

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](#).

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@uask.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

NSERC and SSHRC Upcoming Data Centre Move

The [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada \(NSERC\)](#) and the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada \(SSHRC\)](#) wish to inform you of the upcoming move of our data centre over the Canada Day long weekend and the impact on the research community.

There will be a planned outage of NSERC and SSHRC's corporate websites and several granting portals and systems from **Friday, June 28, 2024, at 4 p.m. (ET) until Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 8 a.m. (ET)**.

To minimize the impact of this interruption, both agencies have made precautionary changes to competition timelines and corporate activities. For a list of the changes as well as the systems that will be unavailable during the move, please visit [NSERC](#) and [SSHRC](#) dedicated webpages.

We expect all systems to be operational again on July 2 following the data centre move. In the unlikely event of an extended outage, we will post updates on our above-mentioned dedicated webpages and on our social media channels. Email and phone lines will not be affected by the move.

As a best practice, applicants should keep a copy of their documents and grant application information in their personal files.

For questions about funding opportunities or programs, contact your usual program liaison person at [NSERC](#) or [SSHRC](#).

For technical questions, contact our helpdesk at

Toll free: 1-855-275-2861, option 5

Email: webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca / webgrants@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca

DRI EDIA Champions: New Funding Opportunity to Advance EDIA in DRI

The Digital Research Alliance of Canada (the Alliance) is pleased to launch the [DRI EDIA Champions pilot program call for proposals](#), a \$3.15 million funding opportunity to support a new equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility (EDIA) initiative. This project is part of the Alliance's 2023–25 digital research infrastructure (DRI) investments, with the goal of increasing awareness and uptake of the Alliance's DRI by equity-seeking groups.

This competition is open to graduate or post-graduate researchers who:

- Are affiliated with an eligible Canadian institution;
- Self-identify as a member of an equity-seeking group and/or have relevant expertise in EDIA with a strategy to reach out to an equity-seeking group; and;
- Will propose a project to promote the awareness and uptake of Alliance DRI to an equity-seeking audience.

Funding Available: Up to \$35,000

Deadline: 17 July 2024, 5:00 PM ET.

Information sessions: Will be held in both official languages on 27 June 2024, 1:00 PM ET. To register for the sessions, click [here](#).

If you have any questions about the DRI EDIA Champions pilot program call for proposals, please contact programs-programmes@alliancecan.ca.

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.

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates

CIHR is Taking Action to Reduce Barriers to Funding Experienced by Racialized Researchers and Researchers with Disabilities

Starting with the Fall 2024 Project Grant competition, CIHR will be equalizing success rates for racialized applicants and applicants with disabilities. CIHR made this decision following careful analysis of Project Grant self-identification data over several years, which revealed that these groups have historically been under-funded. Learn more [here](#).

Now is the time for applicants to verify their responses to the [Tri-Agency Self-Identification Questionnaire on ResearchNet](#), as **only those who self-identify as a racialized person/visible minority or having a disability will be eligible for this new equalization measure.**

SHRF 2024-25 Align Grant Deadline July 24

The [Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation \(SHRF\) Align Grant](#) aims to enable a diverse and connected research community in Saskatchewan that is well-positioned to receive peer-reviewed funding and conduct impactful health research aligned with Saskatchewan stakeholder needs. Stakeholders include communities, people with lived experience, families, caregivers, decision makers, health practitioners, health care

administrators, educators, policy makers, patient groups, community-based organizations, industry, health charities, etc.

The Align Grant is open to applications in any area of human health, but teams must identify a plan to apply to a future peer reviewed funding opportunity.

The Align Grant can provide a valuable opportunity to engage with non-academic stakeholders, knowledge users, and gather preliminary information to strengthen your next application.

Application Information:

Applications to this funding opportunity must address the following objectives:

- 1) Increase research relevance, coordination, and potential for impact by:
 - a. Enabling development and engagement of robust interdisciplinary research teams, including stakeholders outside academia.
 - b. Providing funding to complete activities that shape research to align with the Saskatchewan context and respond to Saskatchewan stakeholder needs.
- 2) Increase quality and success of Saskatchewan applications to peer-reviewed funding competitions at the regional (e.g.; western Canadian- minimum two provinces), national and international level, as well as to SHRF.
- 3) Support the development of Saskatchewan research and health professional trainees through opportunities to gain experience in collaborative team building and engagement outside academia, co-development of research questions and Contact information should be hyperlinked with green and underlined font. grant.review@usask.ca.

Funding Available: up to \$10,000 over a 1 year term. Values requested must be reflective of a justified and fiscally responsibly budget and in balance with the expected deliverables and outcomes of the proposed activities. Funding is eligible for no-cost extensions.

External Application Deadline: 24 July 2024, 4:30 PM CST

Information Webinar: Watch [here](#)

For questions, please contact Chelsea Cunningham at ccunningham@shrf.ca.

International Opportunities and Updates

Horizon Europe – MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Fellowships include:

- European Postdoctoral Fellowships, open to researchers of any nationality to carry out a personalized project in the European Union (EU) or countries associated to Horizon Europe for up to 24 months
- Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, open to EU and Horizon Europe associated countries nationals or long-term residents wishing to work with organizations in third countries for a period of 12 to 24 months, before returning to Europe for 12 months

The scheme encourages researchers to gain experience beyond academia by giving them the opportunity to request an additional six months at the end of their fellowship to undertake a placement in a non-academic organization in Europe.

Eligibility:

- MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships are open to postdoctoral researchers from all over the world, of any nationality and at any career stage, with a maximum of 8 years of research experience after their PhD.
- Some exceptions and specific conditions apply, for instance for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships.

Internal Deadline: 27 August 2024

External Deadline: 11 September 2024

[See the tips and tricks on how to apply](#)

You can find more information [here](#).

NSERC and UKRI – Joint Call for Proposals on Quantum Technologies

This Call aims to support collaborative research projects that address fundamental challenges and explore cutting-edge applications in the field of quantum technologies, specifically in the areas of quantum communications and/or quantum sensing. Projects considered as part of this call for proposals should be associated with a technology readiness level (TRL) in the range of 1-3. You can find more information [here](#).

Potential applications of quantum communications include, but are not limited to, using quantum key distribution for secure communications, protecting communications, developing communication networks (connecting quantum devices together), and satellite-based quantum communications. Quantum sensing has potential for use in various applications such as, but not limited to, communications, mineral exploration, environmental monitoring, imaging, healthcare, and radar detection.

Eligibility:

If you are a Canadian university researcher [eligible](#) to receive NSERC funds, you can apply independently or as a team. If you apply as a team, your co-applicants must be academic researchers from Canadian universities or colleges who meet NSERC's eligibility requirements. You must include at least one UK academic collaborator based at a UK research organization eligible to receive funding from UKRI/STFC/EPSC.

Funding amount: \$50,000 to \$250,000 per year for the Canadian academic team

Duration: 2 years

Internal Deadline: 15 August 2024

External Deadline: 29 August 2024 (4:00 pm BST / 8:00 pm ET)

- Full applications must be submitted by the UK project lead on behalf of the research team to UKRI before 4:00 pm BST on August 29, 2024.
- Modified Alliance International Collaboration applications must be submitted by the Canadian applicants to NSERC before 8:00 pm ET on August 29, 2024.

Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Program (SSTSG) – For Faculty Members, Researchers, and Doctoral/Postdoctoral Students

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) grants for faculty members and students are open for applications:

1. **Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Program (SSTSG) – for faculty members, researchers and doctoral/postdoctoral students**

This regular program of SICI offers collaboration opportunities for Canadian and Indian postgraduate and doctoral students and faculty members. Scholars will receive a CAD 1500 travel subsidy for their international return air ticket for academic activities such as meetings, presentations, lectures, and conferences, which promote personal/professional growth and institutional partnerships. **For more details, please visit [SSTSG Details](#).**

Application deadline: 04 August 2024, 11:00 PM MDT

2. **A Semester in India Project (in collaboration with SICI and the University of Saskatchewan) – for undergraduate students**

This project allows our Canadian undergraduate students to study an entire semester in India, earning 9 (nine) credit units. The semester abroad is scheduled for January-April 2025. **For more details, please visit [ASII Project Details](#).**

Application deadline: 28 July 2024, 11:00 PM MST

3. **Shastri Student Research in India Fellowship (SSRIF) – for undergraduate and graduate students**

This program is designed for Canadian undergraduate and graduate students to undertake a 6-8 week research fellowship at Indian host universities or institutions. The research period is from September 2024 to March 2025. **For more details, please visit [SSRIF Details](#).**

Application deadline: 31 July 2024

IPOPI Research Grant – Scientific and Clinical Research in Immunodeficiencies

International Patent Organization for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI) is a non-profit international organization and an advocate for primary immunodeficiency (PID) patients worldwide. A broad set of topics and disciplines may be considered for this Grant, ranging from fundamental to clinical research or patient-derived studies, as well as medical anthropology, health economics, ethics, etc.

Eligibility:

The application will be open to researchers, clinicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals (HCP), as well as patient organizations worldwide.

Funding Amount: IPOPI aims to fund a minimum of 4 grants within a total combined amount of 30.000€

Duration: up to 2 years

Internal Deadline: 16 August 2024

External Deadline: 01 September 2024

You can find more information [here](#).

U.S. National Institutes of Health – Respective Calls Regarding Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization, Substance Use Disorder, and Communication Disorders

BRAIN Initiative: Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization – Transformative and Integrative Models of Behavior at the Organismal Level (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)

This Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) seeks applications that bring together transdisciplinary teams and aim to 1) develop, validate, and apply cutting-edge tools and methods for minimally invasive, multi-dimensional, high-resolution objective measurement of behavior at the organismal level, with synchronous capture of dynamic environmental data; 2) develop advanced analytic approaches to integrate multidimensional behavioral, neural and environmental data; and 3) develop and test new theoretical and computational models aiming to advance understanding of behavior as a complex dynamic system. Proposed projects are expected to be designed with the capacity to integrate synchronously recorded neural data and/or inform existing models of neurobehavioral function, such as those developed with the support of the NIH BRAIN Initiative.

Funding Amount: The BRAIN Initiative and its partner components intend to commit an estimated total of \$8M across this NOFO and its companion NOFO, [RFA-DA-24-041](#), to fund up to ten U01 awards per year.

Funding Period: up to 5 years

Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadlines

LOI Deadline: 30 days prior to the application due dates

External Deadlines: 09 October 2024; 09 October 2025; 09 October 2026

You can find more information [here](#).

Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization – Transformative and Integrative Models of Behavior at the Organismal Level (U01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

This Brain-Behavior Quantification and Synchronization notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) seeks applications using non-human animal models that bring together transdisciplinary teams and aim to 1) develop, validate, and apply cutting-edge tools and methods for minimally invasive, multi-dimensional, high-resolution measurement of behavior at the organismal level, with synchronous capture of data from the dynamic environment of the organism; 2) develop advanced analytic approaches to integrate multidimensional behavioral, neural and environmental data; and 3) develop and test new theoretical and computational models aiming to advance understanding of behavior as a complex dynamic system. Proposed projects are expected to be designed with the capacity to integrate synchronously recorded neural data and/or inform existing models of neurobehavioral function, such as those developed with the support of the NIH BRAIN Initiative. This NOFO is intended for applications using non-human animal models. Applicants proposing research involving humans or use of human subjects data as a significant component should submit under the companion NOFO [RFA-DA-24-040](#).

Funding Amount: The BRAIN Initiative and its partner components intend to commit an estimated total of \$8.0M across this NOFO and its companion NOFO, [RFA-DA-24-040](#) to fund up to ten U01 awards per year.

Funding Period: up to 5 years

Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadlines

LOI Deadline: 30 days prior to the application due dates

External Deadlines: 09 October 2024; 09 October 2025; 09 October 2026

You can find more information [here](#).

Establishing a Center for the Advancement of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Pharmacotherapeutics (U54 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)

The purpose of this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) is to establish a Center that educates and mentors researchers in formal product development for new substance use disorder (SUD) pharmacotherapeutics and to advance the best concepts through initial experiments via technical and financial support.

Funding Amount: The maximum budget for the Center is \$1,900,000 in direct costs per year.

Funding Period: up to 5 years

Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadline

LOI Deadline: 13 October 2024

External Deadlines: 13 November 2024

You can find more information [here](#).

Early-Stage Dissemination and Implementation Research in Communication Disorders (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders ([NIDCD](#)) invites applications for early-stage dissemination and implementation (D&I) research projects in the NIDCD mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.

Funding Amount: The combined budget for direct costs for the two-year project period may not exceed \$275,000. No more than \$200,000 direct costs may be requested in any single year.

Funding Period: 2 years

Internal Deadline: Ten business days prior to external deadline

LOI Deadline: 11 September 2024

External Deadlines: 11 October 2024

For more information, please visit [here](#).

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