



Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

Research Calls and Funding Opportunities

October 3, 2025

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Funding and Award Opportunities



*Call for expressions of interest: Artificial Intelligence Humanities Sandpits:
Canada, UK and US*

Expression of Interest deadline: October 30, 2025

Expressions of interest results announced and sandpit invitations issued – December 2025

Value: Up to \$200,000

Duration: 18 months

SSHRC and UK Research and Innovation's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) invite 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. Sixty participants will be chosen from UK, Canadian and US research organisations to take part in in-person and virtual workshops.

During the sandpit process, teams will form, develop and refine project ideas through a facilitated process guided by the sandpit Director and Mentors.

Up to four grants will ultimately be awarded. CAD \$800,000 is available for Canada-based team members. US-based team members may be part of funded UK or Canada teams, under certain conditions. 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 encourage applications from a range of disciplines, and career stages including established faculty as well as those in postdoctoral positions. We are unable to accept applications from current PhD students. As successful applicants will be able to bid for grant funding through the sandpit mechanism, you must be eligible to receive funding from either UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) or [SSHRC](#).

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 sandpit process will include:

- a three-day in-person residential workshop in Canada in February 2026
- a virtual workshop in April 2026
- director and mentor-facilitated application development, peer review and cohort support
- support for up to four projects, which must begin on 1 October 2026

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 AI Humanities Sandpit web page](#)

[Visit the UK Research and Innovation 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.

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.

Webinar / Webinaire	Date	MS Teams Link / Lien MS Teams
Connection Grants - English	November 25, 2025 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Eastern 8:00 am to 10:00 am Pacific	Connection Grant webinar - English
Subventions Connexion - français	Le 26 novembre 2025 de 11 h à 13 h de l'Est de 8 h à 10 h du Pacifique	Subventions Connexion - webinaire français

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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.

Webinars

Webinar / Webinaire	Date	MS Teams Link / Lien MS Teams
Partnership Engage Grants - English	October 22, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Eastern 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Pacific	Partnership Engage Grant webinar - English
Subventions d'engagement partenarial - français	Le 23 octobre 2025 de 13 h à 14 h de l'Est de 10 h à 12 h du Pacifique	Subventions d'engagement partenarial - webinaire français

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

Call for proposals: SSHRC Destination Horizon Grants

Proposal deadline: January 22, 2026

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.

Webinars

Webinar / Webinaire	Date	MS Teams Link / Lien MS Teams
English	December 4, 2025 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Eastern 10:00 am to 12:30 pm Pacific	English webinar link
Français	4 décembre 2025 de 11 h à 12 h 30 de l'Est de 08 h à 09 h 30 du Pacifique	Lien de webinaire français

For more information: [Visit the SSHRC Destination Horizon 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: October 7th educational session from BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

On October 7th, join the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner of BC to learn how systems in our workplaces, organizations and communities can create barriers and harms for certain groups. From the webinar description: "Through stories and real-life examples, participants will learn how to identify systemic discrimination and take action in both the short and long-term. By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- identify some key elements of systemic discrimination
- explain systemic and interpersonal discrimination
- understand the impacts of systemic discrimination
- identify who is impacted by systemic discrimination
- identify where systemic discrimination happens
- notice systemic discrimination in their daily lives
- begin reflecting on actions they might take**

[Register here to join this learning opportunity!](#)

Upcoming Events - Horizon Europe

The Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat is pleased to share some upcoming events on Horizon Europe for your consideration.

November 26-27, 2025 [Horizon Deep Tech Summit](#) (Madrid)

- The Horizon Deep Tech Summit 2025 is the leading international event in Deep Tech, set to take place in Madrid. The event will cover key topics such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, space tech, energy and decarbonisation, mobility, food tech, med tech, biotech, cybersecurity, advanced materials, dual-use technologies, and defence tech. The event will host panel discussions, start up competitions and multiple networking opportunities with key players in the ecosystem.

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