

To: College Deans, Associate Deans, Department Chairs, School Directors
From: Senate Honours and Awards Committee
Subject: **Call for Nominations – 2026 Winegard and Forster Medals – Deadline May 1, 2026**
Date: March 9, 2026

The Senate Honours and Awards Committee invites nominations for the following University student awards to be announced at the summer 2026 convocation celebration.

While a College is not obliged to nominate a student for these medals, being nominated is an honour itself, and nominees will be listed in the convocation program. A list of eligible students for each medal will be provided to the Colleges from Student Financial Services¹ and the Office of Graduate Studies².

W.C. Winegard Medal

The Winegard Medal is the University of Guelph's top convocation award to an undergraduate student. Named for former University President Dr. William Winegard, the medal is awarded in recognition of both academic achievement and contributions to the University and community life.

The nomination form and award guidelines are available on the [University Secretariat website](#)³.

D.F. Forster Medals – Magisteriate and Doctoral

The D.F. Forster Medals are the most prestigious graduate convocation awards at the University of Guelph. These medals are awarded annually to one convocating Master's student and one convocating Doctoral student who excel both academically and in extra-curricular activities. Named for the late Donald Forster, a former President of the University, the awards recognize academic achievement, motivation, leadership and citizenship.

Commitment to Indigenization, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (IEDIA)

The University of Guelph recognizes that an inclusive campus and a culture of inclusion are institutional and social imperatives. A culture of inclusion necessitates the involvement of stakeholders with a wide array of lived experiences, identities and perspectives on the Board of Governors and Senate to support, oversee and drive a strategic and system-wide approach to IEDIA.

The University is committed to fostering a culture of inclusion and to designing, reviewing, and rebuilding structures – including policies, programs, and practices – that are inclusive, equitable, and accessible to all. In keeping with this commitment, nominations of qualified individuals from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities including those who identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Colour; persons with a disability or who identify as differently abled; persons of all genders, and sexual orientations; and those with a demonstrable track record of confronting oppression and promoting belonging in their organizations and communities are strongly encouraged.

¹ The list will indicate eligible students who convoked in Fall 2025 and Winter 2026.

² College Awards Committees must be in close communication with departments to anticipate suitable June graduates.

³ <https://www.uoguelph.ca/secretariat/office-services/senate/university-awards-and-honours/wc-winegard-medal>

Questions and Submission of Nominations

The nomination form and award guidelines are available on the [University Secretariat website](#)⁴.

For questions related to the nomination process or criteria, please contact Joanne Emeneau, Associate University Secretary (joanne.emeneau@exec.uoguelph.ca or Ext. 56758).

Nominations are to be submitted to the University Secretariat, univsec@uoguelph.ca, no later than **Friday, May 1, 2026**.

⁴ <https://www.uoguelph.ca/secretariat/office-services/senate/university-awards-and-honours/df-forster-medals-magisteriate-and-doctoral-1>