the modality of your choosing (written, audio, video, graphics/animation etc.). The application template is designed to provide guidance on the criteria and specific information that should be included in your submission. If you prefer an alternative submission method or modality, please contact excellence.awards@ualberta.ca for assistance.

The [Digital Scholarship Centre](#) offers support for the creation and production of multimedia resources, including access to a new media studio, assistance with video production, and [free consultations with knowledgeable staff](#).

Deadline and Submission

Combine all pages into one PDF file and upload your single PDF application **by 9:00 a.m. on January 15, 2026**.

File Naming Convention:

Name your file as: Lastname_Firstname_Rutherford.pdf

Submit your complete application online through the [Awards for Teaching Excellence](#) website.

Selection Process

The Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching will be adjudicated by the [GFC University Teaching Awards Committee \(UTAC\)](#). UTAC includes a range of expertise that will enhance the Committee's ability to execute this process using an equity lens. Committee proceedings are to be confidential. Committee proceedings are to be confidential.

Announcement of the Award

The award recipients will be recognized at the annual *Celebrate! Teaching. Learning. Research* event.

Support

If you require assistance please contact us at excellence.awards@ualberta.ca.

Protection of Privacy - Personal information provided is collected in accordance with Section 4(c) of the Alberta Protection of Privacy Act (POPA) and will be protected in accordance with section 10 and used and disclosed in accordance with sections 12 and 13 of the Act. It will be used and disclosed for the purpose of adjudicating the Awards for Teaching Excellence.

The University of Alberta uses automated systems to generate content and to make decisions, recommendations, and predictions. The personal information collected may be included in these automated systems.

Should you require further information about collection, use and disclosure of personal information, please contact excellence.awards@ualberta.ca.