Office of the Vice-President Research

Research Funding and Support

A weekly update on funding opportunities, workshops, and other support services.

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Visit the OVPR Grants Calendar for up to date deadlines and events.

Learn more about RASI services online.

NSERC CREATE: Call for Applications, Institutional Quota, Internal Selection Process

The **NSERC CREATE** program supports the training and mentoring of teams of highly qualified students and postdoctoral fellows from Canada and abroad. The aim of the program is to develop innovative training programs that foster professional skills and improve job readiness for careers in industry, government, non-governmental organizations, or the academy.

NSERC has made significant changes to the CREATE program this year. These changes are as follows:

- The **number of applications institutions are permitted to submit will now be six.** NSERC has reversed their previous communications that the quota would be reduced to three.
- The LOI will no longer be adjudicated. Applicants who have received institutional endorsement will submit a short LOI that outlines their team, research area, and suggested reviewers on 01 May 2024.
- All proposals that receive institutional endorsement to submit an LOI and submit by the 01 May deadline will be invited to proceed to full proposal.
- All CREATE programs will be required to provide mobility experiences for trainees.

To select USask's quota, applicants are required to submit an Expression of Interest to RASI by **05 April 2024**. **An EOI must be submitted to be considered to be a part of the institutional quota.** A panel of CREATE recipients and NSERC scholars will select up to six proposals to go forward.

EOI requirements: available here
EOI deadline: 05 April 2024
LOI deadline: 01 May 2024

If you have any questions about your application or the internal process, please contact rasi.support@usask.ca for more information.

CFI 2025 Innovation Fund (IF): NOI Released, New Funding Stream for Social Sciences, Humanities, and Fine Arts Research

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).

Learn more about USask's 2025 IF Competition Timeline.

CFI has announced an exciting new strategy for funding social sciences, humanities, and the arts (SSHA). To better support the research community in SSHA, the 2025 Innovation Fund will:

- Allow each institution to submit one proposal outside of the institutional envelope with the primary field of research in SSHA.
- Establish an SSHA-specific funding stream with adapted assessment criteria.
- Extend the eligibility of personnel required for the continuous development and use of databases (evergreening).

NOI documents are now available on the RASI website and are due **05 April 2024**. Should USask-led proposals be interested in RASI feedback prior to final submission, they can submit to RASI by **01 March 2024**.

- [USask Led NOI Document](#)
- [Non-USask Led NOI Document](#)

More information can be found on our [RASI-CFI website](#). Immediate questions can be directed to rasi.support@usask.ca.

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates

CIHR Access Newsletter
Please see below or highlights from the 28 March 2024 [CIHR Access Newsletter](#):
- [Webinar on Health Workforce Data in Canada: How to optimize its use within research](#)
- [New Tri-Agency Guidance on Research Security](#)
- [Call for Abstracts: The 23rd Human Frontier Science Program Meeting](#)
- [CIHR Institute of Gender and Health Listening Tour: What We Heard Report](#)
- [Pan-Canadian Women's Health Coalition](#)

Funding Opportunities:
- [2024 CIHR-ICRH/CCS Mid-Career Lecturer Award in Cardiovascular Sciences](#)
- [2024 CIHR-ICRH/CCS Distinguished Lecturer Award in Cardiovascular Sciences](#)
- [New Funding Opportunity for Early Career Researchers in Human Development, Child, and Youth Health](#)
- [New Funding for Dementia Research](#)

Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders Grant Program
[Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders](#) is a grant program dedicated to providing or improving services for first responders and emergency workers living with, or at risk of, post-traumatic stress injuries (PTSI).

The Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders (SPHIFR) grant program has 2 separate funding streams:

- Stream 1 (Services): provides funding for non-profit organizations that provide services to first responders and emergency workers living with or at risk for PTSI.
- Stream 2 (Research): provides funding to researchers engaged in applied research that generates evidence on prevention or intervention for first responders and emergency workers living with or at risk for PTSI.

Submission Deadline: 27 May 2024, 11:59 PM (MDT)

Questions can be directed to SPHIFR@gov.ab.ca

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates

NSERC Contact Newsletter

Please see below or highlights from the March 2024 NSERC Contact Newsletter:
- NSERC's IMPACT now available!
- Government of Canada introduces new measures to protect Canadian research
- Government of Canada to support an international collaborative effort to address global challenges through the bioeconomy
- NSERC Accessibility Progress Report 2023
- Canada Research Coordinating Committee welcomes Alejandro Adem as chair
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024: A message from Dr. Charmaine Dean

Funding Opportunities:
- NSERC and the NRC launch a collaborative funding opportunity to advance the industrial readiness of quantum sensing technologies
- Lab to Market Grants: New initiative to support entrepreneurial training
- Mobilize grants 2024 competition now open!

International Opportunities and Updates

NFRF International Call for Proposals: 2024 NordForsk-Led International Joint Initiative on Sustainable Development in the Arctic

Canada commits up to $20 million for this international joint initiative that represents a collaboration among research funders from Canada, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and the United States. The Arctic region has seen and continues to see rapid and drastic changes, mostly due to climate change, which has a bigger impact in the Arctic than in the rest of the world. Declining sea ice has also opened possibilities of new transport routes, new opportunities for resource extraction, and led to increased international interest in the region. The direct effects of climate change, as well as these indirect ones, have a significant impact on ecosystems, Arctic communities and traditional ways of living. Through interdisciplinary research projects that include Indigenous perspectives, this call will leverage expertise across Arctic countries to explore approaches to sustainable development in the Arctic, considering aspects such as security, natural resources and societal changes. More information can be found **here**.

Please note:
- The following aims are central to the call: Interdisciplinarity, Sustainable development, Arctic Added Value, and Indigenous perspectives;
- Research conducted in Canada must be co-developed and co-led with Indigenous communities;
- A research consortium must have partners from at least 3 Nordic countries, meaning Canadian team(s) and/or US team(s) plus teams from at least 3 Nordic countries;
- Each consortium partner has to adhere to the requirements of their respective agencies; those requirements could differ from agency to agency;
- Consortium partners from the Nordic countries might need institutional support documents from Canadian institutions; please contact international.office@usask.ca **by 15 May.**
- A Canadian/USA institution can either be the host organization (NordForsk calls it "Project Owner"), or a participating organization. Either way, project leaders from USA and Canada, must be eligible to receive funding from NSF (USA) or the NFRF (Canada), respectively (see Annex 1);
- The consortium will develop one project. The Project Owner must submit the pre-proposal form and the mandatory documents on behalf of the research consortium electronically through respective portals. On the Canadian side, Nominated PI should submit the project registration to the NFRF through the Convergence portal;
- A signed Letter of Commitment is required from each partner organisation, and the letters must be signed by a person authorized to take on financial commitments on behalf of the organisation for the entire duration of the project;
- The application for the call has two stages: (1) registration and (2) full submission. To apply for funding from NFRF, Canadian research team members **must submit a registration form by 30 May**. This is a mandatory step in the application process. Full application submission deadline will be in fall 2024.

For program details on Canada's participation, please visit the website. For program details on the Nordic countries' participation, please visit NordForsk website.

NordForsk hosted an online webinar on 19 March 2024. The webinar was aimed at researchers interested in the call, provided insights into the themes of the call and the NordForsk application process. See a recording of the webinar.

IO and RASI work together to provide proposal development support. If you are interested in applying for this call, please contact international.office@usask.ca as soon as possible to discuss your project concept and team composition.

Funding Amount: CAD $1,000,000 per year
Project duration: up to four years
Internal Deadline: 15 May 2024
External Registration Deadline: 30 May 2024

Horizon Europe project call on AI - Canadian partners sought

Please see below this unique opportunity to network and pursue a **Horizon Europe project call on AI worth over C$10 million where Canadian participation is actively sought.**

Project call theme is: "**Trustworthy, explainable and robust AI.**" **Budget C$10+ million.** It states: to achieve **expected outcomes**, international cooperation is encouraged, in particular with **Canada** and India.

This is an exceptional opportunity for Canadians - companies, researchers, innovators - who excel in AI and wish to co-innovate with European partners on projects that typically are valued at C$2 to $6 million. More importantly, pursuing these calls will help Canadian innovators build on an innovation that can take 3-5 years to develop, and connect with potential future partners, clients, and markets. This hybrid matchmaking session (online and in-person) will be hosted by ADRA, the EU based AI, Data and Robotics Association, which is the private side of the public-private partnership under Horizon Europe Cluster 4.

Wednesday, 17 April
07:30 – 08:30 am ET: Presentation on the European AI, Data and Robotics ecosystem
08:30 – 09:30 am ET: Roundtable discussion on the upcoming Horizon Europe calls and interactions with Euro HPC, Copernicus, Galileo
09:45 – 10:50 am ET: Horizon Europe call pitching sessions – participants present their concept ideas

Event Registration: To both **register** for this event and partake of the **matchmaking** portal that can facilitate finding the right partners go to **REGISTRATION**. This matchmaking portal is NOT limited to this one project call. Please take the time to draft and upload your profile for consideration for this and upcoming project calls for co-innovation with European partners.

For questions, please contact ADRA's Secretary General Philip Piatkiewicz at secretary-general@adr-association.eu. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact international.office@usask.ca as soon as possible. Our International research facilitation team will provide assistance.

Details of the project call could be published **on 17 April**. The deadline, which is not yet known, will likely be three months after the effective date.

Mitacs GRA: Special Quantum Technology Offer
Mitacs is back with a special quantum technology offer under the **Globalink Research Award (GRA)** program. We are pleased to announce NEW international partners on our list: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany and National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) – NARLabs in Taiwan.

What makes the GRA quantum tech offer "special"?
- No co-funding required
- Longer internships (possibility of 2 internship units)
- Up to 5 interns per project
- Open to all Canadian universities
- Applicable to most countries and regions
- No implications on your university's GRA allocation

With no Mitacs international partners involved in the project, the intern gets:
- **$6,000** for research project over **12 to 24 weeks**
- **$12,000** for a research project over **24 to 48 weeks**

Additionally, with a Mitacs international partner, your award value goes up to:
- **$9,000** for a research project over **12 to 24 weeks**
- **$15,000** for a research project over **24 to 48 weeks**

Start your proposal through the GRA application portal or discuss your project with a Mitacs Advisor. For internships starting in August 2024, please submit your application by **30 April 2024**.

Join Mitacs GRA quantum technology info session on **Tuesday, 02 April, 2-2:45pm (ET):** Register here

The complete list of eligible international partners can be found here. For each participating partner, specific eligibility criteria may apply.

Funding amount: Varies
Internal deadline: 16 April 2024
External Deadline: 30 April 2024

The 1907 Trailblazer Award – Call for Research Proposal in Biology of Psychiatric and Neurodegenerative Disorders

The 1907 Trailblazer Award covers lab and personnel costs for brain health scientists studying the biology of psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders.
Projects must be grounded in the study of biological mechanisms underlying brain function, cognitive processes, and/or consciousness. The Award supports projects for basic science in addition to near-term applications (e.g. disruptive technologies and potential clinical interventions).

Eligibility requirements:
- Applicants must be within ten years of the date when PhD/MD degree was awarded (whichever came later and with exceptions for maternity leave, paternity leave and other excused absences). For clinical scientists, the 10- year clock starts upon completion of all residency and fellowships. Please use February 23, 2024 as the end date for calculation of the 10-year period. 8
- Applicants will currently be employed by a university or public research institute in the US, Europe, Canada or Israel, with full-time employment guaranteed for the duration of the project.
- Applicants will have demonstrated independence from senior colleagues. They must be able to initiate and direct their own research as principal investigator ("PI"), have full responsibility for running their labs and full control of their research funds.
- Applicants should affirm that they have all of the resources from their Research Organization to achieve what they endeavor to achieve in their Novel Idea
- Research applications may be related to but cannot be identical to any other currently funded projects.

Funding Amount: US$100,000 unrestricted research grant and a US$20,000 living stipend

Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadline
External Deadline: 3 May 2024

U.S. Federal Grants Application Portal Grants.gov Published a New Quick Start Guide for Applicants

Grants.gov has published a new [Quick Start Guide](#) for Applicants to help you register and apply for grants using Grants.gov. This guide covers registering with SAM, creating workspaces, submitting your application, and more. Please use this guide to help you register and apply for U.S. federal grants using Grants.gov.