

Office of the Vice-President Research



Research Funding and Support

A weekly update on
funding opportunities,
workshops, and other
support services.

In this Issue – 25 February 2025

USask Workshops and Support Services:

- [CFI-JELF Information Session](#)

Internal Research Programs:

- [Call for Nominations: New and Distinguished Researcher Award](#)

Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities and Updates:

- [Canada Excellence Research Chair \(CERC\) – USask Launch](#)
- [2026 NFRF Transformation Competition](#)

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates:

- [Mitacs Accelerate proposals in Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicines](#)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates:

- [NSERC CREATE - Call for Applications, Institutional Quota, and Internal Selection Process](#)

Social Sciences and Humanities Opportunities and Updates:

- [SSHRC Policy Innovation Partnership Grant](#)

International Opportunities and Updates:

- [Horizon Europe Canada Roadshow in Saskatoon – 14 March 2025](#)
- [2024-2025 USask Internationalization Awards](#)
- [Horizon Europe: Clean Hydrogen Partnership Call for Proposals 2025](#)
- [Save the Date: Online Matchmaking Event for Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Health Project Calls – 27 March 2025](#)
- [Academics Without Borders: Call for Volunteers](#)

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 (upto 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.

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: 5 March 2025

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

Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) – USask EOI Deadline March 3

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

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	03 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 rasi.support@usask.ca.

2026 NFRF Transformation Competition

The **New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF) Transformation** stream is designed to support large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary research projects that address a major challenge with the potential to realize real and lasting change. The challenge may be fundamental, leading to a scientific breakthrough, or applied, with a social, economic, environmental or health impact. Projects are expected to be world-leading, drawing on global research expertise where relevant.

Transformation stream grants will support projects that:

1. tackle a **well-defined** problem or challenge through specific objectives;
2. propose a **novel world-leading** approach that is different from the current state-of-the-art approaches to the issue;
3. are **interdisciplinary**, bringing at least two different disciplinary perspectives to the defined problem; and
4. have the potential to be **transformative**, defined as the potential to **create a significant and real change or impact**—a noticeable leap or tangible breakthrough rather than an incremental advance.

2026 NFRF Transformation competition:

Funding Available: \$\$1.6M - \$3.2M over six years plus up to 25% of the budget for indirect costs.

Deadlines:

1. **Notice of Intent to Apply:** 15 April 2025
2. **Letter of Intent:** 17 June 2025
3. **Full Application (by invitation only):** 03 March 2026

NOI Stage Information Webinar: 11 March 2025, at 1pm eastern. Join via the webinar link [here](#).

If you are interested in applying for this opportunity, please contact rasupport@usask.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:

- Mediphage Bioceuticals
- Octane Orthobiologics
- Axolotl Biosciences
- Telescope Therapeutics
- Epiloid Biotechnology
- Virano Therapeutics
- Feldan Therapeutics
- Mesintel Therapeutics

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](#).

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates

NSERC CREATE - Call for Applications, Institutional Quota, and Internal Selection Process

The **NSERC CREATE** program supports innovative training programs that foster professional skills and improve job readiness for graduate students who are preparing for careers in industry, government, non-governmental organizations, or the academy. Full details about the CREATE program are available [here](#).

NSERC has made significant changes to the CREATE application process. These changes are as follows:

- At the letter of intent (LOI) stage, all applicants are required to submit Form 187, which includes a 3-page description of the training program as well as a 3-page description outlining the excellence of the CREATE team
- The LOI stage will be competitive **only** if the number of LOIs led by USask researchers exceeds our institutional quota.
 - USask can submit an unlimited number of LOIs, but our quota for the CREATE competition is **two**. If more than two CREATE LOIs are submitted from USask, all USask LOIs will be evaluated by NSERC, and only two will be selected to proceed to full proposal.

To be considered for submission of an LOI to NSERC, applicants are required to submit a complete Form 187 (including a Form 100 for the PI) by **14 April 2025**. A panel of CREATE recipients and NSERC scholars will select proposals that will go forward as part of the university's quota. Participation in this process is mandatory to be considered within USask's quota.

In addition to the usual CREATE stream, NSERC has also issued a **special call for this year's competition for applications focused on genomics**. Up to four CREATEs nationally will be funded in this area, and genomics-focused applications will not be included within the university's quota. Applicants applying within this area will still be required to submit LOIs for the April 14 internal deadline.

RASI is happy to support the development of strong LOIs for the internal selection process. If you are interested in discussing your idea for a training program, thinking through the ideal team to deliver on the program's aims, or would like advice and support from RASI's program experts, please reach out to rasi.support@usask.ca.

Mandatory internal deadline: 14 April 2025

NSERC LOI deadline: 01 May 2025

Social Science and Humanities Opportunities and Updates

SSHRC Policy Innovation Partnership Grant

The [SSHRC Policy Innovation Partnership Grant](#) is a pilot funding opportunity to support one partnership between a postsecondary research entity and one or more federal government departments to establish a long-term research program focusing on specific topics in an area of importance to Canada and public decision-makers.

Designed to contribute to Target Area 2025: [Improving Canada's Productivity](#), applicants are invited to propose a research program across a range of topics directly related to policies driving efficiency gains for Canadian

companies, including, for example, technology adoption, innovation and commercialization, firm investment decisions, workforce skills gaps, competitive intensity, the regulatory environment, supply chain management, scalability, monetary and fiscal policy, and managing through economic disruptions, among others.

The partnership is expected to be based within an established research entity at a Canadian postsecondary institution (e.g., institute, centre, lab, hub, observatory, etc.) that has a demonstrated track record in the target area. It will be expected to advance research, capacity, and policy development in the target area by:

- engaging one or more federal government departments to identify and address public policy needs;
- conducting long-term research that generates knowledge with the potential to inform federal policy-making;
- working with, adapting and/or developing comprehensive datasets relevant to the needs of the public policy community and future researchers;
- improving access and use of research knowledge within Canada's policy-making communities; and
- supporting high-quality training experiences for students and/or postdoctoral researchers.

Funding Details: \$400K/year for up to 15 years for a total of up to \$6M. Only one partnership will be funded per competition.

Application Deadline: 10 September 2025

Information Webinar: Wednesday, 26 March 2025, at 1pm ET. Find the webinar link [here](#).

International Opportunities and Updates

Horizon Europe Canada Roadshow in Saskatoon – 14 March 2025

USask International Office is excited to invite you to a rare opportunity for the USask research community to gain insight into Horizon Europe, the world's largest research and innovation funding program.

On **Friday, 14 March 2025**, Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and the European Commission will host a Horizon Europe information session at the **Candle Span room at Innovation Place from 8:30am – 4:00pm (CST)**.

This free, in-person session is designed for researchers and innovators from academia, industry and civil society to learn more about Horizon Europe Funding opportunities directly from experts and insiders of Horizon Europe. Speakers will include representatives from the Canadian National Contact Points for Horizon Europe, the European Commission in Brussels, the European Union Delegation to Canada in Ottawa, EURAXESS North America, and USask faculty members participating in Horizon projects.

Key Topics:

- **Canada's Association to Horizon Europe:** what does it mean for you?
- **Overview of Horizon Europe Pillars I & II:** Detailed insights into various funding opportunities (e.g., for small research groups to conduct bottom-up research, for research consortia to conduct top-down research, and for students, researchers and staff to conduct international visits/training).
- **Guidance on Participation:** Practical advice on where to seek help and how to apply.
- **Administrative, Legal, and Financial Aspects:** Essential information for managing Horizon Europe projects.
- **Participant Testimonials:** Success stories from Canadian researchers.

Registration is required for the free information session.

Please visit [Info Session / Séances d'information: Horizon Europe Tickets, Fri, Mar 14, 2025 at 8:30 AM | Eventbrite](#) to register and learn more. Registration closes on **03 March 2025**.

Connect, learn and advance your research with industry, academic and civic partners.

2024-2025 USask Internationalization Awards

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

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

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

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

Horizon Europe: Clean Hydrogen Partnership Call for Proposals 2025

The [Clean Hydrogen Partnership](#), part of Horizon Europe's European Partnerships, is calling for proposals to advance hydrogen technologies, with a budget of € 184.5. Canadian organizations are eligible to participate and access fundings from this call.

19 topics are available:

- 7 topics – 40M€ funding - Renewable Hydrogen Production

- 3 topics – 16M€ funding - Hydrogen Storage and Distribution
- 3 topics – 17M€ funding – Transport
- 1 topic – 5M€ funding - Heat and Power
- 3 topics – 6.5M€ funding - Cross-cutting
- 2 topics – 80M€ funding - Hydrogen Valleys

More details can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in this call, please contact international.office@usask.ca as soon as possible. The International Office team is happy to work with you to navigate the team building, proposal preparation and submission process.

Internal deadline for academic approval in UnivRS: 09 April 2025

Agency submission deadline: 23 April 2025

Save the Date: Online Matchmaking Event for Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Health Project Calls – 27 March 2025

In late April 2025, Horizon Europe project calls will be published – see [draft list shared by Science Business](#). The budget for 2025 Health calls is C\$744 million, to open on May 6 and close on September 18, 2025 TBC. This online matchmaking event will take place on **Thursday, 27 March 2025**, from 11am to 1pm ET (*4pm to 6pm Brussels/CET - note non-aligned daylight savings March 9-30, 2025*), hosted by Aslin Unlusoy, Canada's Head of Innovation in Brussels, partnered with EIT Global and country partners. The invite will be sent in early March.

The first part of this event will provide an overview of the calls with best practices, followed by partner countries' strengths and interests. The second part will be moderated breakout rooms where participants can share their two-minute pitches and connect with potential partners. The last online event on cleantech calls received **580 pitches, from 27 countries – 60% Canadians**.

Academics Without Borders: Call for Volunteers

Academics Without Borders (AWB) is a Canadian nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help low- and middle-income countries improve their universities and colleges so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to promote their countries' development.

Simon Diedong Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies (UBIDS) was founded in 2019. The University has eight faculties, including Integrated Development Studies, Planning, and Land Management; Education and Life-Long Learning; Social Sciences and Arts; Information and Communication Technology; Public Policy and Governance; School of Business; and School of Law. UBIDS has more than 7,500 full-time undergraduate and graduate students, 235 members of faculty, and 145 non-academic staff.

Volunteer Opportunity Reference: Enhancing Learner-Centred Pedagogical Skills of Faculty Members

Number of Volunteers: 1 volunteer needed - 1 AWB volunteer (an ISW/FSW facilitator) has already been identified.

Requirements: We are looking for an experienced ISW/FDW facilitator (working or retired). Applicants should have excellent interpersonal, communication and facilitation 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: The volunteer must be available to travel to Ghana from 24 June 2025 to 07 July 2025. Prior to those dates, meetings will take place online.

Deadline: Monday, 31 March 2025

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

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

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

Sent to USask research listservs by Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives, OVPR
You can manage your research listserv subscriptions [online](#).