OFFICE OF RESEARCH
NEWSLETTER

Royal Roads UNIVERSITY

Research Calls and Funding Opportunities
July 11, 2025

'Iceland ~ Landmannalaugar Route ~ Ultramarathon is held on the route each July' by Bill Badzo is used under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Funding and Award Opportunities

Call for Proposals: 2025-2026 RRU Internal Grant for Research (IGR)

Application deadline: July 31, 2025 at 11:50 pm
Late applications or applications not submitted through the Internal Awards inbox will not be accepted

Value: Up to $3,000
Duration: October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 (no funds may be spent before the start date)

Attn: RRU Faculty Members

The 2025-26 RRU Internal Grants for Research (IGR) competition is now open. These grants are for projects that undertake research and mobilize knowledge. Proposals are encouraged from a broad range of research topics, while keeping in mind Royal Roads' three research themes.

Internal Research Grant funding is separate from, but can be used to complement activities being undertaken with these internal or other external funding sources:

- Personal Professional Development Fund (Article 31.4 in the [2022-2025 RRU Faculty Association Collective Agreement](#))
- Professional Development Pool (otherwise known as the Professional Development/Scholarly Activity Pool; Article 31.5 in the [collective agreement](#))
- Other internal awards, such as the Buttedahl and Skene Fund, Cahoon Global Advancement and Diversity Fund, and the SSHRC Institutional Grants

Guidelines and Application form

Competition guidelines and the application form can be found on the [RRU Internal Grants web page here](#). Note that the Applications must consist of one (1) word or PDF document and be submitted to [Internal Awards](#).

Eligibility

Royal Roads University Internal Research Grants are available to core faculty, deans and librarians to support projects that undertake research and mobilize knowledge.

Applicants may hold only one IGR at a time (but may hold this award simultaneously with internal grants noted above). Funds will not be released for a new award until applicants have submitted their final written report for a previous grant.

For more information and to submit an application: [Contact RRU Internal Awards](#)

Call for Proposals: Vancouver Foundation - Participatory Action Research Grants

Application deadline: August 5, 2025 (for Convene Grants, and for Stage 1 Investigate Grants)

Value: Convene Grants: Up to $25,000
         Investigate Grants: Up to $100,000 per year

Duration: Convene Grants: Up to 1 year
         Investigate Grants: Up to 3 years

Participatory Action Research Grants (PAR) support research that is co-led by community members and researchers to learn more about the root causes of pressing issues impacting the health of communities.

The Participatory Action Research methodology is based on the belief that research must be done with people, not for them or on them. The researchers and community members that make up the research team are active co-participants who learn from one another. The research is grounded in critical reflection and is action-oriented to influence systemic change on the issues they are investigating.

Early in 2020, Vancouver Foundation began a project to deepen systems change grant-making, first by recognizing entrenched power imbalances and then by reimagining our relationships and practices. As we continue our work to shift and share power with community, we have introduced some changes to this grant call, including removing the matching of funds for the Investigate grants to address barriers to accessing grants.

The ongoing pandemic, the devastation caused by extreme weather events and the continued groundswell of the reconciliation and anti-racism movements has only amplified this urgency. PAR grants aim to investigate and understand the root causes of oppressive structures and to build fair and equitable systems to challenge them. If the number of applications we receive is greater than the funding we have available, then we will prioritize:

- Projects that are co-led by communities who are disproportionately impacted by racism and other discriminatory behaviours and beliefs within health systems
- Research teams that include as many community members as professional researchers
- Research projects that bring an intersectional lens to the work

Types of Participatory Action Research Grants

There are two different grant types available, depending on the stage your project is at in the participatory action research process.

1. Convene Grants (up to $25,000, for up to one year)

Convene grants are short-term grants to help teams to unpack a complex health issue and to question the systemic behaviours that have created that issue, or that are holding the issue in place. Convene grants help teams to articulate a research question and to develop a participatory research project plan that can then be submitted to funding organizations in the future. The funding requested should be distributed equitably between the convening process and the community's participation in that process. Convene grants are a one-stage application.

Convene grants support:

- Activities that help potential teams of researchers, knowledge-users and/or community stakeholders to establish relationships and work together to identify research questions or emerging issues that could then form the basis of a future Investigate grant.
- Initial planning and discussion of a research project among potential team members, including researchers, knowledge-users and/or partners, to assess the viability of the research project and the partnership.
- Stakeholder consultations and community engagement activities help to solidify a research question or the direction of a research project

2. Investigate Grants (up to $100,000 per year, for up to three years)

Investigate grants are multi-year grants to help teams answer a research question, analyze their findings, and share knowledge in a way that supports the community to take action in the future. Investigate grants have a two-stage application process. Applicants begin their application by completing the first stage of questions and, if successful, are then invited to complete the remaining questions.

Investigate grants support:

- Support research teams with a clear and viable participatory research plan that is grounded in the exploration of a complex issue affecting the health of a population.
- Encourage collaboration and knowledge exchange between and among communities, organizations and institutions affected by or interested in the pressing issue.
- They are led by communities and are intended to inform and lead to evidence-based action in the future.

Eligibility

The research projects we consider for funding:

- must investigate the root causes of a complex health issue.
- must be a collaboration between community organizations and institutions with access to an ethics board, such as universities and research institutions.
- must be led by a [registered charity or other qualified donee](#) listed by the Canada Revenue Agency.

We specifically invite projects that investigate the root causes of racism and other discriminatory behaviours and beliefs experienced by adults and children within health systems, especially communities who are disproportionately impacted by these discriminatory behaviours.

For more information: [Visit the Vancouver Foundation Participatory Action Research Grants web page](#)

2025 Horizon Europe Work Programme Calls

Application deadlines: Various. See information for each call.

Value and duration: Various. See information for each call.

Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation collaboration program with a budget of $140 billion (€95.5b, 2021 to 2027). Canada is a "member" (associated country) to Horizon Europe Pillar II (2024 to 2027).

There are roughly $10 billion worth of Pillar II project calls each year. These are based on global challenges where a group of chosen partners (consortium) of Europeans, associated countries and others, work together to co-innovate on projects.

The Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat is excited to share that the 2025 Horizon Europe Work Programmes have been officially published! Horizon Europe is the world's largest research and innovation funding program and is administered by the European Commission. With Canada's association to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe, Canadian entities taking part in international consortia are eligible to receive funding for calls published under the six thematic clusters of Pillar 2, European Missions, and Horizon Europe partnerships.

The European Commission has also recognized Canadian excellence in the areas of artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, quantum and space! Canada has been granted access to restricted topics or "sensitive calls" under the 2025 Work Programme.

These calls can be found on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal where proposals are electronically submitted. To support your application, please check out the following applicant resources:

- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) Webinar Recording: Tips and Tricks for A Successful Application
- ISED Horizon Europe: Applicant Resources Page
- Delegation of the European Union to Canada: Cluster Specific Info Sessions
- European Commission: Info Days Recording

For more information: See the links above, and visit the Horizon Europe website.

Connect with the national contact points

Sign up for the Horizon Europe newsletter.

Application deadline: **August 1 and September 1, 2025**

Value: Events: $7,000 to $25,000
Outreach activities: $7,000 to $50,000

Duration: 1 year

Connection Grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and to engage with participants on research issues of value to them. Events and outreach activities funded by a Connection Grant can often serve as a first step toward more comprehensive and longer-term projects. Connection Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the Research Partnerships program.

Connection Grants support workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes, or other events or outreach activities that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges in the social sciences and humanities;
- scholarly exchanges between those working in the social sciences and humanities and those working in other research fields;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers in the social sciences and humanities and researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges with researchers, students and non-academic partners from other countries.

Proposed events and outreach activities

- All activities must take place within 12 months of the start date indicated on the notice of award (see decision dates in the funding cycle schedule).
- Proposed events and outreach activities must produce timely and concrete deliverables, such as conference proceedings or other knowledge products developed for traditional formats and/or employing digital and/or multimedia formats (unless specifically intended to create new, longer-term linkages or to initiate collaboration).
- Proposed events and outreach activities can be one-time encounters or catalysts designed to lead to longer-term partnerships and/or sustained programs of scholarly research.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation. To this regard, for Connection Grants support **events and outreach activities** related to research-creation and Indigenous research.

Through this initiative, SSHRC is committed to funding at least 10 meritorious Connection Grant proposals per competition to help the social sciences and humanities research community develop and adopt research data management standards, tools and skills. Learn more about the [Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative](#).

[Research data management](#) supports the effective and responsible conduct of research, and increases the ability to store, find and reuse research data. A strong culture of data management will serve Canadian research excellence and support the development of social sciences and humanities insights. It will also benefit Canadian researchers working in international partnerships and collaborations as funders around the globe implement and strengthen data management requirements.

Unless otherwise indicated, there is no separate application process for most initiatives and supplements. However, candidates must select this initiative on the first page of the application to indicate they wish to be considered for an initiative or a supplement. They also need to explain why they wish to be considered in their application form.

Future Challenge Areas

SSHRC invites all applicants to review [Imagining Canada's Future's](#) 16 future global challenges and to consider addressing one or more of these areas in their research proposal. This is not an evaluation criterion for merit review and does not offer additional or dedicated research funds for this funding opportunity.

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Connection Grants web page](#)

Call for Proposals: New Frontiers in Research Fund
2025 Exploration Competition

Notice of Intent (NOI) deadline: **August 19, 2025**
Full application deadline: October 21, 2025

Value: Up to $100,000 per year (plus up to 25% indirect costs)
Duration: Up to 2 years

The goal of the Exploration stream is to inspire high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research.

Exploration grants support research that pushes boundaries into exciting new areas. Researchers are encouraged to think "outside of the box" and undertake research that would defy current paradigms; brings disciplines together in unexpected ways and from bold, innovative perspectives; and has the potential to be disruptive or deliver game-changing impacts.

Exploration stream grants support projects that:

- bring disciplines together beyond traditional disciplinary or common interdisciplinary approaches;
- propose to explore something new, which might fail; and
- have the potential for significant impact.

Exploration grants support research with a range of impacts—economic, scientific, artistic, cultural, social, technological, environmental or health-related. This list is not exhaustive; other types of impacts are also recognized. Diversity of

perspectives is important, and the fund encourages research proposals led from any discipline, from those in the social sciences and humanities, to health, the natural sciences and engineering.

Eligibility

To encourage projects that push the boundaries in terms of interdisciplinarity, **proposals must be submitted by research teams with at least two individuals**. In addition to a nominated principal investigator (NPI), the team must include either a co-principal investigator (co-PI) or a co-applicant. Teams may include one co-PI and any number of co-applicants and/or collaborators.

A proposal is considered to be led by early career researchers (ECRs) if both the NPI and co-PI (if applicable) are ECRs. An ECR is a researcher within five years from the start date of their first research-related appointment, minus the length of any eligible delays in research.

Subject matter (fit to program)

Exploration grants support projects that are **high risk, high reward and interdisciplinary**. They may involve disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for funding across the three agencies. Eligible projects include those with specific short-to-medium-term objectives, as well as discrete phases in longer-range research programs.

To meet the minimum requirement to be considered **interdisciplinary**, a proposed research project must combine elements from at least two different disciplines (as defined by a group-level classification based on the [Canadian Research and Development Classification](#)). Projects that integrate two disciplines with a long and established tradition of working together may satisfy the above requirement but not meet the expectations of the program.

The following elements are indicative of projects that do not meet program expectations for high risk, and are considered ineligible: research that is the obvious next step; data collection without interpretation of underlying mechanisms or patterns; professional practice or consulting services (contract research); set-up and operational management of an institute or a formal or informal group of researchers (network); curriculum development; organization of a conference or workshop; digitization of a collection or creation of a database; application of existing technology or commercialization of a product/process; routine analyses; and/or acquisition and maintenance of research equipment.

Applications for projects that are the same or similar, in whole or in part, to ones that have been submitted to or funded by other federal research granting agency programs should not be submitted to the NFRF program. Applications for projects the same as or similar to projects that have been unsuccessful in receiving funding from other agency programs may be submitted to the NFRF program in cases where the lack of success is due to the high-risk and/or interdisciplinary nature of the project, rather than limited funds in a highly competitive pool.

Webinar recordings

The links to the recordings of the Notice of Intent webinar presented on May 22nd for the 2025 Exploration competition can be found below, alongside a link to the slides used during the presentation.

English	Français
[NFRF Exploration 2025 NOI Webinar - English](#)	[FNFR Exploration 2025 Webinaire Avis d'intention - Français](#)
[English slides](#)	[Diapositives Français](#)

For more information: [Visit the NFRF 2025 Exploration Competition web page](#)

Proposal deadline: **September 10, 2025**

Value: Up to $400,000 per year over 15 years, up to a total of $6 million

Duration: Up to 15 years (An impact review will be conducted every five years to assess the relevance of the partnership and determine whether funding will continue.

The goal of this pilot funding opportunity is to support a 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.

If the pilot is deemed successful, the funding opportunity will be offered periodically, subject to availability of funds. Each competition will focus on a new target area in which research in the social sciences and humanities is well positioned to make an impact. Only one partnership will be funded per competition.

The successful partnership is 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.

The partnership is expected to be based within an established research entity at a Canadian postsecondary institution that has a demonstrated track record in the target area. The successful partnership will have significant flexibility in the scope, priorities and activities of the program of research to adapt to new developments and changing circumstances, as needed, over the duration of the grant. As the partnership is expected to strengthen Canadian policy-making in the target area, applicants must partner with at least one Canadian federal government department.

Target area 2025: Improving Canada's Productivity

Productivity is foundational to a country's long-term economic growth and prosperity. When productivity is growing rapidly, it benefits businesses, workers and consumers alike. However, according to the Bank of Canada's Senior Deputy Governor in March 2024, "Canada has seen no productivity growth in recent years," and there are "clear areas for improvement" in the factors driving productivity.

To address this timely issue, this pilot funding opportunity targets research that supports and informs public policy aimed at boosting Canada's productivity.

Applicants are invited to propose a long-term research program with high potential to inform policy-making in this area. A range of research topics directly related to policies driving efficiency gains for Canadian companies is welcome, 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.

Applicants must demonstrate how their proposed program of research would contribute substantially to development of actionable public policies that strengthen Canada's productivity.

Proposals can involve any disciplines, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding, but must be aligned with the theme of the target area described in this funding opportunity. See the guidelines on subject matter eligibility for more information.

Applications must be submitted by an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution. The project director must be affiliated with the host institution (the applicant), and prepare the application on behalf of the host institution and the formal partnership.

Postdoctoral researchers and students enrolled in a program of study are not eligible to apply as project directors.

For more information: Visit the Policy Innovation Partnership Grants 2025 web page

Call for Proposals: SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants

Proposal deadline: **September 15, and December 15, 2025**

Value: $7,000 to $25,000
Duration: 1 year

Partnership Engage Grants provide short-term and timely support for partnered research activities that will inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector. The small-scale, stakeholder-driven partnerships supported through Partnership Engage Grants are meant to respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing organizations in non-academic sectors. In addressing an organization-specific need, challenge and/or opportunity, these partnerships let non-academic organizations and postsecondary researchers access each other's unique knowledge, expertise and capabilities on topics of mutual interest.

Partnership Engage Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the Research Partnerships program. SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation.

SSHRC Partnerships Tool-Kit

This tool-kit includes useful tools and resources to help researchers and partners plan and implement a partnership— from preparing an application for partnership funding to knowledge mobilization activities.

Types of partnerships

Following are some possible formal partnership approaches. Applicants are in no way limited to these approaches and are welcome to combine some of the features described below.

- **Cross-sector co-creation of knowledge and understanding:** Partnerships to foster innovative research, training and the co-creation of new knowledge on critical issues of intellectual, social, economic and cultural significance.
- **Partnered knowledge mobilization:** Partnerships designed to synthesize, apply and mobilize new and existing social sciences and humanities research knowledge in accessible ways to build institutional capacity and to increase the national and international impact and stature of Canadian research.

Only one Canadian or international organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector can be involved as a partner organization. Postsecondary institutions and scholarly associations are not eligible as partner organizations.

Organizations collaborating with postsecondary institutions can be considered eligible as long as they are a separate entity from the postsecondary institution. The partner organization must be at arm's length (independent) from the academic institution and the applicant.

Future Challenge Areas

SSHRC invites all applicants to review [Imagining Canada's Future's](#) 16 future global challenges and to consider addressing one or more of these areas in their research proposal. This is not an evaluation criterion for merit review and does not offer additional or dedicated research funds for this funding opportunity.

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants web page](#).

Call for proposals: SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants

Proposal deadline: September 22, 2025

Value: Up to $15,000
Duration: 1 year

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.

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding program for research and innovation, with a budget of €95.5 billion. It offers significant opportunities to access new knowledge, partners, markets, customers and suppliers. In November 2023, the Government of Canada closed substantive negotiations with the European Commission to join Horizon Europe as an associated country under Pillar II: Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness. While Canadians could previously participate in all Horizon Europe calls that were open to international partners, they would have had to largely secure their own funding to participate in a given project. With associated country status, Canadians can now access funding directly from the EU.

Destination Horizon Grants proposals are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#).

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

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

Matching funds

SSHRC will not fund the full cost of any Destination Horizon Grant. Additional support in the form of eligible cash contributions equivalent to 100% of the amount requested from SSHRC must come from the host institution. Applicants must demonstrate their ability to secure at least the minimum matching funding. Applicants must do so by including a

letter of support from the host institution that clearly confirms the amounts and types of contributions the host is providing.

Applicants can draw on complementary funding from SSHRC research grants and/or from other research funding agencies, but must make clear in their budget proposal there is no duplication of financial support for the same budget expenses. While such funds can be used in this complementary way, these funds cannot be counted toward the requirement for matching funds.

See SSHRC's [Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions](#) for more details.

Subject-Matter Eligibility

Most SSHRC funding is awarded through open competitions. Proposals can involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. See the [guidelines on subject matter eligibility](#) for more information.

Projects whose primary objective is to conduct research activities (e.g., literature reviews, field work, data collection, interviews) are not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity.

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must demonstrate:

- their eligible affiliation and primary affiliation in the social sciences or humanities;
- their readiness to further develop networks and/or consortia with EU and other associated countries' researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to a Horizon Europe—Pillar II call;
- eligible budget requests; and
- 100% matching cash contributions from the host institution.

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants web page](#)

Call for Proposals: *Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research Connection Grants*

Proposal deadline: **September 23, 2025**

Value: Up to $50,000
Duration: 1 year

The Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research (ICLR) Connection Grants will contribute to Indigenous leadership and self-determination in research. The events and activities funded represent opportunities to engage and exchange knowledge on successful ways of conducting Indigenous research that are transformative and contribute to Indigenous-led research, including wholistic and [distinctions-based](#) approaches.

This funding opportunity aligns with the tri-agency *[Setting New Directions to Support Indigenous Research and Research Training in Canada](#) strategic plan* and Indigenous communities' aspirations to provide support for transformative research and training that contributes to innovation and reconciliation.

More specifically, it aims to:

- support the research priorities of Indigenous Peoples;
- champion Indigenous leadership, self-determination and capacity in research, to the benefit of Indigenous communities;
- increase awareness and understanding of Indigenous researchers, students and communities;

- recognize Indigenous ways of knowing as an integral part of valid and authoritative research;
- support Indigenous-led strategies and structures that address respectful and mutually beneficial data management and intellectual property rights in Indigenous research; and
- decolonize Indigenous research through the development of clear structures and resources for Indigenous Peoples to grow research capacity, including creating greater accessibility to granting agency program funding.

==All of the grants for this funding opportunity are reserved for First Nations or Métis not-for-profit organizations, Indigenous not-for-profit organizations serving more than one distinction, or Indigenous postsecondary institutions.== The portion of the [federal budget commitment](#) dedicated to the Inuit Peoples will be allocated through a separate funding mechanism.

In the case of an application to an individual grant, the project director must be affiliated with one of these eligible organizations/institutions. (See [Applicants and Institutions details](#) for more information on institutional and individual grant eligibility.)

Expected outcomes

ICLR Connection Grants support a wide range of events and outreach activities geared toward initiatives that contribute to and support wholistic research strategies, capacity growth, self-determination and leadership for First Nations and Métis communities to conduct research by:

- supporting knowledge mobilization and translation by Métis and First Nations researchers and community members at Indigenous not-for-profit organizations and postsecondary institutions;
- strengthening knowledge and understanding by leveraging perspectives from across multiple disciplines, sectors and ways of knowing;
- supporting First Nations and Métis leadership and capacity-building;
- strengthening Métis and First Nations research capacities by supporting training activities within their communities, at Indigenous postsecondary institutions and at Indigenous not-for-profit organizations;
- supporting development and growth of First Nations and Métis-led strategies and structures aligned with research data management practices and intellectual property rights in Indigenous research;
- generating research outputs by communities, nations, institutions and organizations that address Métis and First Nations' needs; and
- integrating reciprocity as essential to research methodology, planning and outcomes.

Subject matter eligibility

Proposals are intended to be wholistic, involving any discipline, thematic area, approach or subject area. They should be guided by strategic themes that have emerged from the three federal research granting agencies' ongoing engagement with First Nations and/or Métis communities, as well as with communities that include more than one distinction, and the priorities of those communities.

Applicants to the ICLR Connection Grants are encouraged to organize wholistic events, outreach activities, or a combination of both, that address one or more of the following interrelated themes in a distinctions-based context:

1. Supporting Indigenous Talent and Research Careers
2. Engaging Indigenous Knowledge
3. Strengthening Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research
4. Fostering Mutually Respectful Relationships

For more information: [Visit the Indigenous Capacity and Leadership in Research Connection Grants web page](#).

Call for Proposals: SSHRC Insight Grants

Proposal deadline: October 1, 2025

Value: $10,000 to $500,000
Duration: 2 to 5 years

Stable support for long-term research initiatives is central to advancing knowledge. It enables scholars to address complex issues about individuals and societies, and to further our collective understanding.

Insight Grants support research proposed by scholars and judged worthy of funding by their peers and/or other experts. Insight Grant research initiatives can be undertaken by an individual researcher or a team of researchers working in collaboration.

Insight Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the emerging scholars and established scholars for research initiatives of two to five years. Applicants choose from one of two streams, depending on the amount of funding required. Both streams will be adjudicated by the same committees, and will receive the same rigorous level of merit review. The deadlines and application process are identical for both; however, the targeted success rate for Stream A is higher than for Stream B.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving Indigenous research, as well as those involving research-creation.

Joint initiatives

SSHRC collaborates with organizations from across the not-for-profit, private and public sectors to support and promote training, research and connection activities in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC's joint initiatives are designed to reflect its strategic objectives and mandate, inform decision-makers, and, in certain cases, address specific needs of its partners.

The following joint initiatives are available for this funding opportunity:

- Belmont Forum
- John R. Evans Leaders Fund
- Department of National Defence Research Initiative
- Mitacs Accelerate
- Sport Participation Research Initiative

Webinars

SSHRC will be holding two webinars for the Insight competition via MS Teams. They will outline what is new this year and will include a question period. Registration is required for these webinars.

Date	Time	Language	Meeting link
21 août 2025	De 10 h à 12 h HE	Français	Lien pour s'inscrire et rejoindre la réunion
August 21, 2025	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Eastern 11:00 am – Noon Pacific	Engish	Registration and Meeting Link

For more information: Visit the SSHRC Insight Grants web page

Proposal deadline: December 2, 2025

Value: Up to $30,000
Duration: 1 year

This Knowledge Synthesis Grants competition is to mobilize, examine and synthesize social sciences and humanities research on The Arts Transformed. The resulting syntheses will identify roles the academic, public, private and not-for-profit sectors could play in promoting more inclusive and equitable societies, and could inform development of effective tools and technologies, robust policies and sustainable practices needed to support the path toward a diverse and inclusive future for all.

The Arts Transformed is one of the 16 global future challenges identified through SSHRC's Imagining Canada's Future initiative. These complex issues, identified in 2018 following an extensive foresight exercise, reflect key challenges Canada and the world are likely to face over the coming decades. All the challenges cross multiple sectors, jurisdictions and research disciplines, and require broad collaboration to address. This Knowledge Synthesis Grants funding opportunity is informed and shaped by cross-sectoral and diverse perspectives, including from subject matter experts, policy leaders and community leaders.

From an underwater public sculpture park to a multisensory, immersive live performance using body sensors and virtual reality, the arts world is blooming with new artworks that use cutting-edge technologies and explore novel venues for artistic expression. In parallel, the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, as well as mounting sustainability concerns, have accelerated adoption of new digital tools and practices. This includes using online platforms to manage art collections, and integrating virtual, augmented and mixed reality technologies, with applications ranging from museum exhibits to the fashion industry. The arts are now more readily accessible to anyone with internet access, although further effort is needed to support equitable distribution of benefits from these innovations, particularly in the Global South.

Digital platforms, such as YouTube, Spotify and TikTok, offer both established and emerging artists new avenues for producing, distributing and monetizing their work, as well as new opportunities to engage and expand their audiences. They can give visibility and voice to new, previously excluded creatives. While new forms of artistic expression continue to evolve, digital technology has not displaced the predominant models of production and distribution in the cultural sector. Platform algorithms can also increase competition among artists and reinforce existing inequities by undermining unconventional art forms / artistic expression in favour of mainstream content, leading to increasingly homogenous art. Francophone and Indigenous content in Canada are likely to be disproportionately impacted by this issue.

As generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems continue to evolve at an exponential rate, complex legal, ethical and philosophical questions have surfaced as to how we define art and the role of the human artist in the creative process. In response to the multiplication of artwork generated by AI systems, future art lovers may seek out more authentic, human-made artworks for their intrinsic artistic value. The proliferation of deepfakes has also brought to light the shortcomings in existing legislative and regulatory frameworks designed to protect artists and copyright holders. Future reforms to copyright laws present an opportunity to remove barriers preventing adequate protection of Indigenous data sovereignty and copyright protection on Indigenous art, culture and knowledge. In addition, studies have revealed deep flaws in generative AI models and their algorithms, leading to racial and gender biases that exacerbate disparities in the real world, disproportionately impacting the representation of Black individuals and Black history and culture in image and text. To combat these issues, concerted efforts will be needed by the AI industry and cross-sectoral stakeholders impacted by its systems, with support from artists and activists. Against the backdrop of the climate crisis, it is also imperative to consider the environmental impact of new technologies, and repercussions for future generations.

The issues mentioned above, as well as shifts in private and public funding, add to the precarity in the arts and culture sector. Slow adoption of digital technology in many arts organizations; low data literacy rates; declining attendance at live venues, museums and galleries; and declining philanthropic investment pose existential threats to the sector. Rising

inflation in recent years has been detrimental to a creative industry already hard hit by the pandemic. The current housing crisis in Canada and the process of gentrification, extending beyond residential areas to local venues and art spaces, add to these challenges. The loss of affordable arts spaces has a ripple effect on cities and communities, which can no longer benefit from the cultural and economic advantages the arts provide. The impact of these crises will be particularly felt by marginalized communities that possess fewer resources. Even so, these challenges create an opportunity to rethink policies as well as funding criteria and funding streams in the arts and culture sector, with a view to broadening their scope to include cultural spaces and art activities not reflected in the current narrative.

Despite the vulnerability of the creative sector, it is important to acknowledge the role the arts can play in a world facing a looming "polycrisis" precipitated by a convergence of complex crises, such as climate change, fragile health-care systems, political polarization, rising inequalities and more. Greater engagement in creative activities can help mitigate these crises by strengthening social cohesion, promoting positive health outcomes, reinvigorating local economies, and reducing challenges associated with an aging population.

Finally, complex societal challenges also offer a unique opportunity to reconsider the impact of arts education in equipping students with a set of valuable and transferable skills, including creative thinking, problem solving, persistence and resilience. In the workplace, training based on artistic methods, which frequently involves grappling with the unknown, can be a valuable tool for preparing for an uncertain and unpredictable future. Beyond this, the arts are powerful and can serve to educate and further sensitize the general public to pressing issues, such as racial injustice and global warming, through creative media that have been used to provoke deep reflection and engagement for millennia.

Knowledge Synthesis Grants

Knowledge Synthesis Grants are not intended to support original research. Rather, they are intended to support the synthesis of existing research knowledge and identify knowledge gaps. This call is particularly focused on the state of research produced over the past 10 years.

Knowledge Synthesis Grants support researchers in producing knowledge synthesis reports and evidence briefs that:

- support the use of evidence in decision making and the application of best practices; and
- assist in developing future research agendas.

Applicants must address the following three objectives in their proposals:

- Critical assessment of the state of knowledge; identify strengths and gaps
- Research data – assess quality and rigour of current work in the field; identify gaps in data available
- Knowledge mobilization

SSHRC welcomes applications involving [Indigenous research](#), as well as those involving [research-creation](#).

Webinar

SSHRC will be holding a webinar for this competition via MS Teams in fall 2025. ==Registration is required for this webinar.== The webinar will include an overview of the funding opportunity and a question-and-answer period.

Date	Time	Language	Webinar connection information
October 2, 2025	11:00 am – noon Eastern 8:00 am – 9:00 am Pacific	Bilingual (simultaneous interpretation)	The registration link will be added to the [funding opportunity page](#).

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grants web page](#).

Thinking of applying for any of these opportunities?

Please click here to fill out our Proposal Notice of Intent (NOI) form.

Please contact the Office of Research Services and we will assist you in the development of your proposal. Note that the principal investigator for any grant application submitted through Royal Roads University must be a core faculty member at RRU.

Questions about your author rights, publishing, or promoting your research?
Contact Cassandra Larose, Scholarly Communications Librarian, at 250-391-2600, ext. 4324.

Questions about your data management plan?
Contact Amber Gallant, Data Services Librarian, at 250-391-2600, ext. 4433.

Spotlight

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research: Artificial Intelligence in Research

The topic of Artificial Intelligence is ubiquitous these days across our campus, networks, and in our classrooms. How is it used in research, and what should we watch for? In *Nature,* Lisa Messeri and M. J. Crockett tackle the topic of *Artificial intelligence and illusions of understanding in scientific research*. You can access this excellent article via your RRU Library Login. In it, Messeri and Crockett discuss how "Scientists are enthusiastically imagining ways in which artificial intelligence (AI) tools might improve research. Why are AI tools so attractive and what are the risks of implementing them across the research pipeline?" The article offers a "taxonomy of scientists' visions for AI ... [and] a framework for advancing discussions of responsible knowledge production in the age of AI."

Access the full article here.

RRU's own Jaigris Hodson co-authored an article with David Rand and Heather Lanthorn called *Chatbots can help clinicians become better communicators, and this could boost vaccine uptake*. This recent article discusses how AI chats can help clinicians increase their communications skills in order to increase vaccine uptake. This article demonstrates how AI can be effectively used in both clinical practice and in research.

Access the full article here.

Questions about anything in the Research e-bulletin?   Contact the **Office of Research Services**