

Office of the Vice-President Research



Research Funding and Support

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

In this Issue – 28 January 2025

USask Workshops and Support Services:

- [Opus i2build Applications](#)
- [Love Data Week 2025 at USask](#)
- [CFI-JELF Information Session](#)

Resources for Researchers:

- [GlycoNet Webinar](#)

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](#)
- [Mitacs BSI Call for Applications](#)

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates:

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

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates:

- [NSERC CREATE Information Webinar for Prospective Applicants](#)

International Opportunities and Updates:

- [2024-2025 USask Internationalization Awards](#)
- [USask Misiweskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025](#)
- [Mitacs Globalink Research Award \(GRA\) Co-funding Stream – Last Quota Available for 2024/25 Fiscal Year](#)
- [Changes to Mitacs Globalink Research Award](#)
- [Grand Challenges Canada: Play Learn Thrive](#)
- [Two NIH Calls within Advancing Newborn Screening and Therapeutic Interventions for Genetic Conditions: PAR-25-265 & PAR-25-266](#)

- [PAR-25-242: Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low and Middle Income Countries \(R21/R33 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)
- [Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Centre: Scholar Award](#)

Visit the [OVPR Grants Calendar](#) for up to date deadlines and events.

Learn more about RASI services [online](#).

USask Workshops and Support Services

Opus i2build Applications

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

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

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

Application Deadline: 07 February 2025, midnight

Love Data Week 2025 at USask

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

CFI-JELF Information Session

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

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

October 2025 JELF Guidelines

- Proposed infrastructure will support cutting-edge CFI-eligible research at USask. It is appropriate to include in an existing or emerging core facility.
- Proposals can request up to \$800,000 from the CFI, with a maximum total eligible cost of \$2 million. The Institutional envelope is limited; the information session will provide **guidance regarding CFI asks** for this submission group.
- Core team (up to 3 applicants) must all have continuing, full-time academic appointments.
- Requests by OVPR to Innovation Saskatchewan will not be part of this call. Rather, proposals must demonstrate that **all matching funding** has been received by the university and/or provide letters of commitment from funding sources upon Expression of Interest submission.

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

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

Resources for Researchers

GlycoNet Webinar

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

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

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

Date: 12 February 2025

Time: 1 PM (MT)

The webinar will provide:

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

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

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

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

Formal launch expected in late January 2025; however, we have been provided with the following details:

- Chairs will be valued at either:
 - \$500K/year for 8 years (\$4M)
 - \$1M/year for 8 years (\$8M)

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

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

USask 2026 CERC process and timelines

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

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

Stage 1: EOI Submission

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

Stage 2: Theme Area and Nomination Submission

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

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

Stage 3: CERC Submission

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

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

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

Mitacs BSI Call for Applications

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

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

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

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

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](#).

Natural Sciences and Engineering Opportunities and Updates

NSERC CREATE Information Webinar for Prospective Applicants

NSERC's [Collaborative Research and Training Experience](#) (CREATE) program awards grants of up to \$1.65M over 6 years for the development of innovative training programs designed to enhance collaboration and facilitate the transition of trainees to productive employees in the Canadian workforce.

NSERC will hold an information session via MS Teams to provide an overview of the CREATE program and application process. **Important changes have been made to the CREATE program and application procedures.** Registration is not necessary – anyone can connect using the link provided below.

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

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 295 342 735 303

Passcode: GH7gL9QM

Dial in by phone

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

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

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 938 116 826#

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

International Opportunities and Updates

2024-2025 USask Internationalization Awards

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

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, the International Office announces the J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award to recognize the achievements of a USask faculty member who provides outstanding contributions to the internationalization of the University of Saskatchewan. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask faculty for a J.W. George Ivany Internationalization Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions.

Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time

Value: \$1500

B. Global Research Leadership Award for Faculty

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, the International Office announces the Global Research Leadership Award to recognize exceptional contributions of a USask faculty member toward strengthening the global profile of the University of Saskatchewan. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask faculty for a Global Research Leadership Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time

Value: \$1500

C. International Engagement Service Award for Staff

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, the International Office announces the International Engagement Service Award for Staff to recognize the achievements of a USask administrative staff member who provides outstanding contributions to the internationalization of the University of Saskatchewan. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask staff for an International Engagement Service Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time

Value: \$1500

D. Global Research Leadership Award for Students

As part of the University of Saskatchewan Blueprint for Action, the International Office announces the Global Research Leadership Award to recognize exceptional contributions of a USask student or student-led team who provides outstanding global research leadership. Nominate our amazing and deserving USask students for a Global Research Leadership Award. Nomination forms and two supporting letters must be included with submissions. Visit here for details. Questions can be directed to international.office@usask.ca.

Nomination deadline: 31 March 2025 by 4 pm CST/SK time

Value: \$1500

More information about these internal awards can be found [here](#).

USask Misiweskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship 2025

Funded through [USask's International Blueprint for Action](#), this competitive fellowship has a mandate of bringing international postdoctoral scholars to the University of Saskatchewan. Details of the call can be found [here](#).

The Fellowship may allocate up to one award in the following [Signature Areas of Research](#):

1. [Indigenous Peoples](#): Engagement and Scholarship
2. [Health and Wellness](#): Combining the arts, social sciences, biomedical sciences and medicine to make humans healthier
3. [Communities and Sustainability](#): Exploring the interrelatedness of human communities and natural ecologies

Value and Duration: \$50,000/year for two years

Number of Awards: One fellowship awarded annually

Application deadline: 07 February 2025

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 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: 31 January 2025

Changes to Mitacs Globalink Research Award

The new and simplified GRA program features important changes, some of which are detailed below:

- Only two streams: allocation and quantum. The program will no longer be co-delivered with international partners. Instead, Mitacs will fully fund all projects.
 - **Allocation stream:** participating universities will receive an allocation of internship units (IUs). Co-funding is not required.
 - **Quantum stream:** open to all universities. No IUs limit per university and does not count in the allocation. Co-funding is not required.
- Each intern is now allowed a maximum of two IUs per academic lifetime (across projects).
- Increased project duration: two years

The online application portal will also undergo functional changes ahead of the new program's launch on April 1.

Please note, all projects still pending on the portal on Monday, 31 March 2025, will be deleted permanently. All Mitacs applications must be submitted internally to UnivRS by **Friday, 07 March 2025** to ensure that they can be submitted to Mitacs **by Friday, 21 March 2025**.

Grand Challenges Canada: Play Learn Thrive

Grand Challenges Canada is launching a new portfolio, Play Learn Thrive, to respond to gaps in current Early Childhood Development in Emergencies (ECDiE) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) approaches.

They aim to create strong support systems for children in complex crisis settings so that they can play, learn, and thrive. The agency recognizes that children's holistic development, including their physical, intellectual, psychological, cultural, and social wellbeing, is intrinsically linked to the wellbeing and capacity of their caregivers and educators, as well as other members of their community. Strengthening this support network is essential to fostering children's growth and development.

Supported by [The Lego Foundation](#), this funding call seeks solutions that create more robust support systems for children from birth to 12 years of age in complex crisis settings, with a focus on those who are left behind and whose developmental and educational needs are not being met. While the Play Learn Thrive portfolio will have a broader geographical focus, this RFP will only fund projects that will be implemented in at least one (1) of four (4) countries: Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, and Uganda.

To be eligible for funding, applying organizations must (among other criteria):

- Be not-for-profit organizations that are legally incorporated¹
- Have an active presence in at least one of the four priority countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Kenya, Uganda)
- Be legally registered to do business in at least one of the four priority countries
- Implement programming directly in at least one of the four priority countries.

With funding from the LEGO Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada will award grants in two categories through this Request for Proposals:

1. Proof of Concept (POC)

We are offering Proof of Concept (POC) funding of up to \$250,000 CAD for a maximum of 24 months. POC funding supports early-stage innovations to test and refine bold ideas. Our goal is to strengthen the pipeline of tested ECDiE and EiE innovations that focus on children from birth to 12 years of age in at least one of four countries (Kenya, Uganda, Lebanon, and Jordan).

2. Transition to Scale (TTS)

Funding for more mature innovations that have already achieved proof of concept and are ready to be implemented more widely. These are grants between \$300,000-\$1,500,000 CAD per project over a maximum of 24 months.

How to Apply and more details can be found [here](#).

Project Duration: POC - 24 months; TTS - over a maximum of 24 months

Funding Amount: POC - \$250,000 CAD; TTS - \$300,000-\$1,500,000 CAD

Internal Deadline: 10 business days before the external deadlines

External Deadline: POC – 24 April 2025, at 2 pm ET; TTS - rolling basis between 21 January 2025 – 27 November 2025

Two NIH Calls within Advancing Newborn Screening and Therapeutic Interventions for Genetic Conditions: PAR-25-265 & PAR-25-266

[PAR-25-265: Innovative Screening Approaches and Therapies for Screenable Disorders in Newborns \(R01 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) encourages research focused on developing novel screening methods and therapeutic interventions for conditions currently included in newborn screening programs, as well as for severe genetic disorders that could benefit from early detection. The goal is to enhance early diagnosis and treatment to improve health outcomes.

Funding Amount: Applicants should request budgets that are appropriate for the scope of their proposed research.

Project Duration: The maximum project period is 5 years.

Internal Deadline: 10 business days before the external deadlines

External Deadlines: Standard NIH due dates apply, with the first application due on 5 February 2025.

[PAR-25-266: Innovative Screening Approaches and Therapies for Screenable Disorders in Newborns \(R21 - Clinical Trial Optional\)](#)

This NOFO invites exploratory and developmental research projects aimed at creating innovative screening approaches and therapies for disorders detectable through newborn screening. The emphasis is on high-risk, high-reward studies that have the potential to significantly advance the field.

Funding Amount: Direct costs are limited to \$275,000 over a two-year project period, with no more than \$200,000 in direct costs allowed in any single year.

Project Duration: The maximum project period is 2 years.

Internal Deadline: 10 business days before the external deadlines

External Deadlines: Standard NIH due dates apply, with the first application due on 16 February 2025.

PAR-25-242: Mobile Health: Technology and Outcomes in Low and Middle Income Countries (R21/R33 - Clinical Trial Optional)

The purpose of this [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) is to encourage exploratory/developmental research applications that propose to study the development, validation, feasibility, and effectiveness of innovative mobile health (mHealth) interventions or tools specifically suited for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) that utilize new or emerging technology, platforms, systems, and/or analytics. The overall goal of the program is

to catalyze innovation through multidisciplinary research that addresses global health problems, develop an evidence base for the use of mHealth technology to improve clinical and public health outcomes, and strengthen mHealth research capacity in LMICs.

This NOFO provides support for up to two years (R21 phase) for technology development and feasibility studies, followed by a possible transition to expanded research support (R33 phase) for validation, larger-scale feasibility, and effectiveness studies. Transition to the R33 depends on the completion of applicant-defined milestones, as well as program priorities and the availability of funds. All applicants must address both the R21 and R33 phases.

Funding Amount: The R21 phase may not exceed \$125,000 in direct costs in any single year of the R21 phase. The R33 phase may not exceed \$200,000 in direct costs in any single year of the R33 phase.

Project Duration: The project period is limited to 2 years for the R21 phase and up to 3 years for the R33 phase. The total project period may not exceed 5 years.

Letter of Intent Due Dates: 21 February 2025; 20 February 2026

Internal Deadline: 10 business days before the external deadlines

External Deadlines: 21 March 2025; 20 March 2026

Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Centre: Scholar Award

The [Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Scholar Award](#) is designed to advance promising discoveries from academic laboratories into clinical practice, focusing on treatments for rare diseases. The Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Scholar Award advances promising discoveries from academic labs to move them into clinical practice. The award combines funding and expert therapeutics development support to help researchers in the UK, US, or Canada to accelerate preclinical projects towards treatments for patients. Awardees have access to the Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Centre Therapeutics Accelerator, which receives support from a partnership between University of Oxford, Oxford Science Enterprises, and University Hospitals in Cleveland, Ohio.

Successful applicants will receive:

- Guaranteed grant award of £100K for UK-based awardees or USD\$100K for US- and Canada-based awardees
- One year of therapeutics development support and project management, with potential to renew for a second year based on milestones met
- Access to core facilities and infrastructure including oligonucleotide synthesis and screening, small molecule and protein platforms and cell and gene therapy facilities
- Opportunity to compete for acceleration funds up to £250,000 (UK) or USD\$300,000 (US and CA)
- Opportunity to qualify for investment funds up to USD\$1,000,000 according to project requirements
- Invitation to present at a Harrington Discovery Institute or Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Centre Scientific Symposium

Eligibility:

- MD or PhD (or equivalent) researchers in the UK, US, and Canada operating their own independent lab
- Faculty position at an accredited academic medical centre, university or research institution in the UK, US or Canada, and conduct the majority of their research at that institution
- A project must have a single Principal Investigator (PI), who is responsible for project oversight and financial management. The PI may engage collaborators, core labs or commercial Contract Research Organizations (CROs) to execute any portion of the project

Past recipients of Harrington awards may submit new and distinct proposals but may not seek additional support for previously funded projects.

Funding Amount: USD\$100,000

Project Duration: 1 year, with potential to renew for a second year based on milestones met

Internal Deadline: 19 February 2025

External Deadlines: 10 March 2025

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

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

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