



St. Thomas University

Canada Impact+ Research Chair, Associate Professor or Full Professor

Date posted: February 7, 2026

St. Thomas University invites applications from top-tier, world-leading researchers for up to four (4) Canada Impact+ Research Chairs.

The Government of Canada has committed to investing \$1.7B in a Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative, which will create 100 Impact+ Research Chairs valued at \$500,000 per year or \$1M per year for eight years, with a possible extension for another four years at 50% of the original award value. This is a one-time initiative coordinated by the federal Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC & SSHRC) that is intended to attract top researchers to Canada to conduct impactful, transformative and measurable research that will address critical national and global challenges. Details of the Canada Impact+ Research Chairs program can be found here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-plus-chairs/program-details/competition/2026/apply.html>

The work of Impact+ Research Chairs is expected to advance one or more of the eight strategic priority areas identified by the Government of Canada:

- *Advanced digital technologies (including AI, quantum, and 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*
- *Defence and dual-use technologies*

As a publicly funded liberal arts university, St. Thomas seeks candidates who would address these broadly defined priority areas from a humanities and social sciences perspective. The University is particularly interested in applications that align with priorities #1 (AI and digital technologies); #2 (Health); #3 (Clean technology); #4 (Environment, climate resilience & the Arctic); #5 (Food and water security); or #6 (Democratic and community resilience).

If STU is awarded an Impact+ Research Chair(s) it will be eligible to apply for one Emerging Leader (Early Career Researcher) award (valued at \$100,000 per year for six years, with a possibility of renewal) for each Chair awarded, which would help a successful Chairholder build a research team. Applications can be made to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), too, for infrastructure needs related to the Chair.

Eligibility:

- Only candidates working and residing outside of Canada – whether Canadian citizens or non-Canadians – are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must be internationally recognized scholars with a recent track record of research accomplishments and the potential to conduct high-impact research, building and leading a research team, which will benefit Canadians and the world in one or more of the strategic priority areas.
- Candidates must be at the level of Associate Professor or (Full) Professor, with the potential to be promoted to (Full) Professor within two years of starting their appointment. St. Thomas's [Full-Time Collective Agreement \(2025-28\)](#) specifies that faculty members must have ten years of full-time faculty membership (or at least five years in the rank of Associate Professor) to meet the length of service requirements for the rank of Professor.
- The successful candidate(s) would become a faculty member(s) under the University's [Full-Time Collective Agreement \(2025-28\)](#), with research, teaching and service expectations, and a home department determined by their educational background and area of research expertise.

Application Process:

Applications will include the following materials:

- A two-page (maximum) cover letter indicating citizenship and suitability for the position;
- A curriculum vitae (maximum ten pages);
- A two-page (maximum) research plan outlining the applicant's research vision, its alignment with one or more of the strategic priority areas of interest to St. Thomas University, its feasibility at STU, and the potential of the research to have social impact at national and global levels;
- A two-page (maximum) teaching portfolio with a statement of teaching philosophy and evidence of excellence in undergraduate teaching;
- The names and contact information of three referees.

Applications must be sent as one PDF file to STU's Office of Research Services, to the attention of Dr. Carey Watt, Associate Vice-President (Research) at avpresearch@stu.ca.

Review of applications will begin on Friday, February 27, 2026. Applications submitted after this date will be accepted until a successful candidate(s) is selected.

The closing date is May 1, 2026.

The application process will consist of two parts:

- Applicants will apply to STU (using the email address listed above);
- The University will work with any suitable candidate(s) to prepare a strong nomination package(s) for submission to the Impact+ Chairs program.

Please note that appointment as a Canada Impact+ Research Chair at St. Thomas University is subject to final budgetary approval, and it is conditional upon any nomination(s) that STU puts forward being accepted by – and receiving funding from – the Canada Impact+ program.

About St. Thomas University:

St. Thomas University (STU) is a publicly funded, primarily undergraduate, liberal arts institution with a full-time enrolment of 1,600. We have a beautiful campus in Fredericton, the capital city of New Brunswick, where academic researchers can enjoy an excellent work-life balance. Our students can take courses in over 30 programs, departments, or schools to graduate with Bachelor of Arts (Social Sciences & Humanities), Applied Arts, Education, and Social Work (BSW & MSW) degrees. Faculty members are distinguished teachers, researchers and scholars, and the university currently holds two Canada Research Chairs as well as a Research Chair in Community Health and Aging. The University also houses the Atlantic Human Rights Centre (AHRC) and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Narrative (CIRN).

STU has a dynamic [Strategic Research Plan \(2025-30\)](#), which lists seven general research areas (each with several subdivisions within it): Global and Transnational Studies; Health, Wellness and Aging; Scholarship on Teaching and Learning; Social Justice and Ethical Practice; Philosophical, Textual, and Political Traditions; Public Policy and Social Action; and Creative Arts and Culture.

Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Accessibility:

St. Thomas University encourages applications from all qualified candidates and is committed to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), including employment equity for the following under-represented equity-seeking groups identified in the Canadian Employment Equity Act: women, Aboriginal persons, members of visible minority groups and persons with disabilities, as well as members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. To request accommodation, accessibility or adaptive measures requests at any point in the application and recruitment process candidates may contact Human Resources Director Jenilyn Bruette (hrdirector@stu.ca; 506-452-0630). STU's [Full-Time Collective Agreement](#) for faculty (2025-28) contains articles regarding "No Discrimination" and the "Duty to Accommodate".

We will strive to apply EDI principles in the Impact+ Research Chairs program (and in our research ecosystem). We recognize that a more diverse scholarly community enhances our research capacity and potential for research excellence. STU is in alignment with the Canada

Research Chairs Program's (CRCP's) Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Requirements and Practices, and the University is on track to publish its first EDI Action Plan in 2026.

St. Thomas University acknowledges that life circumstances such as illness, disability, family and community responsibilities (e.g., maternity leave, parental leave, leaves due to illness, leaves due to caring for family members, slowdowns due to chronic illness or disability, or COVID-19 impacts) are often an expected part of life and are likely to have an impact on a nominee's record of research achievement. These impacts will be taken into careful consideration during the assessment process. Applicant(s) may choose to acknowledge any such life circumstances in their cover letter, if desired.

St. Thomas University is situated on the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik, Wəlastəkewiyik / Maliseet whose ancestors along with the Mi'Kmaq / Mi'kmaw and Passamaquoddy / Peskotomuhkati Tribes / Nations signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the British Crown in the 1700s.