

Office of the Vice-President Research

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](#).

USask Workshops and Support Services

NSERC Discovery Grants and Research Tools and Instruments Grants - Oct/Nov 2024 Application: Internal Review/Intention to Apply

If you are applying for a [NSERC Discovery Grant \(DG\)](#) and/or [Research Tools and Instruments Grant \(RTI\)](#) this year, we would encourage you to participate in the Internal Review program offered by OVPR.

Your proposal will be forwarded to your suggested reviewers, providing an opportunity to get valuable feedback on your grant application.

In the event of an unsuccessful proposal, Internal Review of your DG application is one of the factors required to be eligible to apply for the President's NSERC Fund.

- To take part in the Internal Review program please complete the [2024 Intention to Apply/Request for Internal Review Form](#)
- Guidance on the steps and important dates can be found in the [2024 Internal Review Timeline](#)

USask Intention to Apply/Request for Internal Review Deadline: 26 July 2024

NSERC Deadlines:

- Discovery Grant – Notification of Intent | 01 August 2024
- Research Tools and Instruments Grant – Submission | 25 October 2024
- Discovery Grant – Submission | 01 November 2024

For more information, please contact Michaela Lynds, Research Development Specialist at grant.review@usask.ca.

Internal Research Programs

NSERC Alliance Society Catalyst Program – Call for Applications

Research Acceleration & Strategic Initiatives (RASI) is introducing a pilot program to support researchers who are developing competitive, large-scale [NSERC Alliance Society](#) applications. Alliance Society grants bring together partners from across sectors to address societal challenges that result in new natural sciences and engineering knowledge and societal impact. The Alliance Society program is at present undersubscribed, with success rates as high as 80%.

To support USask faculty members interested in applying for this program, the Alliance Society Catalyst Program will provide individuals admitted into the pilot with the following:

- Up to \$10,000 to support engagement activities with partners from the private, public, or not-for-profit sectors (current or emerging).
- The opportunity to be part of a cohort of applicants preparing Alliance Society grants, who will receive dedicated partner engagement and proposal development support.
- One-on-one support from RASI over the course of the grant development process.

The Catalyst Program will support a cohort of up to six faculty members who are planning to apply for an Alliance Society grant valued at or over \$200,000/year. Members will meet as a group regularly to work and

learn together throughout the proposal development process. Topics to be covered at the group meetings include best practices in developing a Public Impact Value Proposition (PIVP), governance, team building, and identifying and describing tangible mechanisms for partner engagement in the project. Group meetings will be tailored to and shaped by the expertise and needs of the cohort members.

The cohort will be supported by members of the Strategic and Institutional Research Initiatives arm of RASI and will run for approximately 12 months, with proposals submitted to NSERC no later than March 2026.

The Catalyst Program will run in two phases:

- *Phase 1: Partnership Development – Fall 2024-Winter 2025*

Programming will focus on building a research team as well as reaching out to and establishing relationships with partners.

- *Phase 2: Intensive Grant Development – Spring 2025-Fall 2025*

Programming will focus on developing competitive applications for submission to NSERC.

Application form: available [here](#).

Application deadline: 30 August 2024.

If you have any questions regarding the Alliance Society Catalyst Program or your application, please contact راسي.اسك@usask.ca.

Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

Gairdner Early Career Investigator Competition

Up to five investigators working in the fields of this year's awards will be chosen to give 10 minute talks during one of the three major symposia of Gairdner Week, to connect with the 2024 laureates and to attend the 2024 Awards Gala on October 24, 2024 (travel and hotel provided). The talks will be broadcast live and recorded for YouTube distribution globally. Faculty and professionals at the assistant professor or equivalent rank can submit for the opportunity to present their research. Submissions should include a two minute video proposal for your research presentation, a four-five page CV, and a 150-word summary explaining how your science relates to one or more of this year's laureates. You can learn more about this opportunity [here](#).

APPLICANTS MUST INDICATE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LAUREATE OPTIONS AS THEIR INTENDED MATCH:

- [David Klenerman](#) / [Pascal Mayer](#) / [Shankar Balasubramanian](#): Next generation DNA sequencing, genomic
- [Zelig Eshhar](#) / [Michel Sadelain](#): CAR-T cells and therapies; new cancer therapeutics
- [Gagandeep Kang](#): Enteric diseases, disease surveillance, pandemic preparedness
- [Meghan Azad](#): Infant nutrition, microbiome in child growth, development and resilience
- [Christian Landry](#): Synthetic, systems and computational biology in the evolution of cellular systems

Registration for a webinar on the competition: [here](#)

Internal Deadline: 05 July

External Deadline: 15 August

This is a competitive process, with the finalists being selected by the Gairdner laureates themselves. Please contact Institutional Awards Officer Brittany Walch (brittany.walch@usask.ca) by July 5 if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity.

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates

NSERC Contact Newsletter

Please see below for highlights from the 25 June 2024 [NSERC Contact Newsletter](#):

- [Government of Canada invests in discovery and applied research to keep the country at the forefront of scientific advancements](#)
- [Statement from Minister Champagne and Minister Holland on strengthening Canada's research support system](#)
- [NSERC announces \\$26 million in funding for innovating training programs](#)
- [NSERC and Natural Resources Canada announce new research project to enable deployment of small modular reactors](#)
- [Government of Canada funds new projects to grow the domestic biomanufacturing and life sciences sector](#)
- [Tri-agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee moves beyond pilot phase](#)
- [Important Changes: Implementation of the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#)
- [New Tri-agency guidance on research security](#)
- [NSERC data centre move and impacts on programs and activities](#)
- [Lab to Market grants: Letter of intent assessment results](#)
- [Chairs for Inclusion in Science and Engineering competition now open in the province of Quebec](#)
- [Vote now for your favorite research image!](#)

International Opportunities and Updates

US Department of Defense (DOD) FY24 Lupus Research Program

The [US Department of Defense DOD Lupus Research Program \(LRP\)](#) has released program announcements for the following funding opportunities:

1. Idea Award
 - Supports innovative, high-risk/high-reward research that could ultimately lead to a critical discovery or major advancement relevant to lupus.
 - Emphasis on innovation
 - Must address one of the FY24 LRP Focus Areas.
 - Clinical trials are not allowed.
 - Preliminary data are not required.
 - **Funding amount:** \$300,000 USD maximum (including indirect costs) over a two year period
2. Impact Award

- Supports high-risk/high-reward research which, if successfully addressed, has the potential to make a major impact in lupus research. •
- Emphasis is on impact.
- Must address one of the FY24 LRP Focus Areas.
- Clinical trials are not allowed.
- Preliminary data are encouraged but not required.
- **Funding Amount:** \$1 million USD maximum (including indirect costs) over a four year period

3. Transformative Vision Award

- Supports research that will have an intervention at the individual and/or health care system level, which will result in near-term impact on the health related quality of life of persons living with lupus.
- Emphasis is on near-term impact to quality of life.
- Must address one of the FY24 LRP TVA Focus Areas.
- Human subject research and clinical trials are allowed.
- Preliminary data are required.
Animal studies are not allowed.
- Partnering Principal Investigator (PI) Option allows one Initiating Investigator and a maximum of two Partnering PIs.
- The research team must include one or more Consumer Advocate(s).
- **Funding Amount:** \$2 million USD maximum (including indirect costs) over a four year period

4. Transformative Vision Development Award

- The TVDA is intended to provide support to conduct pilot studies that will generate preliminary data and demonstrate feasibility for achieving the aims of a future TVA project. Emphasis is on research strategy to gain preliminary data and demonstrate feasibility for a future TVA project.
- Must address one of the FY24 LRP TVDA Focus Areas.
- Clinical trials are not allowed.
- Animal studies are not allowed.
- Preliminary data are permitted but not required.
- Applications must include at least one lupus consumer advocate as a member of the research team.
- **Funding Amount:** \$250,000 USD maximum (including indirect costs) over a two year period

Internal Deadline: Ten business days before the external application deadline as listed below.

Pre-application Deadline: 17 July 2024, 5:00 PM ET

External Deadline: 06 August 2024, 11:59 PM ET

Safe Online 2024 Open Call

With this new Open Call, Safe Online will continue to invest in a ‘whole system’ approach for maximum impact by supporting the work across multiple sectors in a coordinated manner to advance solutions to address online child sexual exploitation and abuse (CSEA) and related forms of harms to children. The investment approach builds on the vast amount of knowledge generated through Safe Online’s investments,

as well as the latest data and evidence in the field and wider digital harms ecosystem. You can find more information [here](#).

1. **Networks and Systems Pillar**

Build the foundations of the ecosystem at the national, regional and global levels to enable effective action to prevent and respond to online CSEA and related harms to children. This pillar aims to strengthen systems, key infrastructure and services as well as create incentives for action through changing norms, policies and advanced regulation.

Total funding available: \$2.5 million USD

Maximum funding per project: \$250,000 USD for private companies; \$500,000 USD for not-for-profit entities

Grant duration: 2 years

2. **Research and Data Pillar**

In light of this Open Call's focus on innovation and high impact, proposed research and data projects should utilize new and novel methodologies, processes, tools and/or ways of working that aim to address a specific need or gap. We are keen to see proposals that build on and push the boundaries beyond what currently exists.

Total funding available: \$1 million USD

Maximum funding per project: \$250,000 USD

Grant duration: 2 years

3. **Technology and Tools Pillar**

Proposed projects should focus on solutions that apply technology in novel, ground-breaking ways that are scalable and globally applicable, enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders to address online CSEA and interrelated digital harms in order to make the internet safe for children. Solutions should be applied specifically to exact or related use cases for the Safe Online Open Call.

Total funding available: \$1.5 million USD

Maximum funding per project: \$250,000 USD

Grant duration: 2 years

Internal Deadline: 30 August 2024

External Deadline: 15 September 2024 11:59 PM EST

Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD)

The [Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy \(ICLD\)](#) research initiative aims to explore the democracy-health nexus, with a focus on the local level. The research is meant to support and provide recommendations for local governments striving to promote health equity within the framework of decentralized democracy. The research team shall provide knowledge support to local governments in ICLD's programmes, with special attention to ICLD's [Network of Municipal Partnerships for Equitable Health](#). Potential research questions may include:

- How does improved citizen participation benefit health (care) decision-making?

- How can we integrate and understand local knowledge from local communities to find more equitable and sustainable solutions to problems of healthcare provision?
- What are communities' perspectives of health equity in resource-constrained areas? And what are the key drivers building equity through sensible (local) government policy?
- How can local governments in resource-constrained areas work to strengthen health system financing? Departing from lessons from WHO guiding principles for health financing.
- ICLD encourages the use of participatory methodologies such as Participatory Action Research and Community-Based Participatory Research.

Project Duration: 8 months

Funding Amount: 500,000 SEK

Internal Deadline: 02 August 2024

External Deadline: 18 August 2024, 23:59 CEST

The Minor Foundation for Major Challenges: Large and Small Grants

The [Minor Foundation for Major Challenges \(MFMC\)](#) is a Norwegian foundation that supports communication projects which advance the transition to a low carbon economy. MFMC supports projects that support urgent, large-scale transformation, with a focus on changing policies and practices in public or private institutions. The foundation's priorities for the 2019-2023 period are to:

- encourage and support innovation in climate communication
- increase the number of voices and narratives in climate advocacy
- help strengthen social and political movements that open up for radical change
- concentrate on supporting European proposals

The foundation will **only** consider applications that clearly fall under its strategy. Further information about the foundation, including its bylaws and its complete strategy for the period 2019–2023, is available on the [MFMC website](#).

Please note that the foundation will **not** consider applications that have a purely local focus, that focuses on implementation of community-level projects such as forest conservation, tree planting, climate change adaptation, or that primarily seek to disseminate climate-related information to the general public. MFMC traditionally announces six calls for applications every year, in two different categories: large and small grants.

1. **LARGE GRANTS** EUR 20,000 to EUR 200,000, although larger projects may be considered. The application process consists of two steps, where interested organizations are asked to initially submit a short pitch. Based on this, the organization may be invited to submit a full application if the MFMC board finds the project appealing.
2. **SMALL GRANTS** EUR 10,000 in a simplified one-stage process. Applications will be assessed by the MFMC board based on its aims and strategy.

Internal Deadline: 25 July 2024

External Deadline: 08 August 2024

Spencer Foundation Vision Grants

The [Spencer Foundation](#) invests in research to improve education, broadly conceived. They have identified a critical need for innovative, methodologically and disciplinarily diverse, large-scale research projects to transform education systems for equity. Importantly, The Spencer Foundation believes that ambitious research must begin with the challenges, problems, and opportunities in education systems. To stimulate research that addresses this need, the Spencer Foundation seeks to provide scholars and collaborators with the time, space, resources, and support to plan a large-scale study or program of research: geared toward real-world impact on equity; drawing on research across disciplines and methods; reliant on meaningful and equitable collaboration with practitioners, policymakers, communities, and other partners; and focused on transforming educational systems.

Toward this end, the [Vision Grants](#) program funds the collaborative planning of innovative, methodologically diverse, interdisciplinary research on education that contributes to transforming education systems for equity. Vision Grants are research planning grants to bring together a team, for 6 to 12 months, to collaboratively develop ambitious, large-scale research projects focused on transforming educational systems toward greater equity. This program takes as core that visionary, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research projects require time, space, and thoughtfulness to incubate and plan.

Funding Amount: \$75,000 USD

Project Duration: 6 – 12 months

Internal Deadline: 31 July 2024

Intent to Apply Deadline: 14 August 2024, 12:00 PM Noon (Central/USA Time)

Full Proposal Deadline: 17 September 2024 12:00 PM Noon (Central/USA Time)

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS