Rehabilitation Sciences Institute
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Rehabilitation Sciences Institute Student Awards

Six awards will be granted in total, each of the three types awarded to one MSc level student and one PhD level student

- ***Community Service Award:*** recognizes continuous participation and involvement in the RSI, RSGSU, and/or university community.
- ***Leadership & Inspiration Award*****:** recognizes student leadership and capacity to inspire their peers.
- ***Research Excellence Award:*** recognizes potential or realized research impact and contributions.

Preference will be given to a student who has demonstrated leadership qualities through extracurricular activities, community service, and/or other personal achievements.

Nomination Eligibility

- Must be currently enrolled or graduating from a program at Rehabilitation Sciences Institute with either full/part-time status AND not yet convocated at time of application
- Must not have been previously recognized for this award during their current degree.
- Must be in good academic standing; an academic record is not needed for this purpose.
- Must have reached a minimum threshold of at least one academic term of volunteering in the form of any one, or a combination, of the following (Community Service/Leadership and Inspiration Awards only):
    - Leadership on committees or influence on student or university affairs
    - Contributions in extracurricular activities and sense of community
- If you are nominating another member of the university community, consider:
    - Leadership and involvement in relation to academic achievement
    - Differentiating contributions to RSGSU/RSI/University-level and the value of the student's contribution rather than the office or position held
    - Volunteer leadership outside the University community will be considered, but only as a complement to contributions within the University community including hospitals and health organizations in TAHSN (Toronto Academic Hospital Science Network).
    - Community/extracurricular contributions made as part of a paid position are <u>not eligible</u>
        - Although paid work should not be considered towards a student's leadership contributions, if a student has received a stipend or honorarium rather than a regular wage they may still be considered if the student went above and beyond what they were specifically compensated for. The amount of the stipend and whether it is an adequate reflection of the time, effort, and leadership invested by the student will also be considered.

Nomination Criteria

Each application will be rated on a scale of 1-5 (1= unsatisfactory, very below average to 5= exceptional, exceeds expectations). For each award nominator/nominee statement, please comment and provide specific examples where the candidate demonstrated some or all of the following qualities:

Community Service Award

- Demonstrates exceptional community service as measured by the degree to which their services/actions have made a lasting or meaningful contribution or impact on their community.
- Demonstrates a commitment to the community service outside of RSI, RSGSU and the university community
- Actively contributes time and effort to the RSI, RSGSU, and/or university community (e.g. considering specific position type, responsibilities and duties).
- Contributes to a positive and inclusive environment that allows for meaningful exchanges between peers and their community.

Leadership & Inspiration Award

- Demonstrates exceptional leadership as measured by the quality and lasting impact of their contributions (e.g., toward quality of life for students and a sense of community)
- Actively engaged in a variety of activities in a leadership role (consider type of role, responsibilities, duration of involvement, etc.).
- Contributes toward the development of leadership qualities through mentorship or collaboration in other students by highlighting good qualities/strengths of their peers and sharing knowledge, skills, and expertise. Demonstrates the capacity to inspire others to perform at a higher level in a one-on-one and/or team setting (e.g. research, volunteer, etc.).
- Demonstrates the ability to manage challenging situations (e.g. through delegation, conflict resolution, etc.)

Research Excellence Award

- Displays connection to their research population and are passionate about working with the research population (e.g. clinical work, volunteer, family members, etc.).
- Their research shows potential or realized significant impact on disciplines, practice, and society.
- Received recognition for their research accomplishments (e.g. publications, conferences, awards, etc.).
- Actively demonstrates engagement by participating/collaborating using an interdisciplinary approach (e.g. working with stakeholders and clinicians on their research team, etc.)
- Actively seeks professional development opportunities and incorporates these learnings into their research (e.g. writing workshops, speaker series, research assistantships, lab coordination positions etc.), specifying how these helped to overcame hurdles in your research or shows adaptability/resilience in face of adversity.

Nomination Procedure

Students can nominate themselves for these awards or be nominated by a member of the university community including students, faculty, staff or alumni.

- Nominators are encouraged to submit nominations for the award most applicable and appropriate relative to the students' affiliation and individual contributions.
- Only one nomination package per award and a maximum of two nomination packages may be submitted per candidate for each academic year
- Students may apply to up to 2 awards, however each award will require separate nomination packages
- Each nomination package must include the following:
    - Application form completed in full
    - Up-to-date blinded curriculum vitae based on the provided template which should be no longer than two pages
- All documents must be adjoined and submitted as a single PDF file. For a free resource to merge PDF files, visit https://smallpdf.com/merge-pdf.

Adjudication and Blinding Process

- RSI administration staff will verify academic standing for all applicants.
- Only one adjudicator will have access to the unblinded applications and will assign them to reviewers. They will not vote during the adjudication process. Reviewers will include Student Awards committee members.
- Any identifiable information in the application will be censored, including name(s) of post-secondary institution(s). All applications will be redacted of position titles (e.g. RSGSU co-president, TRI Executive Committee Member), preserving only details regarding responsibilities and contributions of each role. Accordingly, emphasis should be placed on the duties of each position, as this is what will inform the adjudication process. Please also use gender-neutral pronouns to assist this process.
- Each application will be appraised by two blinded reviewers on a rating scale of 1-5, ensuring that reviewers do not assess applicants with whom they have close affiliation (e.g. same RSGSU committees or laboratories). Reviewers will shortlist three candidates for each award and the committee and advising faculty members will subsequently meet to discuss and select the awardees. In the event that a reviewer becomes unblinded to the applicant's identity, they will inform the adjudicator who will then re-assign the application to another reviewer.

Nomination packages must be submitted via email as a single PDF file to:
rsi.traineeawards@utoronto.ca

By Tuesday April 21st, 2026 at 5:00pm

Late or incomplete nominations will not be considered.