

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

Opus i2build Applications

Applications for the [Opus 2025 i2Build cohort program](#) are now open! Learn what it takes to launch your deep tech startup and receive access to entrepreneurial programming, infrastructure, and a network of mentors and coaches to help you successfully build your venture on campus.

Programming will begin in mid-March for future founders who are current USask students, staff, or faculty with technology in a STEM-related field.

To [apply](#) and for more details on the program and application, visit opus.usask.ca.

Application Deadline: 07 February 2025, midnight

Love Data Week 2025 at USask

Love Data Week is an international celebration of data that takes place every year during the week of Valentine's Day. This year the University of Saskatchewan is celebrating Love Data Week with daily workshops, webinars and events starting 10 February. These free events are open to staff, students and faculty, and will feature topics including research data management, Indigenous Data Sovereignty, data visualization and more. Learn more and register at <https://vpresearch.usask.ca/research-support/rdm/love-data-week.php>

CFI-JELF Information Session

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) [John R. Evans Leaders Fund \(JELF\)](#) program provides institutions the opportunity to acquire infrastructure for leading research faculty to undertake cutting-edge research. USask has been provided a JELF institutional envelope from which **project leaders can request up to 40% of the eligible project costs.**

This information session to be held on **Tuesday, 04 March 2025 (2pm -3pm)** has been targeted for those interested in the **October 2025** CFI submission group. Institutional CFI ask guidelines and review process will be discussed and a timeline for the submission will be provided. Potential applicants and co-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. Research facilitators and technical staff are welcome. We anticipate that USask will also submit JELFs to CFI in **February 2026** and **October 2026**.

October 2025 JELF Guidelines

- Proposed infrastructure will support cutting-edge CFI-eligible research at USask. It is appropriate to include in an existing or emerging core facility.
- Proposals can request up to \$800,000 from the CFI, with a maximum total eligible cost of \$2 million. The Institutional envelope is limited; the information session will provide **guidance regarding CFI asks** for this submission group.
- Core team (up to 3 applicants) must all have continuing, full-time academic appointments.

- Requests by OVPR to Innovation Saskatchewan will not be part of this call. Rather, proposals must demonstrate that **all matching funding** has been received by the university and/or provide letters of commitment from funding sources upon Expression of Interest submission.

Expressions of Interest intake will be **28 April 2025** and will be assessed for the fit with USask research priorities, impact to the USask research community, need for the infrastructure, feasibility and sustainability of the project and availability of institutional JELF envelope.

To register for this in-person information session, please RSVP to cfi.support@usask.ca.

Resources for Researchers

GlycoNet Webinar

GlycoNet, housed at the **University of Alberta**, brings together extensive glycomics expertise and state-of-the-art facilities across Canada to enable impactful advancements in medicine, agriculture, and biotechnology.

Hosted by Dr. Warren Wakarchuk, Scientific Director of GlycoNet and professor at the University of Alberta, this session will provide an introduction to GlycoNet Integrated Services, a CFI-MSI funded initiative, and its role in supporting research and innovation across Canada and beyond.

Webinar Title: Custom glycomics solutions with GlycoNet Integrated Services (GIS)

Date: 12 February 2025

Time: 1 PM (MT)

The webinar will provide:

- An overview of GIS's structure, capabilities, and services
- A preview of new services in development
- Examples of how GIS can support research projects
- Insight into the techniques, equipment, and workflows available through GIS

Register here: <https://canadianglycomics.ca/training/webinar-series/>

USask Travel Reimbursement Guidelines -Update

USask has revised its reimbursement guidelines for meals and vehicle use during business travel. Please take note of the following updates:

- [meal per diems](#)
- [personal vehicle use mileage reimbursement](#)

These changes took effect on 13 January 2025. The rates are reviewed semi-annually, usually in April and October, to align with the Government of Saskatchewan's and National Joint Council rates.

For more details, please refer to the [travel expense guidelines](#).

Internal Research Programs

Call for Nominations: New and Distinguished Researcher Award

The Office of the Vice-President Research is inviting nominations for faculty members who have demonstrated excellence in their research, scholarly or artistic work. This is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of University of Saskatchewan faculty members.

The **Distinguished Researcher Award** applies to eligible candidates that received their Ph.D or terminal degree 10 or more years ago whereas the **New Researcher Award** applies to eligible candidates who are within 10 years of receiving their Ph.D or terminal degree.

Distinguished Researcher Award: [Nomination Process and Selection Criteria](#)

New Researcher Award: [Nomination Process and Selection Criteria](#)

Nomination Deadline: 05 March 2025

Please submit your completed nomination package and direct any questions to Candace Leuschen at Candace.leuschen@usask.ca

Tri-Agency USRA Deadline Extended: Select Streams ONLY

We have extended the application deadline for the following [Tri-Agency USRA](#) streams ONLY:

- SSHRC USRA for Black Student Researchers
- CIHR USRA for Black Student Researchers
- NSERC USRA for Indigenous Student Researchers

Undergraduate students and faculty are invited to submit applications to these specific streams by **Friday, 14 February 2025, at 4:00 PM Saskatchewan Time**. More information is available on our [website](#) regarding the application process for these select award streams.

Indigenous students are encouraged to connect with [Indigenous Student Achievement Pathways \(ISAP\)](#) for support in finding a faculty supervisor. Please complete [this form](#) to connect with ISAP about undergraduate research opportunities for Indigenous students, and they will be in touch.

Please note: The General NSERC USRA and NSERC USRA for Black Student Researchers streams are now closed as of 24 January 2025. Good luck to all applicants! We are planning to contact applicants in March. Please keep an eye on our [website](#) for further updates.

Please contact undergraduate.research@usask.ca with any questions.

Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) – USask Launch

The **Canada Excellence Research Chairs** (CERC) program is designed to attract researchers and scholars of the very highest caliber to Canadian universities. This program is responsible for contributing to Canada's global competitiveness and wellbeing as well as support Canadian institutions in the attainment of highly competitive global research talent.

These are highly competitive chairs. RASI has created a CERC snapshot to provide an overview of previous competition results and profile successful award holders. This snapshot can be viewed [here](#).

March 2026 CERC Competition

We have been provided with the following details:

- Chairs will be valued at either:

- \$500K/year for 8 years (\$4M)
- \$1M/year for 8 years (\$8M)

Note: The USask institutional application limit is \$1M/year (\$8M total) for the 2026 competition.

- Nominations must align with the federal Science, Technology and Innovation Priorities. These remain unchanged from the 2022 competition. Those can be viewed [here](#).

USask 2026 CERC process and timelines

To support the successful recruitment of a candidate, RASI has developed a multi-stage process.

Stage 1	3 March 2025	Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline
Stage 2	12 May 2025	Theme Area and Nominee Submissions deadline
	27 May 2025	Applicants notified
Stage 3	June 2025	RASI launch meeting(s)
	January 2026	TIPS CERC registration deadline
	March 2026	CERC submission deadline

Stage 1: EOI Submission

Once submitted, RASI will provide one-on-one support to explore the strength of the proposed research area and the feasibility of recruiting a nominee with world-leading expertise. These activities will contribute to the development of a Theme Area and Nomination Submission.

Stage 2: Theme Area and Nomination Submission

The Strategic Advisory Committee will provide recommendations by ranking Theme Area and Nominee submissions based on:

- Available USask quota
- Quality of Theme Area and Nomination Submission
- Feasibility of nominee recruitment in the theme area

Stage 3: CERC Submission

RASI will work with those sponsoring the successful submission(s) to develop and implement a tailored process to submission.

If you are interested in submitting an EOI, please use this [form](#).

If you have any questions, please contact rasl.support@usask.ca.

Mitacs BSI Call for Applications

The [Mitacs Business Strategy Internship \(BSI\) program](#) is designed to facilitate Innovation in Canada with the help of post-secondary institutions and student talent.

- Companies and organizations leverage \$5,000 + GST into a \$10,000 internship unit or \$7,500 + GST into a \$15,000 internship unit to receive expertise from a student or recent graduate for a maximum of \$45,000 per year per student or recent graduate.
 - For projects with an Indigenous organization and/or an intern who is Indigenous, the contribution is only \$2,500 or \$3,750 per internship unit, respectively.

Each project requires supervision from a supervisor at the company organization as well as an academic supervisor to oversee the work and the student. All disciplines and sectors are eligible.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

To learn more about eligibility and supports for the process, please visit the [website](#).

Call for Projects - Federal Systems and International Trade

Researchers and research organizations (as defined in the program framework) have **until 5 p.m. on 21 February 2025** to submit projects on the theme of Federal systems and international trade.

The global context of international trade is affected by several changes: supply chain breakdown, rising protectionism, climate change, etc, with significant real and potential impacts on trade, the economy and public policy. Federal systems like Canada are responding at all levels to these changes, whether through the implementation of public policies, through public investments or through public diplomacy and other stakeholder-driven initiatives.

This call for thematic projects aims to financially support research projects that focus on:

- the response of federal regimes to changes in international trade;
- the consequences of these changes on the functioning of federalism and intergovernmental relations.

Projects may focus only on the Canadian federal system. They can also consist of a comparative study, provided that the Canadian federal system is included.

All applications must meet the conditions of the Research Support Program. Projects may be planned over one or two fiscal years.

To apply, see the [webpage for the Program](#), which includes links to the forms that must be completed for projects.

For any questions or information, do not hesitate to contact us at the following address:

programme.recherche@mce.gouv.qc.ca.

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates

Mitacs Accelerate proposals in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicines

Mitacs has partnered with the Stem Cell Network on the fourth annual call for Accelerate proposals in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicines.

Brief notes:

1. Up to 5 awards (2IU each) awarded in this call
2. Open to Masters, PhD, PDFs, and recent graduates
3. Best part – Interested Partners have already submitted projects for students to bid on (the full list of project descriptions are on the website below), and Stem Cell Network will be doing the matchmaking!

Participating companies:

- i. Mediphage Bioceuticals
- ii. Octane Orthobiologics
- iii. Axolotl Biosciences
- iv. Telescope Therapeutics
- v. Epiloid Biotechnology
- vi. Virano Therapeutics
- vii. Feldan Therapeutics
- viii. Mesintel Therapeutics

Two Stage process:

Expression of Interest due: 28 February 2025 (Matchmaking occurs in March). Those invited to Stage 2 (Full Mitacs Proposal) will be notified in May.

Full proposals due: 09 June 2025

Internal UnivRS Deadline: 5 working days before the external deadline

SCN-Mitacs page: [SCN-Mitacs Internship Partnership : Stem Cell Network](#)

French SCN-Mitacs page: [Partenariat RCS/Mitacs : Réseau de cellules souches \(stemcellnetwork.ca\)](#)

Interested applicants can contact [Zsuzsa Papp](#).

SHRF 2025-26 Align Grant Now Accepting Applications

The 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.

This opportunity is open to applications in any area of human health.

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.
 - AND/OR
 - 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 research 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 approaches, and other research and professional skills related to proposed activities.

Funding Details

Amount: up to \$10,000

Values requested must be reflective of a justified and fiscally responsible budget and in balance with the expected deliverables and outcomes of the proposed activities.

Term: 1 year

Funding is eligible for no-cost extensions.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: 27 March 2025 – 4:30 p.m. CST

Funding Start: 01 May 2025

Information Webinar: 19 February 2025 - 12pm CST on Zoom

[Register for the webinar here >](#)

Find full details here: <https://www.shrf.ca/align>

Program Contact: Chelsea Cunningham (ccunningham@shrf.ca)

CIHR Access Newsletter

Please see below for highlights from the 30 January 2025 [CIHR Access Newsletter](#):

- [Results of the Fall 2024 Grant Competition](#)
- [Multi Factor identification is Coming to the Canadian Common CV \(CCV\)](#)
- [CIHR is looking for the next Scientific Director of its Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes](#)
- [Call for Researchers: Share your Expertise](#)

Funding Opportunities

- [Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research \(JPND\) 2025](#)
- [Emerging Learning Health Systems in Mental Health](#)
- [Team Grant: Bringing Biology to Cancer Prevention](#)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates

NSERC CREATE Information Webinar for Prospective Applicants

NSERC's [Collaborative Research and Training Experience \(CREATE\)](#) program awards grants of up to \$1.65M over 6 years for the development of innovative training programs designed to enhance collaboration and facilitate the transition of trainees to productive employees in the Canadian workforce. NSERC will hold an information session via MS Teams to provide an overview of the CREATE program and application process. **Important changes have been made to the CREATE program and application procedures.** Registration is not necessary – anyone can connect using the link provided below.

06 February 2025 - 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. (CST)

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 295 342 735 303

Passcode: GH7gL9QM

Dial in by phone

[+1 343-809-4415, 938116826#](#) Canada, Ottawa

[\(888\) 896-2137, 938116826#](#) Canada (Toll-free)

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 938 116 826#

You may send any questions regarding the CREATE program and/or the application process in advance to create@nserc-crsng.gc.ca so they may address them in the presentation. For any questions related to the USask CREATE process, please contact rasi.support@usask.ca.

International Opportunities and Updates

2024-2025 USask Internationalization Awards

A. J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award for Faculty

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, 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.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time
Value: \$1500

B. Global Research Leadership Award for Faculty

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, 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.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time
Value: \$1500

C. International Engagement Service Award for Staff

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, the International Office announces the International Engagement Service Award for Staff 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.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time
Value: \$1500

D. Global Research Leadership Award for Students

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, 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: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time
Value: \$1500

Go [here](#) for more information about these awards.

NSERC Alliance International Collaboration Grants

Alliance International Collaboration grants will allow Canadian researchers to participate in international projects and leverage the best international expertise in the NSE disciplines to help address research challenges of impact and benefit for Canada. International academic collaborators are expected to have already secured funding from their own national funding agency for the collaborative project and

identified the Canadian academic researcher(s) in their proposal. This proposal must have been peer-reviewed. The eligible Canadian researchers participating in the international project can then apply for a Collaboration grant to cover the costs of their participation in the global-scale project. The funding obtained by the international academic collaborator(s) will be recognized for cost sharing. This funding must be at least equal to the amount requested from NSERC.

Eligibility:

- If you are a Canadian university researcher who is [eligible](#) to receive NSERC funds, you can apply on your own or as a team with co-applicants who are also [eligible](#) academic researchers. You and any Canadian co-applicants must have an active NSERC peer-reviewed grant, as primary applicant, at the time of application.
- The Alliance International funding stream is only intended to fund **academic to academic** collaborations. Your international academic collaborator must be the equivalent of an assistant/associate/full professor from an accredited degree-granting postsecondary institution. For this funding opportunity, **non-academic collaborators and partner organizations (private, public or not-for-profit sectors) are not permitted.**

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

Funding Amount and Project Duration: up to \$100,000 per year, for up to three years

Internal Deadline: 10 business days before submission to NSERC

External Deadline: ongoing

The Association of Commonwealth Universities – Funding opportunities for faculty/staff members and students

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is the world’s first and oldest international university network, established in 1913 to provide a forum for universities to share information, knowledge and ideas. USask is a member of ACU.

ACU provides funding opportunities to faculty/staff members and students at [ACU member universities](#). The upcoming awards in 2025 are listed below (please click on the name of each award to visit the program webpage):

Award	Opening	Closing	Description
“Writing for the media” training with Universal Impact/The Conversation	04 February 2025	08 April 2025	Training programme for early- and mid-career researchers at ACU member universities run by Universal Impact / The Conversation.
Supporting Research Community Training	Grants 04 February 2025	08 April 2025	Grants for ACU member universities to provide training programmes to researchers, covering essential skills to enable them to succeed in their careers. (Formerly known as Early Career Researcher Training Grants.)
HR in HE Community Grants	07 March 2025	05 May 2025	Grants for staff working in human resources to support their professional development and the

			strengthening of HR processes/structures at ACU member universities.
Gender Grants	07 March 2025	05 May 2025	Funding for ACU member universities to train staff and support initiatives that will boost gender equity and equality.
Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships 2024–25: cycle 2	09 April 2025	04 June 2025	Fully funded master’s degree (maximum two-years) at an ACU member university in a low- or middle-income country. Open to applicants from Commonwealth countries.
Early Career Conference Grants	01 May 2025	26 June 2025	Grants for early career researchers at ACU member universities to participate in conferences, both in-person and virtual.
ACU Fellowships	01 May 2025	26 June 2025	Fellowships for academic and professional staff at ACU member universities to promote the exchange of knowledge, skills and ideas between members.

For more information about the ACU, please visit its [website](#).

Google.org Accelerator: Generative AI open call

This global open call is looking for nonprofits, civic entities, academic institutions, and social enterprises to apply to participate in the Generative AI Accelerator.

Selected organizations will receive a share of \$30M alongside 6 months of structured support with access to dedicated pro bono assistance from Google employees, technical training, and Google Cloud credits to build socially impactful gen AI-powered solutions across Google.org’s three focus areas: Knowledge, Skills, and Learning; Scientific Advancement; and Resilient Communities. For more information, please visit the [program website](#).

Funding Amount: US\$500k to US\$2M

Project Duration: 6 months

Application Deadline: 10 February 2025

Academics Without Borders – Volunteering opportunity with Uganda

[Academics Without Borders](#) (AWB) is a Canadian nonprofit organization. The University of Saint Joseph Mbarara (USJM) is a relatively new institution that commenced operations in August 2018 under a provisional license granted by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). Among its core objectives, USJM is committed to promoting quality research and fostering innovation across its staff, students, communities, and key stakeholders.

This project aims to develop a comprehensive research policy for USJM, addressing both its operational needs and accreditation requirements. The project will begin with the volunteer conducting a thorough

literature review on university research policies. In collaboration with the project leads, key stakeholders will then be identified and organized for consultation to inform the policy development process.

The project will begin with remote collaboration and a working visit to the University of Saint Joseph Mbarara is also anticipated. During the on-site visit, the volunteer will conduct consultations with key stakeholders and work with project leads to develop the draft research policy.

Location: Mbarara, Uganda. This project will be conducted both online and in person.

Number of Volunteers: 1

AWB is looking for a faculty member (working or retired) with a PhD in a relevant field such as education, research administration, or policy studies and with extensive experience in academic research, including conducting studies, publishing in peer-reviewed journals, and managing research projects. Applicants should have excellent strong analytical skills, a collaborative mindset, effective communication and organizational skills and be excited about the role of higher education in global development. Those with experience working in academic settings in low and middle-income countries are especially encouraged to apply.

Start Date and Duration:

Ideally, the volunteer will be able to start online collaboration as soon as possible and conduct the on-site work in June 2025. Where possible, dates of international travel will be adjusted to the availability of the successful applicant. The successful candidate should expect to be engaged in project activities for up to one year, with the specific time commitment varying from week to week.

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

Application Deadline: 03 March 2025



BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

For more information,
research.services@usask.ca

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You can manage your research listserv subscriptions [online](#).