

# 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

### 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](mailto:cfi.support@usask.ca).

### USSU Undergraduate Symposium

The USSU annual Symposium is a valuable opportunity for undergraduate students to share their research, scholarly, or artistic work as well as building lasting connections with other students from departments and colleges across campus. Participants are also eligible to receive a number of large monetary awards.

Instructors and members of the USask community are encouraged to share this opportunity with undergraduate students. The deadline to register is **17 February 2025**. Register [here](#).

The USSU is also looking for faculty and grad students to judge the symposium. Judges will be provided with a rubric and assigned 2-3 projects from either the morning or afternoon sessions, and then asked to spend 10-15 minutes at each research presentation making notes and filling out the score sheet. At the end of the day, we will compile the results, and winners will be selected for each of the various categories to win awards. Judge registration is available [here](#).

**Deadline/Date/Register/Funding Amount:** Day Month Year

This event is open to the University Community and all are invited to visit this showcase of student work on 26 February 2025 on the North Concourse of Place Riel.

Please email Vice President Elisabeth Bauman at [vpacademic@ussu.ca](mailto:vpacademic@ussu.ca) or [symposium@ussu.ca](mailto:symposium@ussu.ca) with any questions about the event or to obtain advertising material.

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## 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](mailto:Candace.leuschen@usask.ca)

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## Collaborative Energy, Minerals, and Society Research Award

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) and University of Regina (URegina) are excited to announce a call for proposals for the new, jointly funded *Collaborative Energy, Minerals, and Society Research Award*. The award will support USask and URegina faculty members to co-supervise an undergraduate summer student to support a joint research project around Saskatchewan's energy transition, critical mineral resource development, and/or understanding societal impacts of these.

**Awards available:** 2 USask awards, 2 URegina awards (4 total)

**Individual grant amount:** up to \$12,000/award

**Deadline to apply:** 14 February 2025 at 9:00am

**Award duration:** Four months May to August (2025)

**Competition Details:** [online](#)

**Application Form:** [online](#)

All applications will be submitted to [راسي.support@usask.ca](mailto:راسي.support@usask.ca) by 9:00am on Monday, 14 February 2025. All submissions are subject to compliance checks over the following five business days. Contact Meaghan Risling at [راسي.support@usask.ca](mailto:راسي.support@usask.ca) with any questions.

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## 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.

<b>Stage 1</b>	3 March 2025	Expression of Interest (EOI) deadline
<b>Stage 2</b>	12 May 2025	Theme Area and Nominee Submissions deadline
	27 May 2025	Applicants notified
<b>Stage 3</b>	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](mailto:rasl.support@usask.ca).

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## **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](mailto:programme.recherche@mce.gouv.qc.ca).

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## 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](mailto:undergraduate.research@usask.ca) with any questions.

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## Mitacs Accelerate Applications Now Open Without Institutional Limits

The USask research community can now submit Mitacs [Accelerate](#) applications, including joint applications with NSERC Alliance and SSHRC programs, without institutional allocation limits. Faculty may apply immediately—no need to wait until April 1st, regardless of project size.

For the 2025-26 fiscal year (01 April 2025 –31 March 2026), Mitacs has removed institutional allocation requirements, offering greater flexibility for project submissions in all disciplines. Usask faculty should

coordinate applications directly with Mitacs' Senior Advisor, Business Development, Dr. Zsuzsa Papp at [zpapp@mitacs.ca](mailto:zpapp@mitacs.ca). This is a great opportunity to access Mitacs funding right away.

Further details include:

- **Accelerate** supports research, while the **Business Strategy Internship (BSI)** program supports innovation projects in all disciplines. Social sciences and humanities, policy, natural and life sciences, engineering, computer science, business, etc are supported.
- Students, graduate students, recent graduates, and postdoctoral fellows on Mitacs-funded projects need to be given the opportunity to communicate and work with the partner organization outside of the academic lab or office
- Both programs are available to support summer students, part-time students, and non-degree students as well
- Multiple organizations can work with multiple academic partners and students on large projects across Canadian provinces with Mitacs support.
- **Funding amount:** minimum \$7,500 - no upper limit, scalable
- **Partner organization contribution:** min \$2,500 + tax
- **Project duration:** 4 months-4 years
- **Deadline:** no deadline to apply
- **Selection:** not a competitive process. All eligible projects that meet Mitacs criteria can receive funding

## 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](#).

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## 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.

**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](mailto:ccunningham@shrf.ca))

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## The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency Launches New Research Vision and Support Unit

After several years of hard work and planning, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) has launched a new vision for fostering research across the continuum of cancer care that addresses the unique and diverse needs of the population, generates innovative and implementable solutions to improve cancer outcomes, and strengthens the delivery of cancer services across Saskatchewan. Learn more about their plans in their latest public report, “**Research – Care and Hope through Discovery and Innovation,**” on their [website](#).

One of the first steps toward realizing this vision was the formation of a new department called “Research Development & Strategy” in October 2023. This department focuses on maturing the SCA’s research program through the development of support resources, training, infrastructure, and the management of a new Research Support Unit (RSU). The RSU serves as the central point of intake for all research-related inquiries and coordination of support and approvals. All updated policies, procedures, and guidelines for conducting research at the SCA can be found at <https://saskcancer.ca/research/research-support-unit>. On the RSU’s webpage, you’ll also find a link to an [Intake Form](#), which serves as the method for requesting support or access to SCA-based resources for research, or to notify the SCA of any project changes or progress updates.

Any general inquiries can be directed to [RSU@saskcancer.ca](mailto:RSU@saskcancer.ca).

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## SHRF Matters Newsletter

Please see below for highlights from the 03 February 2025 [SHRF Matters Newsletter](#):

- [2024-25 Santé Award Winners](#)
- [SHRF Grant Team Support](#)
- [HRDP-SK - Health Research Data Platform Saskatchewan](#)

## Funding Opportunities

- [Mobilize Grant: Truth & Action - Continuous Deadline \\*NEW\\*](#)
- [Mobilize Grant: Open Call - Deadline 06 February 2025](#)
- [Align Grant - Deadline 27 March 2025](#)

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## Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation Funding Competitions

In 2025, the [Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation](#) will hold two rounds of competitions for **proof-of-principle basic science/preclinical proposals** in the field of **cancer research**. The Foundation is looking to support non-mainstream hypotheses and non-conservative projects which do not fit traditional funding mechanisms and have not received previous grants/awards. This opportunity is intended to attract emerging ideas which are high risk/-high reward and for which preliminary data is not required. Accordingly, proposal hypotheses must be based on extensive literature review and logical substantiation.

Proposals may originate from young or established researchers within their field of expertise or may be inspired by innovations and discoveries from adjacent or non-related areas, including further exploration of collateral findings discovered ‘by accident’, and/or other methods. For illustration purposes, consider well known projects such as the ‘grapefruit effect’ (Dr. David Bailey), H. pylori and gastritis & peptic ulcer (Dr. Robin Warren), mRNA-based gene therapy (Dr. Katalin Kariko), and the discovery of an RNA catalytic function (Dr. Thomas Cech) as examples of novel discovery.

They invite applications from Canadian qualified donees, including both single- and multi-investigator teams. Proposals will be evaluated based on novelty and feasibility.

This award will cover up to \$450,000 per project over three years, with the possibility of extension and renewals.

### SUMMER

**Expression of Intent** – 15 April 2025 - 11:59 PM EST

**Full application (upon invitation)** – 31 May 2025 - 11:59 PM EST

**Decision notification** – late July

**Funding available** – August-September 2025

### FALL

**Expression of Intent** – 15 August 2025 - 11:59 PM EST



**Full application (upon invitation)** – 01 October 2025 - 11:59 PM EST

**Decision notification** – late November

**Funding available** – January 2026

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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## Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Information Session: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Now that Canada has partnered with Horizon Europe, Canadian organizations are fully eligible to join pan-European consortia and apply for EU funding. In 2025, over €100 million will be available for Battery Research and Innovation projects.

The Delegation of the European Union to Canada is hosting an upcoming Information Session on Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) scheduled for 20 February 2025, at 09:00 ET / 15:00 CET.

This webinar will feature expert insights on Do's and Don'ts for writing a proposal, navigating the evaluation process, testimonials, and more.

Please [register here](#) for this information session.

Kindly note that this event will be conducted entirely in English.

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## Morris Animal Foundation: Equine Behavior Grants

### Morris Animal Foundation: Equine Behavior Grants

The mission of Morris Animal Foundation is to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. To achieve this aim, Morris Animal Foundation funds hypothesis-driven, humane research projects with high scientific merit and the potential for significant impact. Our donors are interested in funding research that results in impactful animal health achievements and benefits both scientific and non-scientific stakeholders including veterinarians, horse owners, communities and the environment.

We are pleased to announce we are accepting pilot study proposals for the study of equine behavior/welfare.

- The focus should be on improving the lives of horses by increasing our understanding of the behavioral domain. This includes areas such as ethology, cognition, learning, stereotypies, separation anxiety, affiliative behavior toward (bonding with) humans, the effects of equine temperament on welfare, and equine psychopharmacology. Projects using behavioral measurements simply as a tool to address non-behavioral hypotheses are not of interest.
- Pilot study proposals should be aimed at generating data to prove the viability of a novel approach or idea.
- The project may involve domesticated or wild horses.

**Funding Amount:** 20,000 USD

**Project Duration:** Maximum 12 months

**Internal Deadline:** 05 March 2025, 4:59 pm E.T.

**External Deadline:** 19 March 2025, 4:59 pm E.T.

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## Mitacs Globalink Research Award (GRA) Co-funding Stream – Last Quota Available for 2024/25 Fiscal Year

The **Mitacs Globalink Research Award (GRA)** is open to full-time senior undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows. Successful applicants will receive a \$6,000 research award to conduct a 12- to 24-week research project under the joint supervision of a home and host professor, either coming to Canada from an eligible country or going to an eligible country from Canada.

**There are two streams of Mitacs GRA Program:**

#1 International partner stream

- Under this stream, projects that are being proposed with a Mitacs international partner do not require co-funding from the Canadian university.

- The list of Mitacs international partners can be found [here](#).
- Under this stream, there is no limit on the number of applications submitted from USask.

#### #2 Allocation stream (also called Co-funding stream)

- Under this stream, projects that are being proposed without a Mitacs international partner require \$2,000 co-funding per award. At USask, this \$2,000 cash contribution needs to be provided by the faculty member who supervises outbound / inbound GRA student.
- Under this stream, Mitacs allocated 7 quotas for USask in fiscal year 2024-25. **Currently, only one quota remains available.** This co-funding application is required to be finalized with signatures/institutional approval and submitted to Mitacs before 31 March 2025.

Eligible faculty members from all disciplines are welcome to apply.

#### How to apply:

- Please read through the program details and eligibility requirements on Mitacs GRA website, [here](#).
- If your application falls under the Allocation stream (also called Co-funding stream), please notify the International Office at [international.office@usask.ca](mailto:international.office@usask.ca) as soon as possible. We will work with you to submit it to Mitacs GRA portal. (If your proposed project falls under the International Partner stream, this quota does not apply to your application.)
- **Please note that with only one quota remaining, applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.**

**Deadline to notify the International Office:** 21 February 2025

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## The Avery Dennison Foundation Grants – Education Access, Environmental Sustainability and Secure Livelihoods

**The Avery Dennison Foundation (ADF)** is a global funder that supports and builds partnerships with nonprofit/non-governmental organizations in communities across the globe, with an emphasis on geographies of high need.

The Avery Dennison Foundation aligns their grantmaking with the UN SDGs. Within ADF's pillars, nearly 90% of supported projects are based outside of the United States. The Foundation accepts grant requests year-round and makes funding decisions on a quarterly basis.

ADF gives to three impact areas: education access, environmental sustainability and secure livelihoods.

**Funding Amount:** USD \$50,000-\$100,000

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

**External Deadline:** Ongoing (Decisions are made on a quarterly basis)

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**BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS**

For more information, email [research.services@usask.ca](mailto:research.services@usask.ca)

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