

Fessenden Professorship Award

McGill's Faculty of Science is very strong promoter and supporter of the discovery-to-innovation continuum. However, the transformation of a discovery into a sound technology requires considerable resources and expertise that are not commonly available to academic researchers. The Faculty is very fortunate to be able to muster such resources through the vision and generosity of one of its most devoted benefactors, Dr. John Blachford, B.Eng.'57; PhD(Chemistry)'60.

Inspired by the scientific contributions and inventions of his great uncle, Quebec-born Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, Dr. Blachford created the **Fessenden Professorship Award** in 2007. Reginald Fessenden pioneered radio technology and wireless speech transmission in the early 1900s and went on to hold more than 500 patents while working with the Edison Company. The Fessenden Professorship Award was established in the Faculty of Science to accelerate the validation and technology transfer of promising concepts (technology, method, material, design) that are in the early- or mid-stages of development, and bring them closer to a commercial product and market.

The Fessenden Professorship Award provides researchers in the Faculty of Science with the financial resources, and access to mentors, to: (i) enable further exploration or proof-of-principle of a novel concept within the university, thereby adding value and definition to the concept being explored; (ii) articulate the most promising concepts in the form of intellectual property (inventions); and (iii) promote the transfer of the intellectual property to a new or an established company to generate benefits for Canada. It is neither expected nor necessary for an applicant to cover the entire range of objectives. Instead, the applicant can choose to focus on one or more of these objectives.

Since 2007, Fessenden Professorship Awards, coupled with technology transfer expertise, have served as entry points to government innovation programs such as the NSERC *Idea to Innovation* (I2I) program, the NSERC-CIHR Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP) program, and Government of Quebec MDEIE Industry Partnership programs. Applicants are thus encouraged to think about Fessenden Professorship Awards as a stepping stone into other funding opportunities and competitions to further develop their concept.

Areas of interest

Every discipline in the Faculty of Science is considered an area of interest for the Fessenden Professorship Award. The competition seeks to identify and support projects for a proof-of-principle, prototyping, or process validation, and which will position it to be effectively transferred to the many innovation/pre-commercialization vehicles available outside the university sector. Applicants whose research is well positioned for prototyping or proof-of-principle demonstrations are encouraged to apply.

Eligibility

Applicants must hold a tenure track faculty position in the Faculty of Science.

Application format

Applicants must use the template provided to submit their proposal, accompanied by NSERC Personal Data Form 100, NSERC CCV, or equivalent.

Specific information on what to include in the proposal is provided in the proposal template.

Value

Applicants submitting a proposal are invited to include a budget request in the range of \$70,000, and provide justification for the funding amount requested.

Fessenden Professorship Awards may be used to pay all or in part of: research personnel, travel, materials and supplies, market intelligence reports, patent filing, and teaching relief, for example.

Note: The proposed teaching relief must have been approved by the Department Chair or Director prior to submitting a full application. Teaching relief may be a TA to assist in the delivery of a course or markers for a course. Teaching relief is **not** however teaching release, as in a “buy out” from a teaching assignment.

Duration of Award

One year. Extensions on application to the Faculty of Science.

Selection

Proposals are reviewed by a Selection Committee made up of members from the academic, business, and industry sectors. The Committee will present its recommendations to the Dean of Science, who will make the final decision.

Reporting Requirements

If an applicant is selected for funding, the concept (invention) should be disclosed to McGill's Office of Innovation by filing an electronic (online) Report of Invention (ROI). The electronic ROI is filed confidentially.

Fessenden Professorship Award recipients will give two presentations to the Dean of Science or delegate to summarize progress and outcomes. Presentations are expected around the mid-point and at the end of the Award period. Recipients may also be invited to present to members of the Faculty Advisory Board, and/or at other functions as requested by the Dean of Science.

A written final report is expected within 30 days following the end of the Award period.

Questions

Questions on the application process, eligible expenses, or would like to discuss the Fessenden Professorship Award in more detail can contact Eduardo Ganem Cuenca (Research and Grants Facilitator) by email: eduardo.ganemcuenca@mcgill.ca or by phone: 514-398-7431.

How to apply

Applicants must apply by completing the application form provided.

All sections on the application form must be completed.

Your full application must be sent to the Fessenden Innovation Prize manager by email: eduardo.ganemcuenca@mcgill.ca, with a copy (cc) to co-applicants (if submitting as a team). All attachments must be included in one (1) email message.

The subject field of your email AND the Word file name must follow this format: "VentureName_LastNameMainApplicant_FPA_Application".

For example, if your venture name is called Mega Structures, and the Main Applicant is John Smith, the **subject field of your email AND the file name** of your application should be:

MegaStructures_Smith_FPA_Application