



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Research Calls and Funding Opportunities

August 22, 2025

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'Bikes in the vineyard' [Épernay, France] by M. E. Sanseverino is used under [Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#)

Funding and Award Opportunities



Call for Proposals:

SSHRC Insight Grants

Proposal deadline: **October 1, 2025**

Value: \$10,000 to \$500,000

Duration: 2 to 5 years

Insight Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [emerging scholars](#) and [established scholars](#) for research initiatives of two to five years. Insight Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Insight Research program](#).

The objectives of the Insight Research program are to:

- build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector perspectives through support for the best researchers;
- support new approaches to research on complex and important topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, institution or discipline;
- provide a high-quality research training experience for students;
- fund research expertise that relates to societal challenges and opportunities; and
- mobilize research knowledge, to and from academic and non-academic audiences, with the potential to lead to intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact.

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.

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](#)

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

Pre-announcement: Artificial Intelligence Humanities Sandpits: Canada, UK and US

Timeline

Expressions of interest opening date	August 2025
Expressions of Interest closing date	October 31, 2025
Expressions of interest results announced and sandpit invitations issued	December 2025
In-person three-day workshop in Canada	February 2026
Virtual workshop	April 2026

Project applications submitted and assessed	May 2026
Project funding decisions announced	July 2026
Project start date	October 1, 2026
Latest project end date	March 31, 2028

Value: Up to \$200,000

Duration: 18 months

SSHRC and UK Research and Innovation's Arts and Humanities Research Council plan to invite researchers to submit expressions of interest to participate in a humanities-led, interdisciplinary research "sandpit" (a facilitated, collaborative process through which new research teams and project ideas are developed and selected for funding) to put humanities insights and methodologies at the heart of artificial intelligence tech design.

Through a series of workshops, teams would develop project ideas for further funding. Up to four grants would ultimately be awarded. Travel and subsistence costs to attend an in-person workshop will be covered by the funders.

Who can apply

This funding opportunity will be open to researchers based in the UK, Canada, and the US, pending final funder approvals.

As this is an interdisciplinary opportunity, we welcome researchers from outside the humanities to apply. As projects will require development of AI-related tools, we particularly encourage individuals with relevant technical expertise to apply.

We welcome applicants from any career stage.

About the Sandpit

A sandpit is a facilitated workshop process through which new project teams and research propositions will be co-developed and funded. Participants apply as individuals, and applications are generated during the workshops, not in advance. We are looking for attendees without preconceived project ideas or teams.

The [Doing AI Differently White Paper](#) will be the primary reference document for this sandpit.

Thematic Focus

We are at a pivotal moment in AI design. Contemporary AI systems increasingly produce cultural outputs, such as text, images and multimedia that resemble human cultural artefacts in unprecedented ways. This represents AI's 'qualitative turn': a fundamental shift toward systems whose inputs and outputs are deeply embedded in human cultural contexts.

This transformation creates an urgent need for humanities and arts perspectives to shape AI's foundational design, training, and evaluation, not merely analyse its outputs. The interpretive technologies theme addresses this need by supporting research that integrates humanistic methodologies directly into AI system design.

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Pre-Announcement web page](#)

[Visit the UK Research and Innovation pre-announcement web page](#)

Call for proposals: SSHRC Connection Grants

Application deadline: November 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.

Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative

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: SSHRC Partnership Development Grants

Proposal deadline: November 17, 2025

Value: \$75,000 to \$200,000

Duration: 1 to 3 years

Partnership Development Grants provide support over one to three years to teams/partnerships, led by a project director, to:

- develop research and/or related activities in the social sciences and humanities—these can include knowledge mobilization and the meaningful involvement of students and emerging scholars—by fostering new partnerships with existing and/or potential partners; or
- design and test new partnership approaches for research and/or related activities that can result in best practices or models—these can either be adapted by others or have the potential to be scaled up to a regional, national or international level.

These grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#).

Partnership funding is intended for formal partnerships between postsecondary institutions and/or organizations of various types. For more information, see the definitions for [formal partnership](#) and [partner organization](#).

The quality of training, mentoring and employability plans for students and emerging scholars will be evaluated as an important part of the proposed initiative. [SSHRC's Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#) explain how students and emerging scholars can meaningfully participate in proposed initiatives.

The intellectual leadership and governance for the creation of a formal partnership can come from the research community and/or from partner organizations from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. For more information related to Partnership Development Grants, see the [Eligibility](#) section.

SSHRC invites applicants and their partner organizations who wish to propose formal disciplinary, interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, international and/or cross-sector partnership arrangements to apply for support through this funding opportunity. Funds are available to support a variety of formal partnership development initiatives in all the disciplines and themes that meet [SSHRC's subject matter eligibility guidelines](#).

SSHRC's [Partnerships Tool-Kit](#) offers tools and resources to assist with the planning and implementation of your partnership.

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

Call for Proposals: Knowledge Synthesis Grants: The Arts Transformed

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.

[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.](#)

Call for Proposals: SSHRC Partnership Engage Grants

Proposal deadline: **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.](#)

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: Navigating cross-cultural research

In *Navigating cross-cultural research: methodological and ethical consideration*, Broesch et al. discuss the methodological and ethical considerations of multi-site, cross-cultural research. Amid the growing demand for research that is interculturally appropriate in its methods, and relevant in its outputs, how can we ensure that our research is meeting the complex needs of the world? From the abstract of this paper: "Given an increasing demand for social scientists to expand their data collection beyond WEIRD (Western, educated, industrialized, rich and democratic) populations, there is an urgent need for transdisciplinary conversations on the logistical, scientific and ethical considerations inherent to this type of scholarship."¹

If you are interested in this conversation, the Intercultural Competence Advisory Collective is looking at what Royal Roads University could do to ensure that our intercultural research is conducted appropriately and respectfully. [Please reach out!](#)

¹ Broesch T et al. 2020 Navigating cross-cultural research: methodological and ethical considerations. Proc. R. Soc. B 287: 20201245. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2020.1245>

Online Presentation: WorkSafe BC's Research Grants Program

Event date: September 11, 2025 (Thursday) at 12:00 (noon) – 1:00 pm (Pacific)

Stephanie Davidson, Strategic Research Advisor at WorkSafe BC, and members of their team will join us Thursday, September 11 from 12:00 – 1:00 via Zoom to provide a comprehensive overview of WorkSafeBC's Research Grants Program, including a brief history and the program's evolution over time.

They will outline the four distinct funding streams that comprise the program, detailing the available funding amounts, eligibility criteria, application procedures and associated timelines, and finally, expected outcomes from successful applicants. Additionally, they will highlight examples of previously funded projects. There will be an opportunity after the presentation to answer any questions, and the session will be recorded.

To take part in this presentation: [Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 837 6449 0216

Passcode: 513640

Questions about anything in the Research e-bulletin? Contact the [Office of Research Services](#)