Objective

Since 2007, the Weston Family Awards in Northern Research (formerly The W. Garfield Weston Awards in Northern Research) have provided unparalleled support to young scientists in Canada pursuing research in Canada's North. The awards are some of the largest in the country for students pursuing a master's degree, doctoral students, and postdoctoral fellows, with over 270 early-career researchers having been selected to receive an award since the program's inception. This has resulted in a community of Weston Family Northern Scientists at the forefront of northern scholarship, all of whom share a passion for Arctic and Northern research and all of whom are helping to create a better future for Canada and for the world.

Award recipients undertake research across a broad spectrum of fields and disciplines in the natural sciences, including studies of northern ecosystems, biodiversity, flora and fauna, meteorology, oceanography, glaciology, geography, and environmental studies, among others. The program also supports travel for postdoctoral fellows to attend conferences and perform research in the North, as well as an "Extended Stay" program that enables master's level and doctoral students to apply for funding to engage with northerners (including Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and community members) to disseminate the results of their field research and maximize the impact of their work.

Number, Value and Duration of Scholarships

In the 2020-2021 program year, The W. Garfield Weston Foundation will aim to support up to **four (4) awards for postdoctoral fellows**. Each award is valued at **$100,000 over two (2) years**, with funding in the second year contingent upon acceptable progress in the proposed area of research in the first year.

Successful award winners will also be provided with up to $10,000 per year to support travel related to conferences and scientific meetings, research materials, and fieldwork.

Eligibility

Applicants to the **postdoctoral awards** program must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada as of the application deadline;
- Complete all requirements for their doctoral degree by September 1, 2020, or have completed their doctoral degree no more than two years before the date of the application deadline (this period may be extended to three years if you acquired at least six months of work experience in government or industry after you received your doctorate, or to six years if you withdrew from active research for parental leave for at least one year after you received your doctorate);
- Be approved to begin a postdoctoral fellowship at a Canadian university or eligible Canadian research institute under the supervision of a faculty member or research scientist, as evidenced through letters of support;

- Have received approval for their research proposal at the time of receipt of the award, including any required ethical reviews and/or research licenses; and
- Be pursuing research in a natural science field related to northern scholarship.

Field of Study/Program Requirements

Research projects from all natural science subject areas will be considered provided they include a field research component conducted within the term of the award in the Canadian North.

Conditions and Restrictions

- Past recipients of a W. Garfield Weston Award in Northern Research at the master's or doctoral level are eligible to apply for an award at the postdoctoral level.
- Postdoctoral fellows must have the support of a supervisor (such as a faculty member or research scientist) at an accredited Canadian university or eligible Canadian research institute. Postdoctoral fellows who wish to pursue research projects in geographic locations that fall outside of Canada must provide a compelling argument as to why and how this research will benefit Canadians.
- Postdoctoral fellows are not permitted to hold the award at the same university where they received their doctorate and may not hold the award with their previous PhD or postdoctoral supervisor, even if said supervisor changes research institutions.
- Postdoctoral fellows who receive a Weston Family Award in Northern Research will be required to demonstrate acceptable progress in their proposed research project during the first year of the tenure of their award in order to continue receiving funding during the second year of their award.
- Postdoctoral fellows must continue to be engaged with the university or research institute listed on their application throughout the duration of their award. Changes to research projects or project supervisors must be pre-approved by The W. Garfield Weston Foundation and by Scholarship Partners Canada (SPC) in order for the recipient to continue receiving their award.
- Research and field studies must relate to and take place in Canada's North, as defined by any region in Canada where both permafrost and ground ice are present according to the National Atlas of Canada, 5th edition (1978-1995). A map is available through Polar Knowledge Canada with a boundary line that defines these northern regions (https://www.canada.ca/en/polar-knowledge/fundingforresearchers/maps.html), however please note that this is merely a guideline and some flexibility will be granted for regions close to the boundary. For projects including field research outside of Canada, the relevance and benefit of the circumpolar fieldwork to Canadians and to Canadian northern scholarship must be clearly indicated. Such fieldwork must also fall within the North Circumpolar Region defined on the Natural Resources Canada website: http://ftp.geogratis.gc.ca/pub/nrcan_rncan/raster/atlas/eng/reference/circumpolar/MCR0001_circumpolar_2017.pdf.
- Applicants cannot hold this award concurrently with another major fellowship or employment (e.g. NSERC postdoctoral fellowship, etc.).

- While holding this award, postdoctoral fellows may not be employed other than to teach the equivalent of one full course per year at the university where they are conducting their research.
- Applications will be reviewed by a multi-disciplinary committee. As such, technical jargon should be kept to a minimum.
- Payment will be issued in installments and is to be used as a stipend.

Administrator

SPC, a division of Universities Canada, administers the scholarship program on behalf of the W. Garfield Weston Foundation. Universities Canada's mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industries, communities, and institutions in other countries.

Universities Canada is associated with leading firms in nearly every sector of the economy through its provision of scholarship services and management of more than 120 different scholarships programs on behalf of corporations, government agencies and private foundations throughout North America. For additional information, please visit www.univcan.ca.

Selection Process

All applications will be reviewed internally by SPC for basic eligibility before they are shared with an independent, impartial and arms-length Selection Committee that will review and rank all eligible applications. The top applications will then be further reviewed, and award-winners informed in May of 2020.

For postdoctoral awards:

Applicants will be assessed based upon academic excellence or exceptional promise, potential impact, and demonstrated commitment to a career in northern science. Postdoctoral fellows must have a clearly defined research project which will result in the dissemination of research results through publications, conferences and/or other media. Applicants who hold a postdoctoral fellowship at the time of application must detail how their research as a Weston Family Award recipient will depart significantly from their current or previous postdoctoral research. A demonstration by publications and presentations that indicate the first postdoctoral fellowship has come to a meaningful completion are recommended. Successful recipients must demonstrate an understanding of how their work will contribute to the advancement of northern research (particularly how it will help further our understanding of northern ecosystems and biodiversity), and the ways in which this fellowship position will be pivotal to launching their career in northern science. Recipients will be encouraged to present their research results at scientific conferences and academic meetings and must be willing to promote in a variety of ways public interest in the importance of northern scientific endeavours.

How to Apply

There are three parts to the application for the postdoctoral awards, as indicated below. **All three parts must be received before Monday, January 27th, 2020 5:00pm EST.** Applications received after this time will not be considered. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all supporting documents outlined below have been received and accepted by this time. This can be done through the online portal at https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/welcome/WestonFamilyAwards/. Applicants will be notified by email once their application has been received and processed by SPC.

The three parts to the application are:

1. **Application Form**
   Please complete the application form through SPC's online portal at https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/welcome/WestonFamilyAwards/. Please read the award guidelines and instructions carefully before completing the form. You will need to create an account first and register through the portal, at which point you will receive a verification email. This account will allow you to save your information and track the progress of your application, referee reports, and transcripts.

2. **Supervisor Report, Two Referee Reports, and an Indication of University Support**
   Applicants are asked to have their proposed postdoctoral supervisor complete the online Supervisor's Report. Two further referees are to complete the online Referee's Report, one from an academic scholar who knows the applicant well and the other from a northern resident or community member capable of judging the methods, objectives and merits of the project for Northern research (e.g. a territorial government scientist, academic living full-time in the North, representative of an Indigenous government responsible for local licensing, etc.). The Selection Committee requires that the northern reference have a meaningful geographic and relevant research engagement in the jurisdiction where the project will take place. If possible, the northern reference should have a direct connection to the research and/or be able to comment on the proposed research plan.

   Applicants are also required to have an Indication of University Support letter completed and submitted by an individual who can speak on behalf of the university indicating support for the candidate's proposed postdoctoral project (e.g. the dean of the faculty within which the student is working or a senior administrator responsible for research).

   Report templates are available through the online portal above. Please have each referee complete the appropriate report template and submit it by email to awards@univcan.ca before the deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that each referee is advised well ahead of time that they will need to complete a report and that they have ample time to do so before the deadline.

3. **Transcripts**
   Original transcripts can be scanned and uploaded through the Scholarship Partner's Canada online portal (link provided above). Applicants are required to upload both their undergraduate transcripts as well as any applicable graduate level transcripts (including both past programs and programs currently in-progress). Please note that it can take several weeks for transcripts to be ordered and processed. It is therefore highly recommended that you order your transcripts well in advance in order to ensure they arrive on time and can be uploaded before the application deadline.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will receive confirmation of their scholarship in May. Recipients will be required to sign their award letters and provide additional information (including banking information) in order for their awards to be administered. It is the responsibility of each recipient to keep SPC informed of any changes to their contact information through the online portal during the tenure of their award. Award winners will also be required to submit regular progress reports and a video report as part of their award, as well as confirmation of registration/compliance forms before each installment of their award can be processed.

The names, biographical information, and photographs of successful applicants may be used in promotional initiatives for The W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

Payment

SPC will send installments by direct deposit directly to the award winners on behalf of the Weston Foundation. The breakdown of the payment schedule is as follows:

- First installment: $12,500 (September 2020)
- Second Installment: $12,500 (December 2020)
- Third installment: $12,500 (March 2021)
- Fourth installment: $12,500 (June 2021)
- Installments for the second year of the award will follow the same pay schedule but are contingent upon demonstrating acceptable progress in the proposed research project.

About The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

The predecessor to The W. Garfield Weston Foundation was first established in the 1950s by Willard Garfield Weston and his wife Reta, with a donation of shares from the family company, George Weston Limited. The Founders believed that because the funds were generated through the hard work and success of Canadian businesses, the Foundation's donations should be given in Canada for the benefit of Canadians. With a focus on medical research, the environment, and education, the Weston Family aims to catalyze inquiry and innovation to bring about long-term change. As the family's charitable giving marks its 60th anniversary, it continues to collaborate with a broad range of Canadian charities to further world-class research, explore new ideas, and create tangible benefits for the communities in which it works. For more information, please visit www.westonfoundation.org.

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