

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

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## Internal Research Programs

### NSERC Discovery Grant and Research Tools & Instruments Grant Oct/Nov

#### Application: Internal Review/Intention to Apply

If you are applying for a [NSERC Discovery Grant \(DG\)](#) and/or a [Research Tools and Instruments Grant \(RTI\)](#) this year, we would encourage you to participate in the Internal Review program offered by OVPR.

Your proposal will be forwarded to your suggested reviewers, providing an opportunity to get valuable feedback on your grant application. In the event of an unsuccessful proposal, Internal Review of your DG application is one of the factors required to be eligible to apply for President's NSERC funding.

- To take part in the Internal Review program please complete the [2025 Intention to Apply/Request for Internal Review form](#)
- Guidance on the steps and important dates can be found in the [2025 Internal Review Timeline](#)

**The USask Intention to Apply/Request for Internal Review deadline is 25 July 2025**

For more information, please contact Michaela Lynds, Research Development Specialist (NSERC) at [grant.review@usask.ca](mailto:grant.review@usask.ca).

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## International Opportunities and Updates

### Internal Call for Applications: Innovation Saskatchewan Top-Up Funding for Eligible DAAD Programs and Germany-USask Partnership Building Activities

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 Stream 1 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.

Stream 2 of the funding may be applied toward joint initiatives with German partners, that do not require a successful DAAD program application. Eligible activities may include mutual delegation visits, alumni events, and other similar activities that will support increased engagement between the USask and German research community.

## **Eligibility**

### **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.
- Event related expenses: venue rental costs; catering (alcohol excluded); printing of signage or other similar materials

## **Priority Areas**

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

1. **Health** (e.g., One Health)
2. **Synchrotron sciences**
3. **Digital technologies, industry, and space** (e.g., quantum computing, artificial intelligence)
4. **Food security, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, and environment/climate change**
5. **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](mailto:international.office@usask.ca) with subject line DAAD-IS Top-Up Funding Application:

## **Stream 1 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

## **Stream 2 Application**

### **Provide the following information in email text:**

- Indicate that this is a Stream 2 application
- 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 organizing the partnership engagement activities
- 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](mailto: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

**For Steam 1, DAAD activity must be completed by:** 20 January 2026

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## USask People Around the World Congress – Registration Open!

Early-bird registration is now open for the [People Around the World \(PAW\) 2025 International Congress](#) 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.

We're excited to announce this year's opening and closing keynote speakers, who will no doubt provide useful insights and fresh perspectives on areas of great importance.

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.

Take advantage of discounted rates and join researchers, scholars, industry partners, government representatives and community members for this dynamic event.

Learn more and register [here](#).

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## Horizon Europe (HORIZON): MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 (HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01)

[MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025](#) offers several types of action under the common umbrella of MSCA for 2025: *Industrial Doctorates, Joint Doctorates, etc.*

MSCA Doctoral Networks will implement doctoral programmes, by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond. MSCA Doctoral Networks are indeed open to the participation of organizations from third countries, in view of fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers.

These doctoral programmes will respond to well-identified needs in various research and innovation areas, expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer training in research-related, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability (e.g. entrepreneurship, commercialization of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication). Proposals for doctoral networks can reflect existing or planned research partnerships among the participating organizations.

**Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:**

### ***For supported doctoral candidates***

- New research and transferable skills and competences, leading to improved employability and career prospects within and outside academia;
- New knowledge allowing the conversion of ideas into products and services, where relevant;
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers, as well as with the general public, that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact.

### ***For participating organizations***

- Improved quality, relevance and sustainability of doctoral training programmes and supervision arrangements;
- Enhanced cooperation and transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines;
- Increased integration of training and research activities between participating organizations;
- Boosted R&I capacity;
- Increased internationalization and attractiveness;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organizations.

Also **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships: Q&A and testimonials Session on 16 July** offers extended Q&A featuring testimonials to give more hands-on perspectives and additional answers to your questions about the MSCA-PF. More information [here](#). Watch info session [here](#).

**Internal Deadline:** 10 November 2025 - 10 business days prior to the external deadline ([International Office internal deadline](#))

**External Deadline:** 25 November 2025 at 17:00:00 Brussels time

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## **Horizon Europe Drop-In Consultations with the International Office**

Horizon Europe offers multiple opportunities for Canadian researchers to join multinational projects tackling global challenges, from climate change to health, digital transformation, and more. Have questions about Horizon Europe? The International Office team is here to support you throughout the Horizon Europe process and help you lay a strong foundation for success. Drop in for one-on-one support, guidance on how to get started, find partners and develop a strong proposal.

### **Drop-in times:**

Tuesday, 22 July, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Wednesday, 23 July, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

Tuesday, 29 July, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Thursday, 31 July, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

The International Office (Rm 222) is located on the second floor of the Thorvaldson Building.

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. The course provides an overview of Horizon Europe, covering its structure, key priorities, and funding opportunities under Pillars I and II. It offers insights into the Horizon Europe Portal, its resources, and services available at USask to leverage Horizon Europe opportunities. This course also serves as a platform to help you identify/connect with potential collaborators, both within USask and externally.

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## **VELUX STIFTUNG: Forestry**

Incorporating practice into research and using research to inform practice is essential to change and progress. Therefore, support is available for

### **Research projects:**

Innovative, novel, outside-of-the-box research that has a high potential to change forestry practice. The project should aim to address topics of broad interest and employ a participatory approach that includes stakeholders. It can also be interdisciplinary. Additionally, it is mandatory to allocate 10% of the budget for knowledge transfer.

**Science-practice projects:**

Science-practice projects aim to facilitate collaboration between researchers and practitioners to improve accessibility and comprehensibility of specified forest management findings relevant to stakeholders. These projects should facilitate dialogue, knowledge exchange or co-production resulting in deliverables such as tools and resources or communication products. Applications must demonstrate the commitment of the collaborating parties and the continuity of the approach.

**Program goals:**

The overall objective of the funding program is to improve sustainable forest management that addresses the pressing problems of climate change and biodiversity loss as well as society's need for forest products.

- The program shall contribute to a change of perspective in sustainable forest management and in the use and value of forests.
- The program shall contribute to the integration of evidence-based science into forestry practice.
- Financial innovation and improved framework conditions should provide leverage for the implementation of sustainable forest management, resulting in forests that can conserve biodiversity, act as a carbon sink and supply forest products.

**Thematic focus:**

- Innovative and integrative sustainable forest management to develop and provide solutions for adapting to or mitigating climate change, promoting biodiversity, providing resilient ecosystems services and supplying sustainable forest products.
- Incentives or tools for action and behavioural change towards sustainable forest management by transforming theoretical and abstract values of forest products and services.

The details of the current call for 2025 can be viewed [here](#).

**Duration of the projects:** 1 to max. 4 years

**Partnerships:** At least 2 partners from different institutions necessary

**Funding:** Up to max. CHF 100'000 per year

**Internal Deadline:** 08 September 2025 - 10 business days prior to the external deadline ([International Office internal deadline](#))

**External Deadline:** 22 September 2025 at 23:59 CEST, with a final decision on proposals in March 2026

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## **John H. McArthur Research Fellowship (2025–2026)**

The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) invites applications for the [2025–2026 John H. McArthur Research Fellowship](#), an initiative supporting original, policy-relevant research on Canada's engagement with the Indo-Pacific.

**About the Fellowship**

Established in 2021 to honour the legacy of the late Dr. John H. McArthur — former Chair of APF Canada's Board of Directors and Dean Emeritus of Harvard Business School — the [Fellowship](#) supports mid-career scholars conducting forward-looking research on the most pressing challenges and opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region.

For the 2025–2026 cycle, the Fellowship has been expanded to support four Fellows whose work explores the intersection of Canada–U.S. relations and Indo-Pacific engagement. This year's program responds to the shifting global order, renewed trade and security uncertainty, and Canada's evolving strategic priorities.



**The foundation welcomes applications from scholars whose work addresses topics such as:**

- Regional security and strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific
- Canada–U.S. policy alignment on trade, technology, or critical minerals
- Critical minerals strategy and resource security
- Supply chain resilience and economic diversification
- Digital trade governance and emerging technology standards
- New institutional or diplomatic frameworks for Canada’s Indo-Pacific engagement
- Defence industrial base co-operation and regional security frameworks

**Deliverables:**

- 1 flagship research paper (6–8,000 words)
- 2 policy briefs or op-eds
- 1 closed-door briefing in Ottawa
- Participation in an in-person symposium in Toronto (April 2026)
- Media interviews or public engagement

**Eligibility**

- Mid-career professionals with 10–20 years of academic, policy, or relevant field experience
- Applicants from academic, think tank, public policy, or international affairs backgrounds
- Canadian or U.S. citizens or permanent residents are preferred, but applications from other qualified candidates whose work aligns with the Fellowship’s aims will also be considered.

**Submission Deadline:** 10 August 2025, at 11:59 p.m. PT

**Number of Fellowships:** 4

**Grant Amount:** C\$25,000 per Fellow

**Term:** 01 September 2025 – 31 July 2026

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## **SST, Swiss Foundation for Solidarity in Tourism**

The **SST Foundation** supports organizations, projects and initiatives that pursue sustainable tourism development. Through its contributions, the SST Foundation helps to secure the livelihoods of the population in tourist destinations, to improve their economic conditions and to protect the environment. It also helps to promote initiatives and new ideas for a balanced cultural exchange between tourists and locals. Applications for a grant may be submitted. The submission deadlines for project proposals are 31 May 2025, 15 August 2025, and 24 October 2025. Please observe the Guidelines for Grant Applicants and fill in [the form provided](#). **Please note:** Applications that have already been submitted and reviewed by the Foundation will not be accepted and evaluated a second time.

The Foundation supports projects and organizations in Switzerland and worldwide,

- which are suited to improve the economic, cultural or social conditions of the population in tourist destination, ...
- which contribute to sustainable tourism development in tourist receiving countries,
- which contribute to intercultural understanding between people from tourist sending and receiving countries.

**Grant Amount:** between CHF 5,000 and CHF 25,000.

**Internal Deadline:** 10 business days prior to the external deadline ([International Office internal deadline](#))

**External Deadlines:** 15 August 2025 & 24 October 2025

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## **SCIC and Spur Change: Baseline Study Training**

SCIC and Spur Change are excited to invite you to a hands-on, bilingual training **Baseline Study Training**, designed specifically for small and medium-sized organizations (SMOs) working in international cooperation.

Hosted by SCIC and Spur Change, this two-part online workshop will strengthen your skills and confidence in planning and conducting effective baseline studies.

**By the end of the training, you will:**

- Understand how to align baseline studies with Canada's
- Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP) and Whistler Principles
- Know when and how to use qualitative vs. quantitative methods
- Learn how to apply gender-sensitive, ethical approaches to data collection
- Be able to create SMART and standardized indicators and design robust plans to measure them

The training will be facilitated by **Dr. Denise Buchner** who brings decades of expertise offering technical and evaluation support to international, non-governmental, and private programs/projects, often within challenging contexts.

This training is free and open to Canadian SMOs. Spaces are limited to 30 participants, with a maximum of three per organization. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French.

**Please note that USask has only three spaces.** Please inform the International Office [international.office@usask.ca](mailto:international.office@usask.ca) if you plan to participate.

**Register by August 15, 2025:** <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/1488857736569?aff=oddtcreator>

**Dates and time:** 20 & 27 August 2025 - 9:00–12:00 CST

**Mode:** Online via Zoom

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## **RFP: Play Learn Thrive - Grand Challenges Canada**

Grand Challenges Canada, with support from The LEGO Foundation, has launched [Play Learn Thrive](#)—a new funding opportunity to address gaps in early childhood development in emergencies (ECDiE) and education in emergencies (EiE). This call supports projects that strengthen support systems for children aged **birth to 12 years** in **Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, and Uganda**—especially those whose developmental and educational needs are currently not being met.

**Applicants must:**

1. Have an **active presence** and implement programming directly in at least one of the four countries (Kenya, Jordan, Lebanon and/or Uganda)
2. Be a **legally incorporated not-for-profit organization**
3. Be **legally registered** to operate in at least one of the four eligible countries

**Transition to Scale funding follows a two-stage process:**

1. Screening and project summary
2. Invitation-only full application for shortlisted projects

**Funding available:** \$300,000–\$1,500,000 CAD

**Duration:** Up to 24 months

**Rolling submissions:** 21 January – 27 November 2025

**Internal Deadline:** 10 business days prior to the external deadline ([International Office internal deadline](#))

**External Deadlines to apply:** 21 August and 27 November 2025

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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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