

Office of the Vice-President Research



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

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

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

USask Workshops and Support Services

Opus 2026 i2Build Cohort: Applications Launched

Opus, USask's startup incubator, has launched applications for its 2026 **Innovate2Build (i2Build)** cohort. The i2Build Program is designed to support the unique needs of USask founders. This program provides access to entrepreneurial programming, infrastructure, and a network of experts to help build successful ventures on campus. Current USask students, faculty, and staff are eligible to apply.

Applications are open until 08 February 2026 at 11:59 PM.

Learn more about the program and apply here: <https://opus.usask.ca/programs/innovate2build.php>

Undergraduate RSAW Tours - Call for Inspiring Research Spaces

Do you have an amazing research lab, art studio, learning facility or scholarly space at USask? The **Student Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)** program, part of the **Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works Initiative (uRSAW)**, is looking to inspire our undergraduate RSAW students this winter by touring research spaces across campus.

Help motivate our emerging scholars by hosting a group of students for a short tour this winter season. **If you think you have an inspiring space and an hour of time, please contact undergraduate.research@usask.ca to arrange a tour during the 2026 Winter Term.**

2027 Innovation Fund (IF) – Pitch & Networking Event

The **Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)** will announce the 2027 Innovation Fund (IF) program. The Innovation Fund aims to enhance infrastructure and personnel capacity, enabling researchers to stay at the forefront of exploration and knowledge creation. The CFI IF program supports the development of large-scale, distinctive, and advanced facilities that can **boost future research** in your field for many years.

Through this competition, CFI will invest up to approximately \$280 million in infrastructure and cover up to 40% of the project's eligible costs. CFI will also allocate up to roughly \$84 million for related operating and maintenance expenses through the Infrastructure Operating Fund (IOF). The most common eligible costs include renovation or construction expenses, research equipment, and personnel to support the development or use of the infrastructure.

RASI will host a pitch event on Jan. 26, 2026, providing a great opportunity to showcase your project idea to senior leadership and the wider campus community. The event aims to generate excitement, attract support, gather feedback, and foster potential collaboration on campus. While participation is optional, it is highly recommended for project teams interested in the 2027 IF competition.

Immediate questions can be sent to rasi.support@usask.ca.

Pitch & Networking Event Details

Date: Monday, 26 January 2026

Time: 1:00 - 4:30 PM

Location: Admin C280

Register: [Online](#) (RVSP deadline for the pitch event is **Monday, 09 January 2026**)

The information required to register for the event includes the presenter's name (s), the project title, the estimated project cost, and a description of the research program, infrastructure, and partner institutions.

All are welcome to attend and participate as part of the audience.

Competition Timeline:

Please have a look at the competition timeline on the USask CFI website or linked [here](#).

Information Session:

If you were unable to attend the information session held in October, you can find the slide deck on the USask CFI website or linked [here](#).

Program Details:

You can visit the CFI website at the link below for more details on the program. Note that we will be updating and uploading new material as the competition advances.

[USask CFI Website](#)

Internal Research Programs

2026 DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards

The [2026 DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards program](#) will support USask faculty **within the first five years** of their academic appointment to hire, train and mentor an **undergraduate summer student** to support their research, scholarly, or artistic works (RSAW) program. Please see the [award guidelines](#) for more information.

Two Award Streams:

Stream 1: SSHFA - Open to faculty who do Social Sciences, Humanities, and Fine Arts (SSHFA) research

[Stream 1: SSHFA Application Form](#)

Stream 2: SCPOR - A Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR) funded award open to faculty who do Patient-Orientated research

[Stream 2: SCPOR Application Form](#)

Eligibility: faculty within the first five years of their academic appointment at USask in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts and/or conducting Patient-Oriented Research (POR)

Number of Awards available: Eight Stream 1: SSHFA awards & Four Stream 2: SCPOR awards

Award Amount: \$6,000 (faculty top-up required)

Award Term: 14-16 weeks from May to August 2026

Deadline to Apply: 06 February 2026

Please reach out to dare.rasi@usask.ca if you would like more information or have any questions. If you have questions about the eligibility of your project or how to conduct POR, please contact scpor@usask.ca.

Collaborative Energy, Minerals, and Society Research Award

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

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

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

Deadline to apply: 28 January 2026 at 4:00 PM

Award duration: Four months May to August (2026)

Competition Details: [online](#)

Application Form: [online](#)

All applications will be submitted to rasi.support@usask.ca by 4:00 PM on Wednesday, 28 January 2026. All submissions are subject to compliance checks over the following five business days.

Workshop

Join us at a workshop to learn more and to have the opportunity to make a virtual connection with URegina and Sask Polytech faculty:

Date: 07 January 2026

Time: 1:00-2:00 PM

Register: [online](#)

Contact Meaghan Risling at rasi.support@usask.ca to learn more about this exciting opportunity or to make a connection with a URegina or Sask Polytech researcher.

Artificial Intelligence Research & Innovation Research Capacity Building Grants

The [Artificial Intelligence Research & Innovation – Research Capacity Building Grants](#) aim to catalyze collaborations across disciplines to explore the transformative potential of AI in research. These grants support projects that integrate perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, and fine arts with natural sciences and health sciences, and that have a strong emphasis on ethical stewardship of AI development and application in research.

The purpose of this grant is to:

- Foster novel interdisciplinary and/or transdisciplinary partnerships to build capacity for responsible and ethical AI research across disciplines at USask
- Support exploratory research and/or activities to initiate and sustain groups that could pursue large-scale interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary external funding opportunities.

Grants can be up to \$15,000 and will be awarded to interdisciplinary/ transdisciplinary teams initiating new collaborations or sustaining existing teams. Co-Leads should submit their applications to UnivRS by 30 January 2026, at 4:00 PM. All submissions are subject to UnivRS approvals and compliance checks over the following five business days.

Contact Meaghan Risling at rasi.support@usask.ca with questions about his exciting opportunity.

Funding Amount: Up to \$15,000 for up to 12 months

Application Deadline: 30 January 2026, 4:00 PM

Competition Details and Application Form: [Online](#)

Cross Disciplinary and Institutional Opportunities

The Canada Impact + Research Chairs Program- January 19 First Submission Deadline

The Tri-Agency Institutional Programs Secretariat (TIPS) has recently announced the launch of the [Canada Impact+ Research Chairs Program](#), a one-time initiative worth approximately \$1 billion dollars designed to support institutions in attracting world-leading researchers whose work addresses critical national and global challenges. Impact+ Chairs will receive long-term funding and institutional support to advance ambitious and transformative projects in Canada's [strategic priority areas](#): 1) advanced digital technologies; 2) health, including

biotechnology; 3) clean technology and resource value chains; 4) environment, climate resilience and the Arctic; 5) food and water security; 6) democratic and community resilience; 7) manufacturing and advanced materials; and/or 8) defence and dual-use technologies.

Impact+ Chairs are expected to build and maintain exceptional research teams and collaborate with partners across sectors and borders as well as actively translate and mobilize research outcomes into practice, policy, and commercialization pathways that deliver measurable social and economic benefits for Canada and the world. Only candidates who are internationally based (both working and residing outside of Canada) are eligible to apply to this program.

Program Value: The program will award Impact+ Research Chairs of two award values:

1. **\$8 million** over eight years (\$1 million per year); **or**
2. **\$4 million** over eight years (\$500,000 per year)

In addition, there is potential for a four-year extension at 50% of the initial award value per year. Eligible Canadian institutions may submit any combination of \$1M and \$500K chairs to the institutional dollar limit listed [here](#).

Program Deadlines: This program has two separate intakes with the following deadlines:

USask's first submission deadline: 19 January 2026 ([Apply Here](#))

Intake One:

Registration Deadline: 10 March 2026

Application Deadline: 24 March 2026

Intake Two:

Registration Deadline: 15 June 2026

Application Deadline: 29 June 2026

Related Supporting Programs:

Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders: Institutions submitting a nomination for an Impact+ Chair may request an additional \$100,000 per year over six years to recruit an internationally based Early Career Researcher who is within the same strategic priority area as the Impact+ Research Chairs nominee.

Canada Impact+ Research Infrastructure Fund: CFI will invest up to \$400 million to support the infrastructure needs of the chairholders and complementary ECRs (as applicable), including both capital and operating and maintenance (O&M) costs

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact RASI at rasi.support@usask.ca.

Health Sciences Opportunities and Updates

CIHR Access Newsletter

Please see below for highlights from the 24 December 2025 [CIHR Access Newsletter](#):

- [Healthy Youth](#)
- [IHSPR-CAHSPR Health services and policy research impact award](#)
- [IHSPR-CAHSPR Article of the year award](#)
- [Health system impact embedded early career researcher award](#)
- [American Association for Cancer Research Scientist↔Survivor Program](#)

Upcoming Funding Opportunity

- [GACD 2026: Implementation science to tackle non-communicable diseases](#)

International Opportunities and Updates

Horizon Work Programme 2026-27 Officially Released!

The European Commission adopted the main [Horizon Europe work programme](#) for 2026-2027, a €14 billion investment designed to drive research and innovation (R&I) across the EU's strategic goals. These goals include achieving climate neutrality, boosting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in research and innovation, and ensuring resilience in a rapidly changing world.

To achieve this, the programme introduces new cross-disciplinary calls and topics that will boost decarbonisation and the use of AI in research. It also expands the '[Choose Europe](#)' initiative to attract global talent and makes applying for Horizon Europe funding and participation simpler.

The newly released [package of funding calls](#) is spread through 13 work programmes, each outlining the plans for a specific Horizon Europe funding instrument or priority, and two documents introducing the rules and general priorities.

If you are interested in applying for Horizon Europe funding opportunities or would like to learn more, please reach out to international.office@usask.ca at your earliest convenience. Our International Research team is ready to assist and support you throughout the process.

Horizon Europe Info Sessions and Matchmaking Events

Information Sessions

Looking to learn more about Horizon Europe and its technical aspects? Check out the events below:

- **January 2026:** The European Commission will host [Horizon Europe info days](#) to share information about the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe Work Programme. This includes the policy context behind each call, guidance for preparing a high-quality proposal, and a question and answer (Q&A) session.
- **12 February 2026:** The European Commission will host a [webinar on lump sum funding](#) in Horizon Europe. The session will feature insights on preparing lump sum proposals and testimonials from funded projects.

Matchmaking / Brokerage Events

Looking for European and international partners to form a Horizon Europe consortium? Check out the following free matchmaking events and get ready to pitch your expertise!

- **14 January 2026:** [Canada's NCP Network: Cluster 6 Matchmaking Event](#)
This virtual event brings together researchers and innovators from Canada, Sweden, Ukraine, Finland and the Baltics to explore collaboration opportunities for nature restoration, biodiversity, and ocean calls within the 2026-2027 Work Programme. Registration closes on January 5, 2026.
- **26-30 January 2026:** [HHN 3.0: Cluster 1\(Health\) Matchmaking Event](#)
This virtual matchmaking event is organized by Health-NCP-Net (HHN). Participants can engage in online bilateral meetings using the B2M platform and present their ideas during the pitch sessions. Registration closes on January 21, 2026.
- **28-29 January 2026:** [NCP4Missions Matchmaking Event](#)
This is virtual matchmaking event will open with an online plenary session to offer practical advice on EU Missions proposals. After the plenary, participants will be able to schedule online bilateral meetings with potential project partners. *Please register as soon as possible.*
- **January/February 2026:** [IDEAL-IST: Cluster 4 Digital Calls Matchmaking Platform](#)
This virtual matchmaking platform will support matchmaking for Cluster 4 Digital Calls. *Please register as soon as possible.*
- **03 February 2026:** Canada's NCP Network: Ocean Science Matchmaking Event

This virtual matchmaking event brings together experts from Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, and Portugal to forge new collaborations on sustainable fisheries and ocean management, aquatic pollution and conservation. *Stay tuned for registration details.*

- **04 February 2026:** [Key Enabling Technologies 2026 Matchmaking Event](#)

This **in-person** event will be hosted in Karlsruhe, Germany and will have six thematic workshops and pitching sessions on manufacturing, raw and advanced materials, energy storage (batteries), artificial intelligence, as well as communications technology. Spaces are limited. Please register as soon as possible.

- **25 February 2026:** [Net4Society: Artificial Intelligence in Horizon Europe Calls](#)

This virtual matchmaking event brings together applicants interested in submitting proposals relating to artificial intelligence and requires the involvement of social sciences and the humanities. If you are planning to pitch, *please submit your presentation as soon as possible.* Registration closes on February 20, 2026.

Saskatchewan Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant (SSTSG) 2025–26

The [Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute \(SICI\)](#) invites applications for the [Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grants \(SSTSG\) 2025–26](#), a flagship initiative that promotes scholarly exchange and institutional collaboration between Saskatchewan and India.

This special call is offered exclusively to publicly funded post-secondary institutions in Saskatchewan under the Saskatchewan–Shastri Engaging Saskatchewan in India (SK-SESKI) initiative, in partnership with the Ministry of Advanced Education, Government of Saskatchewan. The program supports Saskatchewan’s efforts to expand academic, research, and innovation linkages with India.

This grant supports faculty, researchers, and graduate students from Saskatchewan institutions to undertake short-term academic visits to India for conferences, research collaboration, workshops, or fieldwork. To be eligible you must Program details and the application form are available here: [Saskatchewan SSTSG 2025–26](#)

Funding amount: \$1500 CAD

Travel Window: 01 September 2025 – 31 August 2026

External deadline: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until further notice.

Internal deadline: 10 business days prior via UnivRS with academic approval ([International Office internal deadline](#))

SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants – 2026 Competition

[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 the 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.

Please note: SSHRC requires a 100% matching fund in the form of cash contributions.

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

Please note that USask may only submit up to three Destination Horizon Grant applications for a given deadline. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so early submission is strongly encouraged.

Funding amount: up to \$15,000

Duration: one year

External proposal deadlines: 22 January 2026; 22 May 2026 (8 PM eastern)

Internal EOI deadline: 08 January 2026; 08 May 2026. Ten business days prior to the external deadline ([International Office internal deadline](#))

Misiwēskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship

The [Misiwēskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) is open for applications! Funded through [USask's International Blueprint for Action](#), this competitive fellowship has a mandate of bringing international postdoctoral scholars to the University of Saskatchewan.

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

- [Indigenous Peoples](#): Engagement and Scholarship
- [Synchrotron Sciences](#): Innovation in health, environment and advanced technologies
- [Quantum Innovation](#): Creating big changes from tiny particles

Application deadline: 09 February 2026.

For more information on eligibility and the application process, please visit the [program website](#)

Erasmus+ Funding Opportunities for Canadian Post-secondary Institutions

Canadian post-secondary institutions can now apply for select [Erasmus+](#) calls promoting academic cooperation with the European Union.

- [Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters](#) support delivery of integrated and innovative joint master's programs with European partners. **Application deadline:** 12 February 2026, 5 PM CET.
- Jean Monnet Actions in Higher Education support teaching and research in the field of European Union Studies through [Modules, Chairs](#), and [Centers of Excellence](#). **Application deadline:** 03 February 2026, 5 PM CET.
- [International Credit Mobility](#) supports exchanges of students and staff. Interested Canadian institutions should promptly contact their partners in EU Member States or Erasmus+ associated countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, and Türkiye) to be included as sending and/or receiving organizations in mobility project proposals due 19 February 2026. Please note that Canadian institutions cannot apply directly for this call.

For more information on the above opportunities, consult the [Erasmus+ Program Guide](#) or contact Canada's Erasmus+ National Focal Point at anna.piotrowska@international.gc.ca.

Technische Universität Darmstadt International Research Experience Program Summer 2026 – for students

The [International Research Experience Program](#) offers a unique opportunity for both undergraduate and graduate students from TU Darmstadt's partner universities in Canada (including USask), the USA and Singapore. This program is specifically designed to immerse participants in cutting-edge research projects across various

research institutes at the Technical University of Darmstadt. Going beyond academic pursuits, the program integrates intercultural experiences, insightful company visits, and exclusive excursions tailored for exchange students.

Important program dates

Nomination: until 25 February 2026

Application: 01 March 2026

Start: 18 May 2026 (Orientation program: 18-22 May 2026)

End: 31 July 2026 (10 weeks) OR 14 August 2026 (12 weeks)

Where to find more information?

Students can either check out the [IREP website](#), contact us via irep@zv.tu-darmstadt.de, or attend one of the virtual info sessions that we will offer.

The information session will be held on the following dates and times via Zoom. The link will be posted on the website under Program Dates:

- 13/01/2026, 16:00 CET (UTC+01:00)
- 15/01/2026, 14:30 CET (UTC+01:00)
- 27/01/2026, 16:00 CET (UTC+01:00)
- 29/01/2026, 14:30 CET (UTC+01:00)

What are the program costs?

The IREP Summer program fee will be 3.099€. This is a flat fee and includes the following expenses:

- Semester ticket for public transportation in and around Darmstadt
- University enrollment incl. WiFi access on campus
- Orientation program and excursions
- Student service fee
- Health insurance
- Housing

Under exceptional circumstances, the program fee for **remote participants** will be approx. 400 €. The fee includes:

- Student service fee
- University enrollment incl. access on campus networks

Which scholarships are available?

TU Darmstadt offers a limited number of **Scholarships of Excellence**, that cover the total program fee. By handing in the online application, the students automatically apply for the scholarship. The awarding of scholarships is based on outstanding academic performance. The number of scholarships awarded depend on the number of applicants and will be published after all applications have been received.

How to apply?

Students must apply at their home university first. Interested USask student applicants need to connect with the International Student and Study Abroad Centre at study.abroad@usask.ca as **soon as possible** about the internal application and nomination process.

The ThinkSwiss Scholarship – for students

The **ThinkSwiss Scholarship** offers an opportunity to conduct research in Switzerland at a laboratory of your choice for a period of 2-3 months. The program is funded by the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) of Switzerland and is supported by Swiss representations (Embassy and Consulates) in Canada. Selected candidates will receive a stipend to cover daily living expenses at a rate of CHF 60 per day (approximately CAD 100 per day) to conduct research at a public university or public research institution in Switzerland.

Who the scholarship is for:

- Master's or PhD students, or undergraduates who have completed at least two years of a bachelor's degree by the start of the research stay
- Applicants with written confirmation from a host professor at a Swiss public university or research institute
- Students from all fields. Applicants with interests in Climate Innovation, Space, Robotics, Quantum Technologies, and Biosciences & Bioengineering are especially encouraged to apply.
- International students, permanent residents, and Canadian citizens currently enrolled at Canadian institutions

External Deadline: 31 January 2026

Additional resources:

- See the FAQ document for details on the [program website](#) on next steps.
- Swiss universities: [studyinswitzerland.plus](#)

BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

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

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