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Learn more about RASI services online.

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.

*NEW UPDATE*

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
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.

Research Security: Sensitive Technology Research Areas and Affiliations of Concern

Policy Presentations

On 16 January of this year, the federal government released the details of its Sensitive Technology Research Areas and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC) policy. This policy is intended to protect research into identified sensitive technology research areas from foreign influence that increases the potential for research and development efforts to be misappropriated. During this session, Lisa Belhumeur, Senior Research Security Specialist, will provide details of the STRAC, how to comply with it and provide an opportunity for you to ask questions about how the STRAC may impact your work. The sessions are open to all who are interested.

Presentations

**Date:** 16 February 2024
**Time:** 10:30-11:30am
**Location:** Arts and Science Rm 217
Register: [here](#)

Date: 20 February 2024
Time: 2-3pm
Location: Health Sciences Rm GD04
Register: [here](#)

Questions can be sent to [research.security@usask.ca](mailto:research.security@usask.ca).

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**Internal Research Programs**

**Research Junction Development Grant 2024: Call for Proposals**

Research Junction is a partnership between the City of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan to support the development of collaborative research projects that address contemporary urban issues for the benefit of Saskatoon residents. The Research Junction Development Grant will support research projects developed in partnership between a city staff member and a USask researcher.

This year's competition has added new criteria which emphasizes the importance of a strong knowledge mobilization or transfer plan to move the research outcomes beyond the academic sphere.

**Available funding:** $100,000  
**Individual grant amount:** $10,000 to $30,000  
**Deadline to apply:** 17 May 2024  
**Competition Details:** [online](#)  
**Application Form:** [online](#)

Applications must be submitted to UnivRS by **17 May 2024 at 4:00pm**. All submissions are subject to UnivRS approvals and compliance checks over the following five business days.

Contact Meaghan Risling at [research.junction@usask.ca](mailto:research.junction@usask.ca) to learn more about this exciting opportunity or to make a connection with City of Saskatoon staff.

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**DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards (Social Sciences, Humanities & Fine Arts)**

The 2024 DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards program will support USask faculty within the first five years of their academic appointment to hire, train and mentor an undergraduate summer student to support their research, scholarly, or artistic works (RSAW) program. New faculty members within 5 years of their hire date (as of July 1, 2024) are eligible to apply.

**Grants Available:** 10 Awards
Individual grant amount: $6,000 DARE Award (recipients will be required to match $2,410.68 - $5,644.50, see below for details)

Eligibility: Social science, humanities and fine arts faculty within 5 years of their hire date at USask (preference given to Early Career Researchers, Scholars, and Artists).

Deadline to apply: 04 March 2024 (all applications will be submitted directly into UnivRS)

Award duration: 14-16 weeks from May to August (2024)

Competition details: Online
Application form: Online

Please contact dare.rasi@usask.ca if you want to learn more about this opportunity.

International Opportunities and Updates

Internationalization Award Opportunities for Faculty, Staff and Students
The International Office is pleased to announce the 2024 Internationalization award opportunities to recognize the achievements of faculty, staff and students who provide outstanding contributions to the internationalization of USask. Please visit our website for award details and nomination forms.

J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award for Faculty
As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action 2025, the International Office announces the J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award to recognize the achievements of a USask faculty member who provides outstanding contributions to the internationalization of the University of Saskatchewan. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask faculty for a J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Global Research Leadership Award for Faculty
As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action 2025, the International Office announces the Global Research Leadership Award to recognize exceptional contributions of a USask faculty member toward strengthening the global profile of the University of Saskatchewan. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask faculty for a Global Research Leadership Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

International Engagement Service Award for Staff
As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action 2025, the International Office announces the International Engagement Service Award to recognize the achievements of a USask administrative staff member who provides outstanding contributions to the internationalization of the University of Saskatchewan. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask staff for an International Engagement Service Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Global Research Leadership Award for Students
As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action 2025, the International Office announces the Global Research Leadership Award to recognize exceptional contributions of a USask student or student-led team who provides outstanding global research leadership. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask students for a Global Research Leadership Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Nomination deadline for each four awards: 29 March 2024 at 4 pm CST/SK time
Value of each award: $1500

US Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) Lifeline: Embattled CSOs Assistance Fund
The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces an open competition for organizations interested in submitting applications for projects that support efforts to enable and protect civil society and counter closing civic space.

Programs should specifically:
- Identify and assess emergency needs of embattled civil society organizations (CSOs) across all regions and types of advocacy that have been threatened or attacked because of their work, vet cases according to pre-established criteria, and provide assistance in a timely and secure manner.
- Provide rapid response resiliency grants and direct technical assistance to CSOs, designed to enable the most at-risk CSOs and civil society groups to take preventive action before emergencies erupt.
- Provide support and short-term assistance to local CSOs for advocacy initiatives.
- Demonstrate it will have the capacity to learn from its experiences in providing this type of assistance to embattled CSOs through the establishment of a robust monitoring and evaluation system.

Only applications that propose implementing this project through a consortium of NGOs, with one organization designated as the primary recipient/lead applicant, will be considered. Consortium members must demonstrate a global reach with a diversity of existing networks, the capacity to implement in a time-sensitive manner large program activities that could be multi-year in nature, and the technical expertise for the broad scope of activities to be undertaken in this cooperative agreement. More on the call can be found here.

Funding Amount: USD $5,000,000
Period of Performance: 18 months
Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadline
External Deadline: 11:59 PM EST on Tuesday, 12 March 2024

S+T+ARTS (Science, Technology and Arts) 2024 Prize Awards
S+T+ARTS is an initiative of the European Commission to foster alliances of technology and artistic practice. As part of this initiative, the S+T+ARTS Prize awards the most pioneering collaborations and results in the field of creativity and innovation at the crossings of science and technology with the arts. Two prizes, each with €20,000 prize money, are offered to honor innovative projects at the
intersection of science, technology and the arts. In addition, the prizewinners will be supported in presenting their work at the 2024 Ars Electronica Festival in Linz, Austria.

Grand Prize – Innovative Collaboration
honors innovative collaboration between industry or technology and the artistic (and creative) sectors that open up new avenues for innovation

Grand Prize – Artistic Exploration
honors artistic research and works whose adoption by the arts has great potential to influence or change the use, application, or perception of technology

More on the call can be found here.

Funding Amount: €20,000
External Deadline: 01 March 2024

US National Institutes of Health (NIH): Pilot and Feasibility Studies in Preparation for Substance Use Prevention Trials (R34 Clinical Trial Optional)
The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to encourage theoretically driven pilot and/or feasibility research in the following areas:

1) the development and pilot testing of new or adapted interventions to prevent or delay the initiation of substance use and/or the progression from use to misuse or disorder, and
2) services research examining questions specific to the prevention of substance use.

The latter may include pilot studies of strategies or approaches to intervention, and/or other service system-based research to address areas such as economics, funding, service quality and engagement. In addition to the prevention of substance use, misuse and disorder, other outcomes of interest for the research supported through this NOFO include a reduction in negative sequelae of use, such as deaths related to impaired driving, suicidal behavior (e.g., nonfatal and fatal attempts), and substance-related acquisition or transmission of HIV infection and viral hepatitis among diverse populations and settings.

More information can be found here.

Funding Amount: up to USD up to $450,000 for three years
Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadline
External Deadline: Multiple, starting 16 June 2024

NDN Collective: Community Action Fund (CAF)
NDN Collective opened the application period for the 2024 Community Action Fund (CAF), which provides urgent funding to direct action and frontline organizing across Turtle Island (North America: US, Canada and Mexico) and related Island Nations, including Borikén/Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Community Action Fund (CAF) furthers Indigenous Peoples’
mobilization strategies as it relates to the defense, development, and decolonization of peoples and the planet. This $1 million fund is available to support such efforts in 2024, with grants up to $40,000. The CAF is meant for those most impacted by issues such as climate change, resource extraction, and systemic racism, to ensure resources and decision-making lies with those most equipped to address immediate challenges. CAF supports community organizing and movement building work designed to shift the political and financial systems that negatively impact Indigenous communities.

**Funding Amount:** up to USD $40,000.

**Grant Term:** Grant terms are a maximum of six months

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadline

**External Deadline:** Ongoing basis from 11 January 2024 to 31 October 2024 or until funds are expended

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**European Commission: The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform**

Strengthening Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU) is a key priority of the EU Communication Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa, in which the role of R&I is recognized as a driver for sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job generation, thereby reducing poverty and inequalities. The action funded under this topic will have the objective to bring together a mix of EU and AU innovation stakeholders, from academia and business, including higher education establishments, public and private research entities, non-governmental organizations, international finance institutions, incubators and accelerators, technology transfer and capacity building and higher learning organizations. The aim of the topic will be to foster the links and networks between innovation stakeholders from the AU and EU innovation ecosystems, also including the social innovation dimension.

**Target group(s):** Networks of start-ups, innovators, incubators, accelerators, academia, research and technology organizations (public and private sector), think tanks, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society organizations, private and financial actors.

With the objective of guaranteeing a multidisciplinary approach, the selected consortium should be composed of diverse stakeholders (e.g. networks of start-ups, innovators, incubators, accelerators, academia, research and technology organizations, think tanks, NGOs, private and financial sectors, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), etc.).

More on the call can be found [here](#).

**Funding Amount:** EUR$500,000 to $1 million

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadline

**External Deadline:** 25 April 2024 (17:00 Brussels time)

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**European Commission: Startup Europe Programme**

Fostering enabling innovation ecosystems across the European Union (EU) requires a systemic approach that is inclusive and collaborative, involves diverse actors, institutions and places, maximizes the value of innovation to all, and ensures equitable diffusion of its benefits. A well-connected and diverse ecosystems
provide innovative companies with the necessary support and conditions to thrive, i.e. through additional capabilities, data, customers, knowledge, and talents. Network connectivity within and between innovation ecosystems greatly contributes to sustainable business growth with high societal value. Therefore, the actions of this destination aim at strengthening and expanding cooperation between innovation players to better support the next generation of innovative companies whose solutions will lead the shift towards a more competitive EU and a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient world.

In particular, the actions under this destination should promote the creation of links:
Between all key innovation stakeholders, including the private sector, in particular between SMEs, start-ups and other innovators, including social innovators with investors, industry and public and/or private buyers for faster access to funds and markets and the public sector including authorities in charge of national, regional or local innovation policies and programs and bodies responsible for smart specialization strategies; also between SMEs, start-ups and foundations, civil society organizations, citizens, and individual inventors; with universities and research and technology organizations (RTOs) as sources of innovation and talent, to ensure that innovations match existing needs, values, and expectations of society, thereby accelerating deployment and up-take towards tackling societal challenges, and, if applicable, with innovation actors from peripheral or rural innovation ecosystems.

More on the call can be found [here](#).

**Funding Amount:** EUR$500,000 to $1 million  
**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadline  
**External Deadline:** 25 April 2024 (17:00 Brussels time)

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**Climate Impacts Awards: Unlocking Urgent Climate Action by Making the Health Effects of Climate Change Visible**

In 2023, Wellcome launched the Climate Impacts Awards and funded 11 innovative global projects. The aim of this scheme is to make the impacts of climate change on physical and mental health visible to drive urgent climate policy action at scale. We will fund transdisciplinary teams to deliver short-term, high-impact projects that maximize policy outcomes by combining evidence generation, policy analysis, engaged research approaches and communication strategies.

We are looking for proposals with a clear theory of change and strong understanding of policy levers. Policy outcomes should be achievable within the award period, innovative in their design and should support meaningful and sustainable change. Proposals should describe the intended policy outcomes and how new insights and effective communication will influence these outcomes.

**Funding Amount:** Up to £2.5 million  
**Duration of funding:** Up to 3 years  
**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadline  
**External Deadline:** 03 April 2024
US Department of Health and Human Services: Modular R01s in Cancer Control and Population Sciences (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) encourages applications for research in cancer control and population sciences. The overarching goal is to provide support to promote research efforts on novel scientific ideas that have the potential to substantially advance cancer research in statistical and analytic methods, epidemiology, cancer survivorship, cancer-related behaviors and behavioral interventions, health care delivery, digital health and data science, and implementation science.

This NOFO calls for research on a broad range of scientific areas within NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Populations Sciences' mission and portfolio, including but not limited to research in statistical and analytic methods, epidemiology and genomics, cancer survivorship, cancer-related behaviors, healthcare delivery, digital health and data science, and implementation science. The division conducts and supports an integrated program of the highest quality genetic, epidemiologic, behavioral, social, applied, and surveillance cancer research. DCCPS-funded research aims to understand the causes and distribution of cancer in populations, support the development and delivery of effective interventions, and monitor and explain cancer trends in all segments of the population.

More on the call can be found [here](#).

**Funding Amount:** The direct costs for any year may not exceed USD $250,000 per each year

**Award Project Period:** The maximum project period is 5 years

**Internal Deadline:** Ten business days prior to external deadline

**External Deadline:** 05 June 2024 & 05 October 2024

US Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL): Scholar Rescue Fund

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces an open competition for organizations interested in submitting applications for projects that strengthen democracy and civil society through the protection of free speech and diverse voices in civil society, which are threatened when scholars in closing societies face harassment, detention, torture, and other forms of persecution.

DRL will award an overarching cooperative agreement to a consortium of no fewer than three organizations and/or institutions with global reach and well-established placement networks for scholars at risk (the “Scholar Rescue Consortium”). The Scholar Rescue Consortium will seek to preserve freedom of expression by protecting scholars at risk through placements and/or fellowship opportunities abroad. Potential program beneficiaries include professors, researchers, and public/independent intellectuals, as well as writers, artists, thinkers, and others who pursue scholarly work (even if not employed by an academic institution). The strongest applications will include both non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions as consortium members, with existing infrastructure and networks (both inside and outside of the United States) to immediately place identified scholars in need. Within the Consortium, one organization must serve as the lead organization and the primary applicant (“Primary Applicant” or “Lead Organization”).
Funding Amount: USD $5,500,000
Period of Performance: 36 months
Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadline
External Deadline: 22 March 2024, 11:59pm EST