

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

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, 26 August 2025 (2 PM -3 PM)** has been targeted for those interested in the **February 2026** 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. USask will also submit JELFs to CFI in October 2026.

February 2026 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 **16 October 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.

International Opportunities and Updates

SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants – Last Round of Competition in 2025

Destination Horizon Grants support researchers affiliated with eligible Canadian postsecondary institutions to build capacity, foster existing partnerships, and further develop networks and/or consortia with European Union and other “associated countries” researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to Horizon Europe—Pillar II calls for proposals.

Destination Horizon Grants are not intended to support implementation of Horizon Europe projects. Instead, the grants support activities between researchers that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges;
- scholarly exchanges;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges between researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions and researchers, students and non-academic partners from the EU and other associated countries.

Funding amount: up to \$15,000

Duration: one year

External deadline: 22 September 2025

Internal EOI deadline: 25 August 2025

Please note that a postsecondary institution may only submit up to three Destination Horizon Grant applications for a given deadline so internal selection must occur prior to submission. To submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for consideration to apply for the 22 September 2025 deadline please send the following documents to international.office@usask.ca with the subject line “Destination Horizon Grants” by **25 August 2025**. The email should include the following attachments:

- Project Description (max. 1000 words)

- o a description of the existing relationships with researchers, partners, networks and/or consortia from European Union and associated countries;
 - o a description of the overall research goals and specific research objectives of the researchers, partners, networks and/or consortia;
 - o a description of how Destination Horizon funding and host contributions will support the further development of the network and/or consortium in order to apply to a future Horizon Europe—Pillar II call for proposal;
 - o the nature and extent of training, mentoring and employability activities for students, emerging scholars and/or other highly qualified personnel, if applicable; and
 - o details on how all activities can be undertaken within one year.
- List of Applicants (please provide name, affiliation, email address, and role in this application)
 - Funds requested from SSHRC ([template at this link](#))
 - Matching funds from other sources ([template at this link](#)) Please note: SSHRC requires a 100% matching fund in the form of cash contributions.

**Letter of support will be required at the full application stage.

For more information about this grant, please visit the [program website](#).

Looking for Partners for Horizon Europe Proposals – One-pager template available

If you are looking for partners to collaboratively apply for Horizon Europe funding opportunities, you are encouraged to complete the [Call for Partners_University of Saskatchewan_Canada.docx](#) form and send it to USask International Office at international.office@usask.ca. The USask international research facilitation team is here to support you in connecting with networking resources and opportunities, identifying potential partners, developing a strong application strategy and navigating the submission process.

Please also consider signing up for the introductory [Horizon Europe Canvas Course](#), a self-paced course designed to support USask researchers and their teams in exploring and applying for Horizon Europe funding. This course will guide you through the fundamentals of the program, help you assess your readiness to engage with Horizon Europe, and outline practical next steps for getting involved - [Horizon Europe Readiness Checklist for USask Researchers](#).

News - Republic of Korea Joins Horizon Europe

In July 2025, the Republic of Korea became the first Asian country to formally associate with [Horizon Europe](#). Korean researchers will be able to join and lead international research consortia, access funding and collaborate with leading research institutions across Europe and beyond to tackle global challenges. The Republic of Korea will also contribute financially to the programme's budget.

As of today, [20 countries are associated](#) with Horizon Europe, including Canada.

USask researchers are encouraged to collaborate with partners from all the eligible countries, including the Republic of Korea, to submit grant applications to Horizon Europe programs.

EURAXESS Webinar: ERC Grants Q&A and Testimonial

[EURAXESS North America](#) is hosting an online webinar for global innovators interested in applying for European Research Council (ERC) grants under Pillar I of Horizon Europe. Webinar attendees will hear from officials from the ERC Executive Agency, which administers ERC grants, as well as current ERC grantees, who will share their experiences applying for the prestigious bottom-up grants and setting up their labs in Europe. Please note that, although Canada's associate country status only covers Pillar II of Horizon Europe, Canadian researchers also have limited access to certain components of Pillar I.

Date: Thursday, 21 August 2025 at 10:00 am MDT (12:00 pm EDT)

Location: Online via Zoom

For more information, please click this [link](#).

European Research and Innovation Days 2025

European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission's flagship research and innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, stakeholders, and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. This year's edition, "Together, Towards a Research and Innovation Union," comes at a pivotal moment of discussions on the EU's next long-term budget and key policy actions such as the [Startup and Scaleup Strategy](#), the [European Life Sciences Strategy](#), the [AI in Science Strategy](#), and the [European Innovation](#) and [European Research Area](#) Acts.

Dates: 16-17 September 2025

Location: Brussels, Belgium, and Online

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

European Battery Innovation Days

At the fifth edition of the **Battery Innovation Days (BID)**, leading policymakers, scientists, and industry representatives will discuss the future of battery R&I in Europe. Participants will discover the latest battery trends and technologies, meet industry leaders, network with relevant stakeholders, and participate in site visits. Find more information [here](#).

Dates: 02-03 December 2025

Location: Graz, Austria, and Online

IDRC call for concept notes: Socio-economic impacts of artificial intelligence in Africa

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), as part of the Artificial Intelligence for Development (AI4D) program, announced a call for concept notes on the socio-economic impacts of artificial intelligence (AI) in Africa.

Thematic focus areas:

Concept notes should address one or several of the main themes specified below, with the types of empirical questions that fit within them.

- Labour and Livelihoods
- Productivity and Economic Transformation
- Poverty and Inequality
- Global Inequality and AI Colonialism

Eligibility

Concept notes must be submitted by organizations registered or incorporated in African LMIC countries, as listed in [Annex 3](#). These could include, inter alia, research institutions, universities, think tanks, network secretariats, associations, civil society organizations, non-profits, or the private sector.

In case of a consortium application, individual members can be based in different countries and the non-leading members may be based in countries other than LMIC countries in sub-Saharan Africa. However, the leading institution can only be based in an eligible country (please see [Annex 3](#) for a list of eligible countries).

The following eligibility criteria also apply:

1. Research team composition: Proposals may be submitted by individual organizations, or by consortia of up to five organizations.

2. Team expertise: Teams must demonstrate relevant expertise in social science research, AI and digital governance and related fields.
3. Institutional capacity: The lead organization must have the administrative and financial capacity to manage the grant and comply with reporting requirements.
4. Geographic focus: Research must be focused on Ssub-Saharan African contexts, with clear relevance to local or regional policy, governance, or development priorities.

Funding amount: up to four grants of up to CAD 1 million will be issued.

Duration: up to 36 months

Internal deadline: 03 September 2025 ([International Office internal deadline](#))

External deadline: 17 September 2025

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

German Research Foundation - Initiation of International Collaboration Program

DFG (German Research Foundation) launched this program to support German researchers interested in establishing collaborative scientific relationships with partners abroad to apply for funding for trips abroad, guest visits or for exploratory workshops.

USask researchers are encouraged to work with their German partners to explore collaboration opportunities with the support of this funding opportunity.

Eligibility Requirements

Researchers who have already achieved their doctorates and who are working in the German scientific system may apply.

Funding is available for the following collaborative measures:

- Trips abroad (max. three months) or guest visits in Germany (max. three month);
- Exploratory workshops.

Deadline: Proposals may be submitted at any time.

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

Internal Call for Applications: Innovation Saskatchewan Top-Up Funding for Eligible DAAD Programs

The Government of Saskatchewan's innovation agency and the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) committed to supporting joint efforts to promote the international exchange of students and researchers and research and academic collaboration between the Saskatchewan and German universities and research institutions.

Through this initiative, the top-up funding is offered to the students, faculty and post-docs at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) who have been successful in obtaining financing through one of the eligible DAAD programs ([link](#)) to cover/reimburse costs associated with DAAD program, but not covered by the award. Faculty members are encouraged to consider supporting any postdocs they are working with to apply to eligible DAAD programs to support their research stay at USask or in Germany.

Eligible expenses include:

- Travel related expenses: airfare from Germany to/from SK; reasonable accommodation costs; meal per diems; ground transportation
- Research related expenses: direct costs; materials and supplies; project specific space rental; use of specialized equipment.

Priority Areas

The **priority areas** defined by Innovation Saskatchewan apply to both students and faculty and include:

- **Health** (e.g., One Health)
- **Synchrotron sciences**
- **Digital technologies, industry, and space** (e.g., quantum computing, artificial intelligence)
- **Food security, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, and environment/climate change**
- **Energy** (including nuclear, renewable, and alternative energy sources)

How to apply:

Application and supporting documents provided to the International Office at international.office@usask.ca with subject line DAAD-IS Top-Up Funding Application:

1. Award letter from DAAD;
2. Copy of the application package submitted to DAAD;
3. Provide the following information in email text:
 - Indicate that this is a Stream 1 application
 - DAAD program name (eligible [programs listed here](#))
 - Lead applicant and affiliated unit as well as a list of participating USask team members
 - Relation of the proposed activities to one of the abovementioned priority areas
 - Outcomes to be achieved in relation to participating in the DAAD program
 - Top-up funding budget; and
 - Budget justification

If you have any questions and/or would like to discuss your application with the International Office team, please contact international.office@usask.ca with subject line DAAD-IS Top-Up Funding Inquiry.

Competition open date: 10 April 2025

Competition close date: 01 October 2025 or until the funding is exhausted

DAAD activity must be completed by: 20 January 2026

Register for USask's People Around the World (PAW) Congress

Registration for the [People Around the World \(PAW\) 2025 International Congress](#) is open until Friday October 10th, 2025 at 6:00pm CST. The PAW Congress is taking place on our University of Saskatchewan (USask) Saskatoon campus from 22-24 October 2025.

This year's theme of *Healthy people, healthy planet: Driving innovation with data* will examine the benefits of shared perspectives, highlighting solutions to support local and global communities guided by data-driven insights and innovative technologies.

The Congress will offer an action-packed three days that feature keynotes, panel sessions, student poster sessions and more from leading institutions and experts around the world who are at the forefront of health and data innovation. [Check out the website for recently added program updates.](#)

Learn from Timothy Caulfield—best-selling author and professor of health law and policy—as the opening keynote speaker and from André Picard—award-winning national health writer and author—as the closing keynote speaker.

Register now and join researchers, scholars, industry partners, government representatives and community members for this dynamic event!

Learn more and register [here](#).

Eureka Network Canada Call for Proposals (Summer-Fall 2025)

Eureka is the world's largest public network for international cooperation in R&D and innovation. This competitive call for proposals is open to Canadian SMEs and organizations from Eureka member countries who wish to form project consortia to perform collaborative projects focused on developing innovative products, processes, or technology-based services with a civilian purpose in any technological and market area. In Canada, this call for proposals is offered through the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP).

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

Canadian registration deadline: 05 September 2025

Canadian expression of interest deadline: 19 September 2025

International consortium project proposal deadline: 21 November 2025

Eurostars Call for Proposals

Eurostars is the largest international funding program for SMEs seeking to collaborate on research and development projects to create innovative products, processes, or services for commercialization. This call is open to 37 participating countries, including Canada. Canadian SME participants in Eurostars projects receive advisory services and funding support through the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP). Eligibility requirements and application instructions for Canadians are available [here](#).

NRC IRAP registration deadline: 06 August 2025

Eurostars application deadline: 04 September 2025



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For more information, email research.services@usask.ca

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