

GSS Open Access Award Report - 2016



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Background

The GSS Open Access award was initiated in the year 2015, and based on that initial success was continued in 2016. The GSS Open Access (OA) Award acknowledges graduate students who have published work in gold open access journals. The aim was to increase the visibility and prestige of such publications and support the open access movement's ability to effectively disseminate research findings. The 2015 & 2016 GSS OA award were jointly administered by the GSS and the SFU Library and consisted of up to six monetary awards of \$125.00 each in 2015 and up to seventeen monetary awards of \$75 each in 2016.

Adjudication of 2016 Awards

Applications were accepted from August 22nd, 2016 to October 14th, 2016 and the award winners were announced on October 28th, 2016 in conjunction with Open Access Week 2016. In total, we received 24 applications from 21 applicants and awarded 17 grants (one for each qualified applicant) of \$75 each. All students were confirmed to be current graduate students, with 14 out of 17 (82%) recipients pursuing doctorate degrees. The total budget for the award was \$1275, with the GSS and the SFU Library each contributing \$512.50, and a contribution from the VP Research office of \$250. Most of the papers had at least one co-author (13 of 17, 76%), with 10 having three or more co-authors (59%). Figure 1 depicts the distribution of applications across departments for the 2016 awards (compared to the 2015 awards) and Figure 2 depicts where the applicants published for the 2016 awards (compared to the 2015 awards).

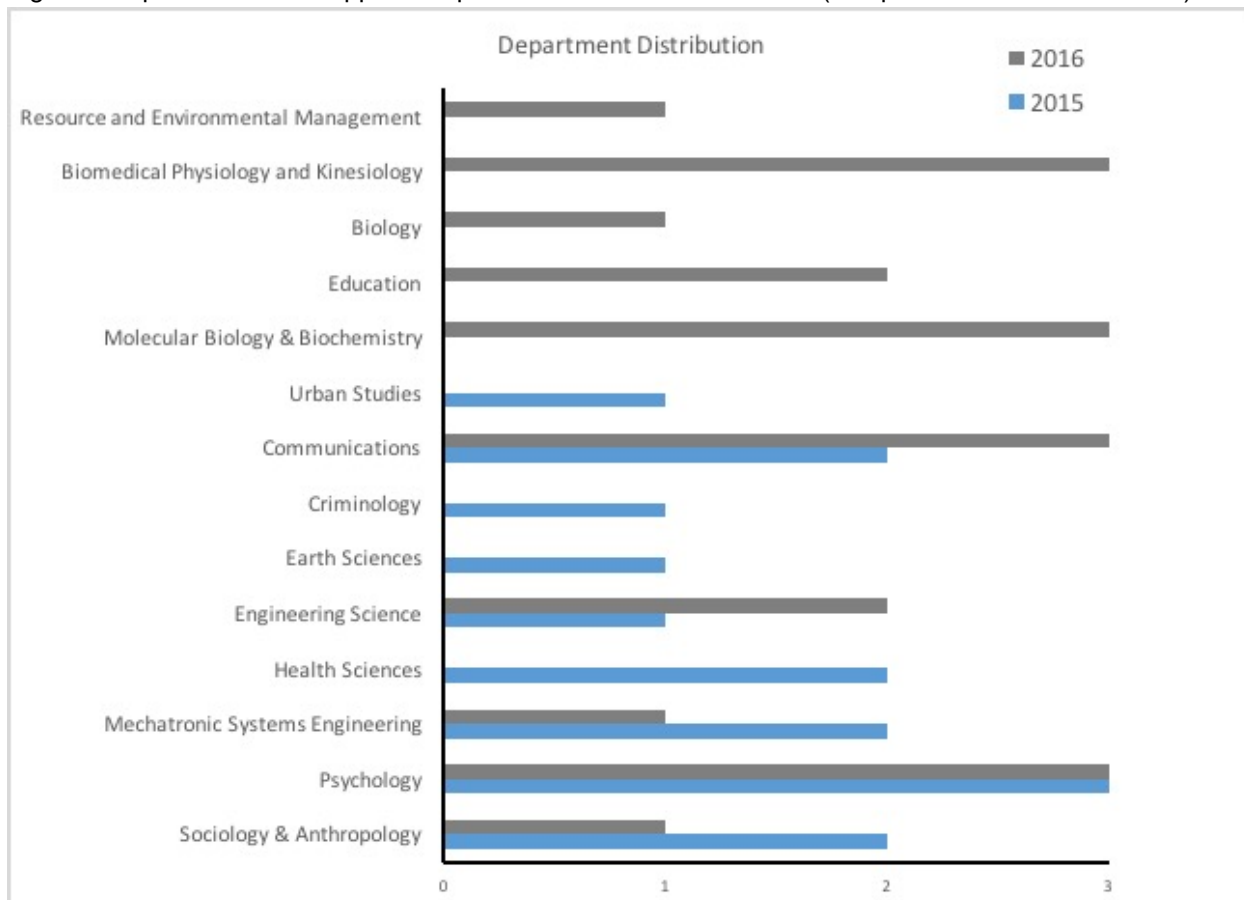


Figure 1. Department distribution of award recipients in 2016 compared to 2015.

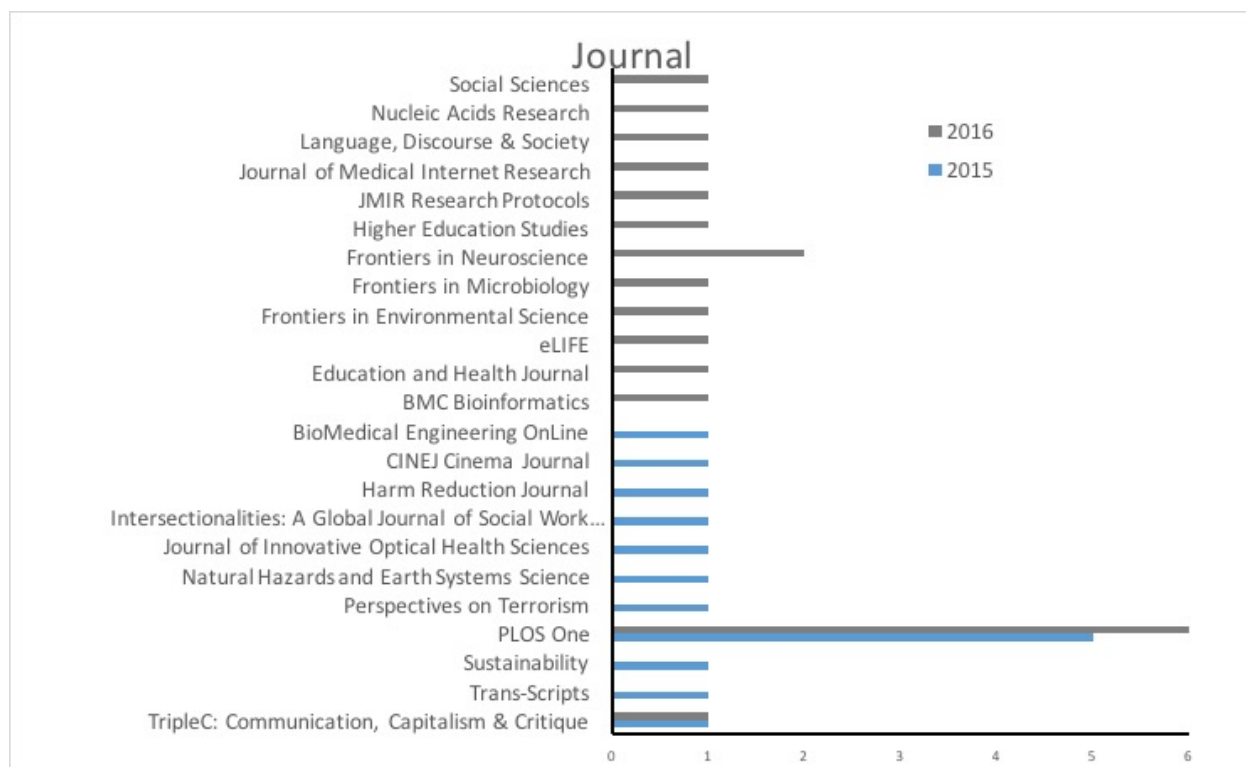


Figure 2. Journals of publication of successful applicants in 2016 compared to 2015.

Looking Ahead – 2017 Award

Timeline:

- Have formstack application, GSS website and all other promotional materials ready to go by mid-August.
- Begin accepting applications late August/ early September. Will remain open until the end of the first week of October.
- Adjudication of the award would occur during the middle two weeks of October.
- Announcement of the winners will be made to coincide with Open Access Week (Oct 23rd – 29th).

Budget:

- The GSS will contribute up to \$1000 for the award.
- The GSS is requesting matching funding of up to \$1000 be contributed by the SFU Library.
- The GSS will also be requesting funding from:
 - VP Research – amount requested: \$250
 - Dean of Graduate Studies – amount requested: \$250

Application Criteria:

1. The article must be published or accepted for publication in a gold Open Access journal at time of application.
2. The GSS Open Access Award will be open to current GSS members and recent graduates (within 1 year of convocation).

3. Authors must confirm that submitted articles correspond to their work at SFU and their SFU affiliations must be listed on the publication.
4. Past GSS Open Access Award winners are eligible to apply again, but cannot submit any previously submitted publications.

What Will Change for the 2017 Award:

1. Award amount will be changed to \$100 per award to increase the value for recipients.
2. Selection of winners will be done by lottery from the pool of eligible applicants.
3. The GSS and the SFU Library will work collaboratively to make sure all applicants are GSS members and that all applicants meet all the eligibility criteria.
4. Applicants will be required to submit (or have already submitted) to the SFU Summit Repository so that they are in full compliance with SFU's Open Access Policy. *
5. Applicants will be required to complete the sentence "open in order to...", which is the theme for the Open Access Week 2017, as part of their application. This will be a simple way to ask the participants about their motivations for publishing open access. *

*These changes have been made to ensure that this award continues to spotlight Open Access and reward those graduate students who are not only publishing in open access journals but are championing it within their disciplines.