

Early Career Research Award

Recognizing Research Promise and Early Scholarly Achievement

The Sprott Early Career Research Award recognizes research stream faculty members who have demonstrated promise and early research achievement in the first years of their appointment. This award celebrates the momentum a new colleague has already built and affirms that their scholarly contributions are seen, valued, and worth investing in. It reflects Sprott's commitment to recognizing research talent early and to signalling confidence in the colleagues who will shape the School's research future.

One award may be granted annually when the standard of applications warrants recognition.

Award at a Glance

Award Value	\$1,000 cash award added to recipient's Internally Restricted Research (IRR) fund and framed certificate
Number of Awards	One (1) per year, when warranted
Eligibility Period	First five years of appointment as Assistant Professor
Eligible Applicants	Full-time Sprott research stream faculty
Application Deadline	April 10, 2026
How to Apply	Self-nomination via web form
Questions	Contact the Sprott Research Office

Purpose and Spirit of the Award

The Early Career Research Award is intended to celebrate the scholarly momentum that new faculty members bring to Sprott. The critical first years of an academic career are formative, demanding, and often underrecognized. This award exists to change that.

The selection committee is interested in the trajectory and promise of a candidate's research, not merely in volume of output. Strong applications will reflect meaningful early contributions to a research area, evidence that the candidate is building a coherent and impactful research program, and a clear sense of the scholarly direction ahead. The award does not require a full record of sustained achievement; it requires evidence that the foundation is being laid with intention and quality.

This award is about recognizing research that is taking shape, not research that is complete. Applicants are encouraged to make the case for why their early contributions matter and where their scholarship is heading.

Eligibility

- Full-time Sprott research stream faculty members at the Assistant rank are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be within their first five years of appointment as Assistant Professor at Sprott at the time of the application deadline.
- The award considers research achievements from the start of the candidate's appointment through to the application deadline.

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- Faculty members who have taken an approved leave (e.g., parental, medical, or compassionate leave) may adjust their eligibility window accordingly. Please provide relevant general reason for adjustment in your applicant statement.
- Past recipients of this award are not eligible to apply again.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the following:

Promise — Research potential and early trajectory:

- *Evidence of a coherent and developing research program that reflects intellectual focus, originality, and scholarly ambition appropriate to the candidate's career stage and discipline.*

Achievement — Early research outputs and contributions:

- *Peer-reviewed publications, working papers, conference presentations, grants, or other discipline-appropriate outputs produced since the start of the candidate's appointment. Quality and significance are weighted above volume.*

Engagement — Scholarly community involvement:

- *Early evidence of engagement with the broader scholarly community, including reviewing activity, conference participation, collaborative projects, or emerging mentorship contributions.*

Context — Career stage and circumstance:

- *The committee interprets all achievements in light of the candidate's specific career context, including field norms, time in position, and any circumstances that have shaped their research trajectory.*

Application Package

Faculty must self-nominate. Associate Deans, Directors, and colleagues are encouraged to approach eligible faculty and support their decision to apply. The following materials are required:

1. Curriculum Vitae

Submit a current CV. Please highlight all research achievements since your appointment to Sprott so that the selection committee can readily identify your relevant contributions.

2. Applicant Statement

The applicant statement is the heart of your application. It should make a compelling case for why your research record since your appointment merits recognition, with particular attention to the quality of your contributions, the coherence of your developing research program, and the promise your work reflects. Do not simply summarize your CV. Instead, describe what you have done, why it matters, and where your scholarship is heading.

Candidates are encouraged to address:

- The significance and originality of your most important research contributions since your appointment.
- Evidence that you are building a focused and ambitious research program.
- Early indicators of scholarly engagement and community contribution.
- Any contextual factors relevant to interpreting your record (e.g., leaves, disciplinary norms, institutional circumstances).

Limit: 2 pages, 12-point font, single-spaced.

How to Apply

Submit your complete application package using the application web submission form on the [Spratt Research website](#).

All materials must be uploaded and received by 11:59 PM on April 10, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Selection Process

The selection committee is chaired by the Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Research Programs. The committee reviews all eligible applications against the evaluation criteria and makes its recommendation to the Dean. The Dean makes the final award decision. All deliberations are confidential.

One award may be granted in any given cycle. In years where the committee determines that the applications do not meet the standard of recognition the award is intended to confer, the award may not be given.

Award Recognition

Recipients of the Spratt Early Career Research Award will receive:

- A \$1,000 cash award added to the recipient's IRR.
- A framed certificate presented to the recipient.
- A faculty profile featured on the Spratt website and across Spratt's social media channels, highlighting the recipient's achievements and their significance to the School's research mission.

Recipients are also invited to share a brief reflection on their research journey and what this recognition means to them at an early stage of their career, for inclusion in Spratt's research communications.