

Canada Impact+ Research Chair in Physical Artificial Intelligence

FEAS, Mechanical&Industrial Eg

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Deadline to Apply: Saturday, February 21, 2026
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Online Applications: Yes

Located in downtown Toronto, the largest and most culturally diverse city in Canada and on the territory of the *Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit and the Wendat Peoples*, [Toronto Metropolitan University \(TMU\)](http://www.torontomu.ca) [\[www.torontomu.ca\]](http://www.torontomu.ca) invites applications from internationally renowned scholars and researchers for nomination for a total of two (2) **Canada Impact+ Research Chairs (Impact+) positions** across the Institution.

The Department of [Mechanical, Industrial, and Mechatronics Engineering \(MIME\)](#) in the [Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science](#) invites applications for consideration in one or more of the following Government of Canada's strategic priorities as it relates to **Physical Artificial Intelligence**:

- Advanced digital technologies (including AI, quantum, cybersecurity);
- Health, including biotechnology;
- Clean technology and resource value chains;
- Environment, climate resilience, and the Arctic;
- Food and water security;
- Democratic and community resilience;
- Manufacturing and advanced materials; and,
- Defence and dual-use technologies.

Conditional upon a successful nomination and subject to final budgetary approval, the successful candidate will be appointed to a tenured position at the rank of Associate Professor or Full Professor, with an anticipated start date between September 2026 and July 2027. Rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications.

The Canada Impact+ Research Chair positions are tenured faculty positions with no required teaching duties. At the conclusion of these appointments, the successful candidates will continue in their tenured position with regular duties of a faculty member.

[Canada Impact+ Research Chairs](#) is a one-time program designed to support institutions in attracting world-leading researchers to address critical national and global challenges, emphasizing both research excellence and tangible impact. In collaboration with TMU, the successful candidate will develop the Impact+ Chairs application for the **June 29, 2026 deadline**. Impact+ Chairs are tenable for eight-years, with a possibility for a four-year funded extension, at 50% of the original award value, with maximum award values of \$1 million or \$500,000 per year, and institutional supports to advance transformative projects, build exceptional research teams, and collaborate with partners across sectors and borders. All nominations are subject to review and final approval by the Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat.

For more details on eligibility requirements, visit the Government of Canada's [Program Information](#) page.

Expatriate Canadians wishing to relocate to Canada are encouraged to apply.

Successful candidates will be exceptional scholars whose accomplishments have made a major impact in their fields (as appropriately based on career stage). TMU requires that candidates have a PhD in a relevant discipline by the time of appointment, or an equivalent terminal degree. Alternatively, if they come from outside the academic sector, applicants must have the qualifications necessary to be appointed at these ranks.

Applicants must be able to provide strong evidence of:

- an innovative externally funded research program of an internationally competitive caliber, using appropriate metrics of research productivity and impact;
- a commitment to upholding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion as it pertains to service, teaching and scholarly research or creative activities, including a demonstrated ability to make learning accessible and inclusive for a diverse student population; and
- an ability and willingness to contribute to the life of the University through collegial service.

TMU recognizes that scholars have varying career paths and that career interruptions can be part of an excellent academic record. Candidates are encouraged to provide any relevant information about their experience and/or career interruptions to allow for a fair assessment of their application. Search committee members have been instructed to give careful consideration to diverse experiences and knowledge and be sensitive to the impact of career interruptions in their assessments.

All applications will be assessed using equitable and inclusive evaluation practices that recognize diverse career paths, lived experiences, and forms of scholarly impact.

These positions fall under the jurisdiction of the Toronto Metropolitan Faculty Association (TFA) [\[www.tfanet.ca\]](http://www.tfanet.ca). Visit us at www.torontomu.ca/faculty-affairs to view the [TFA collective agreement](#) and a summary of [TFA benefits](#). TMU is committed to providing a competitive total compensation package which shall include a base salary, an excellent benefits package and a chair stipend.

The Impact+ Program is part of the Government of Canada's STRAC Policy, and it is the responsibility of all candidates to have read and understood what this means as part of their nomination. Further information is available on the [research security](#) page of the [OVPRI website](#).

Working at TMU

Serving a highly diverse student population of over 45,000, TMU offers over 100+ [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) programs built on the integration of theoretical and practical learning. Distinguished by a professionally focused curriculum and a strong emphasis on excellence in teaching, research and creative activities, [TMU](#) is a vibrant, urban university known for its culture of innovation, entrepreneurship, community engagement and city building, reflected in its award-winning architecture.

At the intersection of mind and action, TMU is on a transformative path to become Canada's leading comprehensive innovation university. Our new academic plan, [Transformative Futures](#), offers an exciting roadmap towards our ongoing pursuit of academic excellence and to addressing the complex and evolving challenges of our time.

TMU's research enterprise has grown rapidly in recent years, with externally funded research more than doubling over the past four years, reflecting both the strength of our research community and our expanding national and international profile.

Guided by our [2025–2030 Strategic Research Plan](#), TMU is focused on strengthening established areas of research excellence while advancing high-impact work in strategic and emerging fields. The university places strong emphasis on collaborative and multidisciplinary research that brings together partners across sectors, institutions, and disciplines to broaden impact and create inclusive research and academic opportunities. TMU is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion, Indigenous reconciliation, and responsible research practices, offering scholars an environment that supports ambitious inquiry, meaningful partnerships, and research that informs policy, practice, and society.

At the heart of TMU's remarkable achievements and its ambitious aspirations are its students, faculty and staff. Committed to a people first culture, the university prides itself on offering exceptional [benefits and perks](#), [celebrating the achievements of its faculty and staff](#) and maintaining its unwavering commitment to [equity, diversity and inclusion](#), including its ongoing commitment to [Truth and Reconciliation, confronting Anti-Black Racism](#) and [accessibility](#) for persons with disabilities. TMU's growing reputation and global reach—reflected in its [performance across select national and international rankings](#)—support its mission to address real-world challenges, attract top talent and strengthen impact across teaching, research and innovation. Among its many recognitions include being ranked number one on the [Forbes list](#) of Canada's Best Employers for Diversity. We invite you to [explore employment at TMU](#) as well as our community of diverse [faculty and staff networks](#).

Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) for the latest news and opportunities at TMU.

How to Apply

Applicants must submit their application online via the [Faculty Recruitment Portal \[https://hr.cf.torontomu.ca/ams/faculty/\]](https://hr.cf.torontomu.ca/ams/faculty/) by clicking on “Start Application Process” to begin. Applications, consisting of the following, must be received **by February 21, 2026**:

- a letter of application identifying your interest in the position, alignment with the federal priorities as it relates to **Human-Centred Physical AI in Distributed Systems and Processes** such as Physical AI for Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Engineering; Assistive, Collective, and Interactive Robotics; Human Perception, Cognition, and Intent Modeling for Embodied and Interactive Systems; Edge/Cloud Integration and IoT-enabled Systems; and Reliable Physical AI for Supply Chain Management. Please elaborate on what makes you a strong candidate as a researcher, educator, and community leader. The letter should include your proposed innovative and transformative research program, your ability to build capacity and attract external resources as well as your equity, diversity, and inclusion statement (up to 5 pages). **Please indicate in your letter of application whether at the time of this application, you hold tenure at your current institution**;
- a full curriculum vitae (including details of research and teaching, scholarly record, funding, collaborations/partnerships and leadership experience); and,
- names and contact information (including email) for three referees.

Review of applications will begin immediately upon receipt.

At TMU, we believe that diversity of knowledge, worldviews and experiences that come from membership in different groups, is fundamental to innovation, teaching and scholarship and that our students are best served by faculty who reflect the diversity of TMU’s student body and the community in which TMU is situated. To ensure representation of the excellent talent in Canada, we are particularly interested in applications from members of historically disadvantaged and marginalized groups including: First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, Indigenous peoples of North America, Black-identified persons, other racialized persons, persons with disabilities, and those who identify as women and/or 2SLGBTQ+.

Please note that all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, applications from Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority, in accordance with Canadian immigration regulations.

Contacts

For more information about TMU’s **Canada Impact+ Research Chairs** nomination process, please contact Dayle Levine (dayle.levine@torontomu.ca), Director, Institutional Programs, the [Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation \(OVPRI\)](#).

Any confidential inquiries about this position or about the Department of [Mechanical, Industrial, and Mechatronics Engineering \(MIME\)](#) can be directed to the Department Hiring Committee Chair, Dr. Farrokh Janabi-Sharifi (fsharifi@torontomu.ca).

Indigenous candidates who would like to learn more about working at TMU are welcome to contact James McKay (Indigenous@torontomu.ca), TMU’s Indigenous Human Resources Lead.

Candidates who belong to one or more of the equity-deserving groups recognized at TMU are welcome to connect with Debbie Thompson (debbie.thompson@torontomu.ca), Executive Director, [Office of the Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion](#) [www.torontomu.ca/equity].

For any confidential accommodation needs in order to participate in the recruitment and selection process and/or inquiries regarding accessing the Recruitment Portal, please contact Zenab Pathan in the [Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty Affairs](#) at vpfa@torontomu.ca.

Toronto Metropolitan University is strongly committed to fostering diversity within our community. We welcome those who would contribute to the further diversification of our staff, our faculty and its scholarship including, but not limited to, women, visible minorities, Aboriginal people, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity. Please note that all qualified candidates are encouraged to apply but applications from Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.