

FAQs - Restricted & Preferential Hiring in the Canada Research Chair Program at UBC

Context

The Canada Research Chair Program (CRCP) has announced that nominations for new chair positions will not be peer reviewed, except in the case where a nomination is of someone who has self-identified within one or more of the following federally designated groups: women or gender diverse people, racialized people, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous peoples, until such time as all established targets for representation are met for each of these groups. Therefore, UBC is currently restricted in the recruitment, selection, and nomination of Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) until it can achieve, and continue to achieve, the established targets.

In May 2017, the CRCP advised universities that there was a need for greater transparency and accountability in the processes used to allocate, select, and support chairholders to ensure that institutional equity and diversity targets were met. With over 200 CRCs, UBC has developed the CRC Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan (EDIAP) to address any inequities that are currently experienced by individuals and to ensure greater transparency in the allocation, selection, and renewal processes for chairholders. For more information about the EDIAP, see [UBC's Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion within the CRC Program](#).

On July 31, 2019, the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat released an [Addendum to the 2006 Canadian Human Rights Settlement Agreement](#). This Addendum outlines a number of measures that will be implemented in the CRCP over the coming years. In addition, Employment and Social Development Canada published Canadian Workforce Availability data for the last three census years on June 27, 2019, including national data for designated equity groups: women, racialized groups, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous peoples.

In 2021, a [Canadian Human Rights Settlement Agreement](#) was reached between the CRCP and an individual who filed a complaint with the Canadian Human Rights Commission in 2017. The terms of the agreement are in line with the program's commitment to EDI and program governance decisions of enforcement measures.

As of September 2019, UBC is not meeting equity targets for representation of persons with disabilities among the 2017 targets established for CRCs. With updated equity targets provided in June 2021, the fluctuation of people in the program, and the disaggregation of Tier 1 and Tier 2 chairs, UBC may develop a deficits representation for any of the federally designated groups. In late 2021, targets for women also include gender minorities. It is expected that in 2022, targets for additional designated groups will be added.

Within a restricted hiring process, preferential hiring can be used – and in UBC's context this strategy will be focused to address significant under-representation of particular designated groups. Restricted or preferential hiring at UBC are strategies that are being implemented to help address systemic under-representation experienced by individuals within the CRCP. These strategies are implemented in accordance with the [BC Human Rights Tribunal special programs](#).

What is restricted hiring?

In a restricted hiring competition, only applicants who have self-identified as belonging to one or more of the groups designated for the restricted hiring process will be considered for the position. For the Canada Research Chair Program, there are currently targets for the following federally designated groups, and hiring is restricted to these groups:

- Women or Gender Minorities
- Visible minorities (members of groups that are racially categorized)
- People with disabilities
- Indigenous peoples

Can I preferentially hire within a restricted hiring program?

It is possible to preferentially hire within a restricted hiring process. In a preferential hiring competition, qualified applicants who have self-identified as belonging to a specific designated equity-deserving group will be preferred. For instance, in a restricted hiring process we will only consider the applications of those who have self-identified in at least one of the federally designated groups. Additionally, if we need to address a specific area of under-representation (e.g., persons with disabilities), applications from individuals identifying as having a disability would be considered first.

If none of the preferentially considered applicants (in our example, persons with disabilities) are successful, qualified applicants who are from other designated group(s) will then be short-listed and assessed. Under the current Canada Research Chair Program, this means that only after considering applicants who have self-identified from the preferentially designated group would applicants from other designated groups be considered.

When does UBC conduct restricted or preferential hiring competitions?¹

Restricted or preferential hiring may be implemented under one or more of the following conditions:

- There is a serious under-representation of a designated equity-deserving group in the relevant unit, occupation, or program and it is expected that there will be few opportunities in the near future to address this under-representation.
- Other attempts to reach equitable representation through an equity plan or other means have not been sufficient.
- External funding programs require that equity and diversity targets or commitments be met.
- A program requires the special expertise or knowledge of members of a designated group.
- It is a strategic decision to develop a broad range of perspectives to build diverse scholarship and work at the university.

¹ Adapted from UVIC's policy of preferential/limited hiring at:
https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/HR6110_3100_.pdf

- The university requires diverse leaders and faculty members to support diverse students and staff envisioning leadership roles for their own futures.

What is UBC's process for restricted hiring?

As outlined in the Canada Research Chairs Appointments Guide, in a restricted hiring process, only those who have completed an Applicant Equity Survey **from within the job posting (which may be in addition to the survey if applying through Workday)** in which they self-identified as belonging to one or more of the federally designated groups, and provided their names, are eligible to be considered for the position.

What happens if no one from a designated group applies or is qualified to be shortlisted?

In a restricted hiring competition, if no one from the designated equity-deserving group(s) applies, or if no one from the designated group(s) who applies is successfully short-listed, the job posting must stay open until a qualified candidate from the designated group(s) has applied and been successful.

Do all applicants have to agree to self-identify and to provide their names in a restricted hiring process?

No. Applicants do not need to self-identify in any way if they choose not to. However, only candidates who self-identify as belonging to one or more of the designated groups and provide their names can be considered.