

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

New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Exploration 2024 – DARE Grant Development Program

[The New Frontiers in Research Fund \(NFRF\) Exploration](#) competition is now open. If you are an Early Career Researcher (ECR) and planning to apply this year, we invite you to participate in [DARE's NFRF Exploration grant development program](#). This program brings together a group of ECR peers to learn together and support one another in the development of their NFRF Exploration proposals.

A detailed program overview can be found [online](#).

Starting in July, the grant development program will meet regularly (exact dates TBD) to create opportunities to understand the NFRF Exploration funding opportunity and application process, hear from fellow USask faculty who have been successful, along with offering space for ECRs to learn and support one another during the application process. This is an opportunity to get some valuable feedback on your proposal so you can submit the strongest application possible.

To participate in this program, register your Expression of Interest (EOI) [here](#).

Important dates for this program:

EOI deadline: 7 June 2024

Program notification: 21 June 2024

Program start date: 9 July 2024

To learn more about this exciting program opportunity, please contact Jennifer Reynolds at dare.rasi@usask.ca.

Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

New Frontiers in Research Fund: 2024 Exploration Competition

The goal of the [Exploration](#) stream is to inspire high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research. Exploration grants support research that pushes boundaries into exciting new areas. Researchers are encouraged to think “outside of the box” and undertake research that would defy current paradigms; brings disciplines together in unexpected ways and from bold, innovative perspectives; and has the potential to be disruptive or deliver game-changing impacts.

Exploration stream grants support projects that:

- bring disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
- propose to explore something new, which might fail; and
- have the potential for significant impact.

Exploration grants support research with a range of impacts—economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, social, technological, environmental or health-related. This list is not exhaustive; other types of impacts are also

recognized. Diversity of perspectives is important, and the fund encourages research proposals led from any discipline, from those in the social sciences and humanities, to health, the natural sciences and engineering.

Note: Co-PIs, co-applicants, and collaborators may be affiliated with a Canadian or **international organization**, but **must not** be affiliated with a federal, provincial, territorial or municipal government department or a for-profit organization.

Funding Amount: CAD \$125,000/year, including indirect cost up to \$25,000 per year

Project Duration: Maximum duration of 2 years

Internal Deadline: 5 business days before the external deadline

Notice of Intent Due Date: August 27, 2024, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)

Full Application External Deadline: November 5, 2024, 8:00 p.m. (eastern)

Upcoming Support from RASI:

RASI will organize internal reviews for the broader USask community. Please watch for further details or contact راسي.اسك@usask.ca if you wish to be notified with further details or have any questions.

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates

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](#). **Please note, the link has changed**

Application deadline: 30 August 2024.

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

International Opportunities and Updates

Experience with Acquiring Third-party Funding via the Horizon 2020-EU Project

Interested in learning about partnering with European institutions and securing Horizon Europe funding? We are pleased to welcome Dr. Stefan Walheim from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany, to share his experience applying for a Horizon 2020-EU project as a work project leader and managing a multi-partner consortium of research institutions and industry partners. Dr. Walheim and his team are project partners working on the AIRCOAT project, which promotes a passive air lubrication technology with the potential to revolutionize the ship-coating sector. This event is a campus-wide opportunity to learn from Dr. Walheim's first-hand experience about the scope, application process, management, and reporting for/of a project within the Horizon funding scheme. [Please register here](#).

Presenter:

Dr. Stefan Walheim studied physics at the University of Konstanz (Germany), where he completed his diploma thesis 1997 in polymer physics together with Ullrich Steiner (Professor, Université De Fribourg) and Georg Krausch (President, University of Mainz) in the group of Professor Jürgen Mlynek (previously held the position of CEO of the Helmholtz Association in Berlin). Dr. Walheim continued his work in Konstanz on the phase separation of polymer blend films during his dissertation, with extended stays in the laboratories of Professor Tom Russell and Professor Ed Kramer at the University of Massachusetts and the University of California at Santa Barbara respectively. Dr. Stefan Walheim co-developed several international patents and authored several top-cited scientific publications.

Since 2000, he has worked in the group of Prof. Dr. Schimmel at the Institute for Nanotechnology (INT) and the Institute of Applied Physics, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

Date: Wednesday, 5 June 2024; 2-3pm

Location: Arts 206 - [Register here](#)

ChadTough Defeat DIPG Fellowship Grant

The [ChadTough Defeat DIPG Fellowship Grants](#) are intended to incentivize novel approaches and spark innovation to find a cure for the deadliest pediatric brain cancer, DIPG. They are confident that by working together with the passionate doctors and researchers focused on making progress on this disease, children with DIPG will finally be able to look forward to a bright future.

The funding agency is committed to building the most comprehensive grant program for funding DIPG research. The Fellowship grants will be awarded to outstanding pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellows under the guidance of a mentor to help develop the next generation of leaders in DIPG research.

Funding Amount: \$300,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$100,000 per year) for post-doctoral fellows; \$200,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$67,000 per year) for pre-doctoral fellows

Project Duration: Maximum duration of 3 years

Internal Deadline: 30 August 2024

External Deadline: 13 September 2024

UPG Sustainability Project Support Grant

United People Global is committed to fostering positive citizen leadership on sustainability. As part of their ongoing mission to empower young individuals and organizations to drive impactful change, they're thrilled to unveil the [UPG Sustainability Project Support Grant](#). This initiative is designed to provide substantial support—amounting to USD50,000—to visionary UPG Sustainability Leaders, enabling them to spearhead personal projects aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UPG Sustainability Project Support Grant aims to fuel your efforts and enthusiasm in championing sustainability. The agency believes in action-oriented initiatives, and this grant is a testament to that belief. They seek to fund projects that demonstrate a clear commitment to addressing societal challenges while aligning with one or more of the 17 SDGs set forth by the United Nations. For more information, visit the [website](#).

Funding Amount: up to USD\$50,000

Internal Deadline: 14 June 2024

External Deadline: 30 June 2024

National Institutes of Health (NIH): Using Neuromodulation to Characterize the Continuum of Pathophysiology Between Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders (R01 Clinical Trial Required)

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) seeks applications that coordinate efforts to simultaneously characterize the effects of neuromodulation on brain circuits and behaviors relevant to both substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health disorder (MHD). Proposed studies are expected to provide a mechanistic perspective on the shared and unique pathophysiology related to SUD and MHD through the causal manipulation of relevant circuit(s) via targeted neuromodulation in human participants. You can find more information [here](#). This NOFO requires a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP), which will be assessed as part of the

scientific and technical peer review evaluation. Applications that fail to include a PEDP will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the NOFO instructions carefully and view the available [PEDP guidance material](#).

Funding Amount: NIDA intends to commit \$2M in FY 25 to fund up to four awards

Project Duration: Maximum duration of 5 years

Internal Deadline: 1 July 2024

Letter of Intent Due Date: 15 July 2024

External Deadline: 15 August 2024

National Institutes of Health (NIH): Optimizing Behavioral Sleep Interventions for Adolescents and Young Adults (R34 Clinical Trial Required)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) seeks applications for pilot research to adapt, optimize and test empirically supported behavioral interventions that address common sleep problems in adolescents and young adults with or at risk for a mental health disorder. In this pilot phase of effectiveness research, trials should be designed to evaluate the feasibility, acceptability, and potential effectiveness of the approach in real world settings, to conduct a preliminary test of the intervention's impact on target mechanisms and sleep and mental health outcomes, and to obtain preliminary data needed as a prerequisite a larger-scale effectiveness trial. In addition to intervention-specific target mechanisms, priority will be given to applications that specify and explore a conceptual model that also includes a theoretically grounded, potentially mutable mechanism through which sleep is thought to impact mental health (e.g., emotion regulation, executive functioning). You can find more information [here](#).

Applications submitted in response to this announcement should be informed by developmental science and grounded in a clearly specified empirical model of behavior and symptom change. The proposed intervention approach (e.g., intervention content, intensity, delivery method) and research strategy (e.g., inclusion criteria) should be justified in terms of the relevant mental illness stage and intervention goals (e.g., primary prevention addressing sleep problems among at-risk youth, treatment of co-occurring sleep problems among youth with mental disorders, reducing residual sleep problems as continuation therapy or relapse prevention among youth treated for a mental disorder). The approach should also consider individual, social, and/or environmental challenges associated with sleep and, as relevant, digital device use. Consistent with NIMH's commitment to supporting research that reduces mental health disparities and advances health equity, this NOFO strongly encourages applicants to include plans to address and/or evaluate factors related to disparities or differences in mental health and sleep outcomes and include strategies to optimize interventions within under-resourced settings and across racial and ethnic, sexual and gender minority, geographical, and socioeconomic groups. NIMH also encourages approaches that include a youth advisory panel, as well as other key stakeholders, in the research process in a manner that helps to ensure the study results will have utility for end users.

Funding Amount: Direct costs are limited to \$450,000 over the entire project period, with no more than \$225,000 in direct costs in any single year.

Project Duration: Maximum duration of 3 years

Internal Deadline: Ten business days before the external deadline

Letter of Intent Due Date: 30 days prior to the application due date

External Deadline: 30 October 2024 & 13 June 2025

Mitacs Globalink Research Internship Program

Faculty in any discipline can now apply to receive an international undergraduate student to conduct research for 12-weeks during the summer of 2025, funded by Mitacs through the [Mitacs Globalink Research Internship \(GRI\) program](#).

About the program in brief:

Mitacs [Globalink Research Internship](#) (GRI) is now accepting faculty project submissions for Summer 2025. GRI pairs faculty members in Canada with international undergraduate students for a 12-week research stay at USask to conduct projects from May to October 2025. The Globalink program builds international networks and experiences, and positions Canada as a top destination for innovation and research among international students.

- All disciplines are eligible
- Top-ranked senior undergraduate students from the following countries and regions are eligible: Australia, Brazil, Chile, mainland China, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Mexico, Pakistan, South Korea, Taiwan, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States.
- Faculty can submit multiple projects and re-submit projects from previous years

Please let us know if you have any questions about the program by **31 May 2024**.

Deadline for faculty members to apply is **2 pm CST, 4 June 2024**.

Questions? Visit the [GRA Website](#) or contact helpdesk@mitacs.ca. You may also contact the local Business Development Director, Dr. Zsuzsa Papp at zpapp@mitacs.ca and the USask International Office team at international.office@usask.ca.

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS