Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowships for Black & Indigenous Scholars at York University

- **Available Fellowships:** up to 4 in 2021-22
- **Amount:** min. $70,000/year
- **Duration:** 24 months. (Normally July to June. Exceptional start dates may be negotiated)
- **Field:** Open
- **Eligibility:**
  - Recently completed PhD (see specifics, below)
  - PhD in hand by the start of the postdoctoral term
- **Deadline to Apply:** 01 April 2021
- **Full Details:** [https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/postdoctoral-fellows/provosts-postdoctoral-fellowships/](https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/postdoctoral-fellows/provosts-postdoctoral-fellowships/)
- **Contact:** Kim McIntyre, Postdoctoral Services Coordinator

Background

Under-representation of Black and Indigenous scholars in many disciplines and fields of research and associated careers can become self-replicating without conscious and sustained efforts of supportive mentorship and encouragement. While gaining a foothold to begin a career can be difficult in itself, too often Black and Indigenous scholars face the additional challenges of racism and systems structured implicitly or explicitly to protect others’ privilege. Supportive mentorship and network-building can be lacking or actively denied. The Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowships for Black and Indigenous Scholars begin to address this problem by providing collegial resources, supervision, mentorship, and funded time to successful applicants to seek their chosen careers.

York University is committed to promoting justice in all of its forms through our research, teaching, decision-making, community involvement, and advocacy. Every Faculty at the university seeks to build collegial networks of support to tackle all forms of bias and challenge racism in every form. York University’s Centre for Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion assists actively in this work, by providing a suite of services to the York community writ large. We have a responsibility as a public institution to provide equitable access to opportunities for emerging scholars to acquire the knowledge and skills that will help them to create successful futures. A fundament of equitable access is the inclusion, integration and promotion of diverse of backgrounds, knowledges and ways of researching, thinking, knowing, communicating and relating. The Provost’s Postdoctoral Fellowships for Black and Indigenous Scholars at York University provide one such opportunity. Graduates who have earned their PhD within the past five years are able to research with and be mentored by renowned scholars in and across disciplines.

Eligibility

- Scholars who self-identify as Black (of African Descent; for example, Africans and African heritage people from the Caribbean, Americas, Europe) and/or Indigenous (to their land of origin, not exclusively limited to First Nations, Inuit, Métis people of Canada).
- Recently completed a PhD, PhD-equivalent, (degree completed between September 2016 and September 2021, with a possible extension of this window by up to a cumulative maximum of two years for career interruptions due to specific reasons.)
- PhD Candidates may only apply if a dissertation defence date prior to the start of the Fellowship has been confirmed. Awards to PhD Candidates are contingent on the completion of the doctoral degree. If a successful PhD Candidate applicant is unable to complete the PhD before the start date of the Fellowship, then the Fellowship offer will be rescinded.
- Successful applicants must be eligible to work in Canada by the start of the Postdoctoral position. International applicants may apply; however, successful international applicants will require a work permit and Canadian
Social Insurance Number in order to take up the postdoctoral position. Exceptional start dates may be negotiated in relation to the permit and visa process timelines.

Application Documents

- Curriculum Vitae
- Confirmation of PhD degree received or additional confirmation of proposed completion date from PhD supervisor
- Three letters of recommendation should be sent directly by the recommenders to Kim McIntyre, kimmcint@yorku.ca, from:
  1. the proposed postdoctoral project supervisor at York. Beyond providing an assessment of the applicant’s postdoctoral project, the proposed supervisor should explain their capacity to enable the applicant to become a future leader in their chosen field and career, including the nature of the academic, mentoring, and networking support to be provided;
  2. the applicant’s PhD supervisor, who can assess the applicant’s academic accomplishments to date and readiness to undertake the project proposed;
  3. a professor, employer or community supervisor able to assess aspects of the candidate and candidate’s work that has application outside of Academe, where relevant.
- Dissertation Abstract
- Project Description (max. 4 pages, not including Bibliography/Works Cited list, single-spaced, 12-pt)
  1. The purpose of the description for the adjudicating committee is to understand applicants’ goals in relation to the university’s priorities, resources and supports. The description should include explanation of:
     - the project and its relation to the doctoral studies and training;
     - future goals, including type of career desired, focal interests, desires for achievement. Those goals may be academic, such as a new research project and a professorship, or alt-academic, realised with organizations or companies for which you will translate your degree studies;
     - the type of supervision, mentorship, and/or skills development from which you think you would benefit most.
- Description of any accomplishments and/or challenges during doctoral studies and training, including any career interruptions, which may be relevant.
- All applicants must complete the York Self-ID form for academic positions. Without this form, the application dossier will be considered incomplete. Please note that scholars who self-identify as Indigenous (to their land of origin, not exclusively limited to First Nations, Inuit, Métis people of Canada) may do so under the “Aboriginal (Indigenous) persons” section or the “Visible minorities (racialized)” section, where appropriate. All information is kept confidential to the adjudication and subsequent hiring process. The form can be downloaded here: [https://acadjobs.info.yorku.ca/affirmative-action/self-identification-form/](https://acadjobs.info.yorku.ca/affirmative-action/self-identification-form/)

Application Submission

Applicants should review the full program details, and see the application submission instructions, at: [https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/postdoctoral-fellows/provosts-postdoctoral-fellowships/](https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/postdoctoral-fellows/provosts-postdoctoral-fellowships/)