In this Issue – 19 December 2023

USask Workshops and Support Services:

- CFI 2025 Innovation Fund (IF) – Registration for the Pitch & Networking Event
- NSERC USRAs: Call for Adjudication Committee Members
- Pathways to Equity: 2024 Workshop on Housing Insecurity, Renter Equity & Homelessness in Saskatchewan

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates:

- SHRF Partners on 2024 Canadian Cancer Society Research Training Awards Competition

Social Sciences and Humanities Opportunities and Updates:

- SSHRC Impact Awards
- SSHRC DIALOGUE Newsletter

International Opportunities and Updates:

- Important news: Canadian researchers can access Horizon Europe fundings as “associate country partners” now
- French Embassy in Canada: The Mourou-Strickland Program
- Mitacs: Globalink Research Award Co-Funding Stream
- Global Affairs Canada (GAC): Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP); Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED); Study in Canada Scholarships (SICS)
- Canada-UK Critical Minerals: Sustainability and Circularity
2025 Innovation Fund (IF) – Registration for the Pitch & Networking Event

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has announced the 2025 Innovation Fund (IF) program. The Innovation Fund aims to build capacity in infrastructure and personnel, allowing researchers to remain at the forefront of exploration and knowledge generation. The CFI IF program supports the development of large-scale, unique, and cutting-edge facilities that can accelerate future research in your field of study for many years.

Through this competition, CFI will invest up to ~$400 million in infrastructure and fund up to 40% of the project’s eligible costs. CFI will also provide up to ~$120 million in associated operating and maintenance costs through the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF). The most common eligible costs include renovation or construction costs, research equipment, and personnel to support the development or use of the infrastructure.

RASI is hosting a pitch and networking event on 22 January 2024. This pitch will allow you to present your idea/concept to senior USask leadership, which will allow you to receive high-level strategic feedback and spark excitement about your research at the highest level. Although participation in this event is optional, it is highly encouraged.

Learn more about USask’s 2025 IF Competition Timeline.

Pitch Session Details:
Date: 22 January 2024
Time: 1:30 pm-4:30 pm
Location: Convocation Hall

Those interested in the program are highly encouraged to participate in this pitch event. If you are interested in participating in the pitch event, please fill out the Registration Form.
More information can be found on our RASI-CFI website. Immediate questions can be directed to rasi.support@usask.ca.

NSERC USRAs: Call for Adjudication Committee Members
USask faculty are invited to submit applications to join USask’s NSERC USRA Adjudication Committee! Committee members will be selected and contacted by January 15th.

The Terms of Reference outlines the committee’s mandate, membership criteria, review process and important dates.

Apply: Online
Deadline: 11 January 2024

Please contact Mandy Fehr (Coordinator, Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work) at undergraduate.research@usask.ca with any questions about the application process.

Pathways to Equity: 2024 Workshop on Housing Insecurity, Renter Equity & Homelessness in Saskatchewan
Hosted by the Pathways to Equity Working Group, this workshop will bring together researchers, students, community members and service providers to connect, learn and inform. The event will feature local experts Colleen Christopherson-Cote and Debbie McGraw as keynote speakers, a Saskatchewan-based research panel discussion, and interactive, community-led break-out discussions.

Event Details:
Date: 29 January 2024
Time: 8:30am-3:30pm
Location: Station 20 West, 1120 20th Street W, Saskatoon
Cost: Free, lunch and refreshments provided
Register: here
Registration Deadline: 8 January 2024

Faculty, students, and community partners are all welcome to attend! For more information, please contact pathways.equity@usask.ca.

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates

SHRF Partners on 2024 Canadian Cancer Society Research Training Awards Competition
SHRF has partnered with Canadian Cancer Society to co-fund Saskatchewan-based trainees in any area of cancer research through Canadian Cancer Society’s Master’s, Doctoral and Postdoctoral award opportunities.
Abstract Deadline: 17 January 2024 at 5pm ET
Internal UnivRS Deadline: 22 February 2024
Application Deadline: 29 February 2024 at 5pm ET

Applications are submitted through Canadian Cancer Society’s portal and inquiries regarding the funding opportunities should be directed to research@cancer.ca.

Applications that are to be conducted at institutions located in Saskatchewan will be automatically considered for funding for an CCS-SHRF partnership.

Please note: To address structural and systemic barriers to inclusion, and increase diverse representation in the cancer research ecosystem, Canadian Cancer Society is only accepting applications from Black and Indigenous trainees at the Master’s level.

Questions about SHRF Partnership Program can be directed to Karen Tilsley at ktilsley@shrf.ca.

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Social Sciences and Humanities Opportunities

**SSHRC Impact Awards**
The SSHRC Impact Awards recognize outstanding researchers and celebrate their achievements in research, research training, knowledge mobilization and outreach activities funded partially or completely by SSHRC. They include the Gold Medal, the Talent Award, the Insight Award, the Connection Award, and the Partnership Award.

Internal Deadline: 15 January 2024
SSHRC Information Session: 25 January 2024 from 1:30-3pm (ET) Join here
SSHRC Deadline: 01 April 2024

USask is limited to one submission per award, so potential nominees will be considered internally prior to developing a full nomination package.

Please send the following information to brittany.walch@usask.ca by January 15, 2024 for internal consideration.

1. Nominee name and affiliation.
2. Award category being considered (Gold, Talent, Insight, Connection, or Partnership).
3. 500-word rationale to describe (Award descriptions and selection criteria can be found here):
   a. How nominee is suitable for the award based on the award description.
   b. How the nominee meets the award selection criteria. Please ensure you review the selection criteria for the award and speak on how they meet the Challenge and Achievements.
4. Names of potential nominators (if known) including a short rationale to explain why they would be an ideal nominator.
5. Current CV (specific CV format not needed at this stage, however, if the nomination is to go forward, an updated SSHRC CV format will be required).
6. Confirm the nominee holds or have held SSHRC funding relevant to the award category.
Please contact Brittany Walch, Institutional Awards Officer, at brittany.walch@usask.ca with any questions.

SSHRC DIALOGUE Newsletter
Please see below for the December 2023 SSHRC DIALOGUE newsletter. Highlights are included below:

- Canada Research Coordinating Committee Advancing National Research Priorities
- Deadline Approaching to Enter 2023 Storytellers Challenge
- SSHRC Partners with International Research on Research Institute
- SSHRC Leaders Convene in Ottawa to Help Shape the Future of SSHRC’s Policies and Programs

Funding Focus:

- **New Frontiers in Research Fund: Transformation competition** (letter of intent, 10 January 2024)
- **Storytellers Challenge** (16 January 2024)
- **Connection Grants** (01 February 2024)
- **Insight Development Grants** (02 February 2024)
- **Partnership Grants—Stage 1** (10 February 2024)
- **Partnership Engage Grants** (15 March 2024)

See Upcoming Deadlines, or subscribe to our RSS feed.

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International Opportunities and Updates

**Important news: Canadian researchers can access Horizon Europe fundings as “associate country partners” now**

**Horizon Europe** is the European Commission (EC)'s latest research and innovation framework program. With a budget of €95.5 billion over seven years (2021 to 2027), it is the largest research and innovation funding program in the world. Negotiations between the European Commission and the Canadian government concluded in November 2023 with an agreement that Canada will associate to the second pillar of the programme. Both Canada and the EC have begun their respective procedures towards signature and provisional application of the Agreement for Canada's association.

The EC has confirmed that as of December 4, 2023, **Canadian researchers are considered “associate country participants” within Pillar II of Horizon Europe**. As such **Canadians can apply as beneficiaries and receive grants DIRECTLY from the EC** once provisional application begins, likely Q3 2024. Given application processing timeframes, **Canadians are strongly encouraged to APPLY NOW** to be considered in the review period in 2024.

For most calls for proposals of Horizon Europe, one must apply as a team of at least three partner organizations with at least one partner from an EU country and two partners from different EU or associated...
countries. As Canada is now considered an “associate country participant”, Canadian researchers will count towards this minimum eligibility criteria to have a consortium. See General Conditions for additional information.

Pillar II is the largest part of Horizon Europe, with a budget of €53.5 billion for collaborative research on global challenges and industrial competitiveness. There are 6 clusters under Pillar II:

Cluster 1. Health
Cluster 2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
Cluster 3. Civil Security for Society
Cluster 4. Digital, Industry and Space
Cluster 5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
Cluster 6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

To learn more about Horizon Europe, please visit here.
To watch videos officially provided by Horizon Europe, please visit here.
To search for Call for Proposals under Horizon Europe, please visit here.

French Embassy in Canada: The Mourou-Strickland Program
The Mourou-Strickland Mobility Program is an initiative designed by the French Embassy in Canada. Its aim is to foster research collaboration between France and Canada and encourage the discovery of specific research and innovation ecosystems in both countries.

The program is open to:
- Researchers from Canada who are interested in traveling to France to explore the French ecosystem.
- Researchers from France who are interested in traveling to Canada to explore the Canadian ecosystem.

The Mourou-Strickland Mobility Program provides seed-money funding to encourage new cross-border bilateral cooperation and knowledge exchange. It could leverage new projects with the perspective of setting up a consortium to apply to the Horizon Europe program, which is now accessible to researchers from Canada.

Program Page: https://francecanadaculture.org/mourou-strickland-mobility-program/

Candidates must:
- Have a permanent or tenure-track position.
- Be affiliated with a Canadian university (outside of Quebec) or a French university or institution.

Funding:
- 1 round-trip economy-class flight Canada-France or France-Canada
- A contribution towards subsistence costs (5 daily allowances)

Internal deadline: 19 January 2024
External deadline: 04 February 2024 at 23h59 (PST)
Mitacs: Globalink Research Award Co-Funding Stream

The Mitacs Globalink Research Award (GRA) is a Mitacs program that supports research collaborations between Canada and higher education institutions in eligible countries and regions. Under the joint supervision of a home and host professor, successful senior undergraduate students, graduate students, as well as postdoctoral fellows will receive an award of CAD 6,000; however, Mitacs only pays $4,000 of the award, and USask must contribute $2,000 toward the award. Faculty will be responsible for contributing the $2,000. Additional support above the co-pay is allowed and is encouraged for projects that will be longer than 3 months. **Tri-Agency grants are not eligible to be used for this program.** Travel to Canada or from Canada can be supported, and successful student applicants notified by Mitacs have up to 12 months to execute their 12-24 week research abroad projects, which may include up to 25% time spent at the home institution. International students are eligible if their research destinations are different from their home countries. This new funding stream supports collaborations between USask and ANY universities in eligible countries. The full list of eligible countries can be found in Section “Other eligible countries and regions” under the tab “About” on [Mitacs website](https://www.mitacs.ca/).

**To apply:** Please submit this preliminary application to the International Office, [international.office@usask.ca](mailto:international.office@usask.ca), by **9 February 2024**. The USask internal faculty application form can be found [here](#). If successful, please submit the full application through UnivRS by **22 March 2024** for institutional signature to submit to Mitacs via its new online portal by **31 March 2024**. USask quota: maximum 25 applications.

**Funding amount:** $6,000 ($4,000 from Mitacs & $2,000 as co-funding from USask)
**Maximum total project duration:** 12 to 24 weeks
**Internal deadline:** 09 February 2024
**External deadline:** 31 March 31 2024

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**Global Affairs Canada (GAC): Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP); Canada-ASEAN Scholarships and Educational Exchanges for Development (SEED); Study in Canada Scholarships (SICS)**

International Student Scholarship Programs (ELAP, SEED, and SICS) funded through Global Affairs Canada (GAC) are accepting applications from international students for short-term study or research at a Canadian university. If you are interested to support a graduate student application to one of these programs, please review the ‘How to Apply’ section, take note of the quotas in each program, as well as the deadlines [here](#).

These International Visiting Research Student Scholarship Programs allow students to come to USask for a period of four to six months and provide scholarships ranging from approximately $8,200 – $12,700 CAD. Scholarship funds cover international student expenses such as visa and/or study/work permit fees; airfare for the scholarship recipient via the most direct and economical route; health insurance; living expenses, such as accommodation, utilities, and food; ground transportation, including a public transportation pass; and books and supplies required for the recipient’s study or research, excluding computers and other equipment.
How to Apply (International Graduate Student Applications):

Preliminary Stage 1 – Preliminary Deadline: **19 January 2024**. The student applicant in consultation with the USask host supervisor must complete the respective ‘2024 Application Form’ in its entirety and email it to the International Office (IO) at international.office@usask.ca as soon as possible and no later than 19 January 2024.

Invited and Submission Stage 2 – February & March 2024
The IO will provide an Invitation to Submit confirmation by email in February 2024. Only applicants invited to submit will move forward to full submission. No changes in the core application content (i.e., research project and activities, graduate student applicant or USask host supervisor) are permitted after an invitation to submit is issued. Invited applicants must then email the International Office the finalized application form and all required supporting documents by 8 March 2024. The International Office will make the final submission on the applicants’ behalf through our institutional portal, by the funder deadline – likely in late March (exact agency deadline to be announced by the funder). Applicants and their USask host supervisor will be notified once the submission is completed.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss a potential international graduate application, please do not hesitate to contact the International Office at international.office@usask.ca.

**Funding amount**: CAD$8,200 – $12,700

**Project duration**: four to six months

**Preliminary Stage 1 deadline**: 19 January 2024

**Invited and Submission Stage 2 deadline**: 08 March 2024

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**Canada-UK Critical Minerals: Sustainability and Circularity**

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will work with the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) to invest in innovation projects. You can view the funding opportunity [here](#).

Up to £3.5 million from Innovate UK and up to CA$3 million from the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP), an equivalent of approximately £5.4 million in total, has been allocated to fund innovation projects in this competition.

The aim of this competition is to support collaborative research and development (CR&D) through Canadian and UK partnerships, to assist the development and commercialization of circular solutions for critical minerals.

Your proposal must demonstrate co-development, have a high innovation potential and address a technological challenge. It must include a plan for future exploitation leading to full commercialization, and it must ensure all necessary environmental, social and governance (ESG) and regulatory challenges are addressed.

In applying for this public funding, you are entering into a competitive process.
Funding Amount: up to £400,000 and $500,000 for each eligible SME participating

Internal Deadline: 20 March 2024

External Deadline: 03 April 2024

**Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) International Fellowships for Research in Japan**

JSPS provides fellowship programs for overseas researchers who have an excellent record of research achievements to conduct collaborative research, discussions, and opinion exchanges with researchers in Japan. The programs are intended to help advance the overseas researchers’ research activities while promoting science and internationalization in Japan. You can view the funding opportunity [here](#).

The “JSPS International Fellowships for Research in Japan” consists of two programs: “Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan” for young researchers and “Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan” for mid-career and senior researchers.

1. **Postdoctoral Fellowships for Research in Japan**  
   **Deadline:** 12 January and 07 June 2024  
   See link above for more information about amounts and duration of fellowships

2. **Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan**  
   **Deadline:** 26 April 2024  
   See link above for more information about amounts and duration of fellowships

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**The Tanaka Fund Program – Funding Supporting Education on Japanese Culture in Canada**

The [Tanaka Fund](#) was established in 1974 as the result of an exchange of gifts between the governments of Canada and Japan. Canada offered $1,000,000 to Japan to promote Canadian studies in Japanese universities, while Japan provided 300 million yen for the enhancement of Japanese studies in Canadian universities. The funds were used to establish the “Japan Foundation Trust Fund for the Promotion of Japanese Studies in Canadian Universities”.

Guidelines developed by The Japan Foundation stipulated that the Trust Fund would be administered as an endowment and that the income thereof should be made available for the support and promotion of Japanese studies at universities and colleges in Canada. Universities Canada has administered the Fund since 1975.

Until 2016, support for Japanese language lectureship at Canadian Universities was funded. In 2018, the Tanaka Fund was restructured to focus support towards young emerging scholars in order to foster the next generation of Japanese Studies scholarship in Canada.

The program is open to:

1. Doctoral or Master’s level students who:
   a. are enrolled in a Canadian university;
b. are conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) with methods in the humanities and social sciences;

2. Master’s students who are doing research towards their master’s thesis.
3. Doctoral students who are doing research towards their dissertation proposal.

PhD candidates are not eligible

**Deadline:** 12 January 2024

**Funding Amount:** Maximum $10,000 can be requested

**Duration of travel to Japan:** maximum 3 months