

FACULTY MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Rotman Institute of Philosophy

I. Criteria

The Rotman Institute fills a unique niche in the spectrum of Western's research strengths by integrating core humanities practice into the development and application of science. Faculty members of the Institute must:

- a. Conduct research within an interdisciplinary area supported by the Institute, including but not limited to:
 - i. Climate change mitigation, biological conservation & sustainability
 - ii. Deep problems in cognitive neuroscience
 - iii. Ethical & societal implications of artificial intelligence
 - iv. Frontier research in physics & cosmology
 - v. Impacts of scientific innovation and new technologies
 - vi. Intersection of health policy & medical research
- b. Hold a current faculty appointment at Western University or an external institution (for appointment as an external associate member)

II. Benefits

Working in a collaborative, transdisciplinary environment removes barriers to effective collaboration and enables Institute members to assemble research teams with diverse expertise. Benefits of faculty membership include:

- a. **Research Support:** The Institute fosters research collaborations through organizing and hosting a range of events including workshops, conferences, and think tanks focused on future challenge areas. Competitive seed funding to catalyze the early stages of development of interdisciplinary research projects is also available to all faculty members, with priority given to support of core faculty members.
- b. **Administrative Support:** Institute staff provide support in preparation of grant proposals and applications, management of research funds, and administration of existing projects.

- c. **Knowledge Mobilization & Communication:** Institute staff facilitate opportunities for faculty outreach & media engagements and promote research outputs and other announcements via the Institute website, social media, and Western communications teams.
- d. **Research Collaboration:** The Institute visiting fellows programs brings in scholars from external institutions, and faculty members can invite research collaborators to come for short or long-term visits funded by the Institute.
- e. **Trainee Support:** Graduate students and postdocs working with faculty members may be provided with desk or office space within the Institute. Institute staff manage hiring of postdocs, and funding may be available to support postdocs partially funded by research grants. Summer funding (through GSAs or GFs) may be awarded to support graduate students working on faculty research projects, with priority given to projects lead by core faculty.
- f. **Events & Outreach:** The Institute's annual speaker series and public lectures may include talks by faculty members, in addition to attracting leading scholars to the Institute. Institute staff can provide logistical support for planning, organizing, and promoting a variety of events.

III. Expectations

All faculty members must pursue interdisciplinary research within an area that supports the Institute vision & mission. They support Institute trainees and mentor graduate students in appropriate research areas by supervising or co-supervising thesis projects or leading research seminars, where appropriate. They are also expected to provide information for a website member profile and other Institute reports. To maintain eligibility for internal funding and other forms of support, members need to submit an annual membership update that will be used in reporting Institute performance to the Governing Board, along with reports summarizing the outcomes of Institute funded projects.

Faculty members are subcategorized into core, associate and external associate members based on their level of engagement with the Institute.

Core Faculty Members

Core faculty members are centrally involved in the Institute and meet at least three of the following criteria:

- a. actively contribute to the intellectual life of the Institute via participation at member events, reading groups, invited talks, workshops, and conferences, where appropriate;

- b. act as primary or co-investigator of an Institute sponsored or supported research project;
- c. supervise or co-supervise an Institute sponsored postdoc;
- d. supervise or co-supervise an Institute sponsored graduate research project;
- e. apply for external funding for Institute projects, or support efforts to do so through advising on grant proposals;
- f. support Institute outreach activities through involvement at public events, giving public talks, and via contributions to public discourse through media engagements;
- g. engage in service to the Institute, such as holding a seat on the Institute Executive Committee or Research Advisory Committee (with the exception of *ex officio* positions).

Core faculty members are expected to list the Institute as an affiliation in addition to their home department in all research contributions related to the Institute research themes.

As noted above under benefits, core faculty members are given priority for internal funding awards including seed fellowships, graduate student research support, and funding for postdocs. In order to maintain eligibility for internal funding, core faculty are required to have applied for an external grant within the previous three years of applying for these awards.

Associate & External Associate Faculty Members

Associate faculty members maintain a lower level of engagement with the Institute than core members, but still meet the general expectations outlined above. Classifications of core versus associate faculty member status are at the discretion of the Executive Committee. We expect faculty members to regularly transition from core to associate status (or vice versa) depending on their level of participation within the Institute. Faculty with an appointment at Western University are designated as associate faculty members; those with appointments at external universities are designated as external associate members.

IV. Membership Term

Membership will be reviewed every three years, or earlier at the member's request, by the Institute's Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may also perform membership reviews at additional times, such as prior to a call for applications for internal funding, or in light of changing circumstances. Faculty will be expected to demonstrate an appropriate level of participation to maintain membership in the Institute.

V. Allocation of Office Space

All faculty members have access to the Institute conference room, meeting room, and shared areas for scheduling meetings or events. The Director, Associate Director(s), and Rotman Canada Research Chair holder shall have permanent offices. We will also prioritize having office space available for visiting fellows, postdocs, invited speakers and other guests.

Core faculty members are eligible to have an office within the Institute provided they fulfil their membership obligations as outlined above. Those who wish to keep permanent offices within their home department can be granted shared or part-time use of an office. Offices may be used full-time for fixed periods or shared and used on a weekly basis, depending on availability.

Office assignments will be made at the discretion of the Executive Committee and coordinated by Institute staff. Given limited space, office assignments will be prioritized for members who:

- a. maintain an active level of engagement in the intellectual life of the Institute by regular use of their office and attendance at Institute hosted events;
- b. are supervising current postdocs with offices located within the Institute;
- c. are actively engaged in research projects with other collaborators located in WIRB;
- d. are supervising a research group that holds regular meetings in the Institute;
- e. do not have an alternate office available on campus (e.g. emeritus faculty).