OFFICE OF RESEARCH
NEWSLETTER

Royal Roads UNIVERSITY

Research Calls and Funding Opportunities

February 20, 2026

'The team heading for home' by M.E. Sanseverino is used under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Funding and Award Opportunities

Call for applications: De Chastelain Scholarship Programme

Application deadline: **May 11, 2026**

Value: CAD $3,000 as a contribution towards all transport costs associated with the visit — including international flights, airport transfers, local transport.

CAD $2,250 per week of scholarship, as a contribution to address accommodation, meals, meetings, and other incidental expenses during the visit.

Duration: 3 to 6 weeks

The Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF) is very pleased to announce the creation of the De Chastelain Scholarship Programme, achieved with the support of the Irish and Canadian governments.

The De Chastelain Scholarships are designed to strengthen research links and academic exchange between Canada and the island of Ireland. At their core, the scholarships explore how Canada and Ireland can learn from one another in the pursuit of peace and reconciliation — and how, together, we can contribute to sustaining peace in the wider world. This ambition honours General John de Chastelain, who played a pivotal role in negotiating and securing peace on the island of Ireland, and whose legacy inspires this programme.

The scholarships will enable researchers from Ireland to spend 3–6 weeks at a Canadian university, and Canadian researchers to spend the same period at a university on the island of Ireland.

Themes

We welcome proposals from all academic disciplines. Some projects may focus directly on the dynamics of conflict and reconciliation; others may address the wider conditions that enable societies to live in peace. Together, these form two broad but connected themes:

- Pathways to Peace – the processes of negotiation, mediation, reconciliation, and conflict resolution that build and secure peace.
- Grounds for Hope – the contexts and practices that help peace settle, grow, and become durable, including governance, law, economics, health, environment, culture, and identity.

Applicants are encouraged to be imaginative in connecting their discipline to these themes. For example, research might explore conflict mediation, the resilience of democratic institutions, environmental sustainability, health systems, cultural identity, or the perspectives of Indigenous peoples on land and community.

The programme recognises that Indigenous knowledge plays a central role in shaping peaceful and sustainable societies, and seeks to create space for these voices within the exchange between Ireland and Canada.

While the primary aim is to strengthen links between Canada and the island of Ireland, the research may also address challenges in other regions of the world, provided that the work involves genuine collaboration between Irish and Canadian academics and speaks to the wider goals of building and sustaining peace.

The programme welcomes scholars at different stages of their careers. Through one unified application process, awards are made to both Emerging Scholars (within seven years of their PhD, following common European research-funding practice) and Established Scholars, with all recipients holding the title De Chastelain Scholar. Applicants without a PhD are eligible where they demonstrate an established academic or research practice of equivalent standing. To support the next generation of academic leaders, a substantial proportion of scholarships each year—up to half—will be reserved for Emerging Scholars.

For more information: Visit the ICUF De Chastelain Scholarship Programme web site.

'Ice Skating on "De Poel"' by Max Bisschop is used under Creative Commons license CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Call for proposals: SSHRC Connection Grants

Proposal deadline: **May 1, August 4, and November 2, 2026**

Value: Events: $10,000 to $25,000
            Outreach activities: $10,000 to $50,000;
Duration: 1 year

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

These grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted [knowledge mobilization](#) initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and engage with participants on research issues they value. 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 support workshops, colloquiums, conferences, forums, summer institutes, documentaries 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, 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 up to 10 meritorious Connection Grant proposals per competition to help the social sciences and humanities research community develop, adopt and disseminate research data management standards, practices, tools and skills. Learn more about the [Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative](#).

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. SSRHC staff will conduct an administrative review to evaluate the proposal's relevance to this initiative. Applications deemed ineligible for the Research Data Management Capacity Building Initiative will remain in the Connection Grants competition.

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

Proposal deadlines: May 22, and **September 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 (EU) 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.

Subject matter

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, etc.) are not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity.

Applicants

Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers (consisting of one applicant and one or more co-applicants and/or collaborators).

Applicants must be affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution that holds institutional eligibility at the time of application. Researchers who maintain an affiliation with a Canadian institution that holds institutional eligibility, but whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution, are not eligible for applicant status.

Postdoctoral researchers and students are not eligible for applicant or co-applicant status for a Destination Horizon Grant.

Webinar

To learn more about the application process, applicants are invited to listen to the webinar recording from the previous competition. The recording is available in [English](#) and in [French](#).

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

Call for proposals: *Partnership Engage Grants*

Proposal deadline: **June 15, September 15, and December 15, 2026**

Value: $10,000 to $50,000
Duration: 1 year

Partnership Engage Grants are expected to respond to the objectives of the [Research Partnerships program](#).

These 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.

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

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

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.

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 associated with this funding opportunity:

- Mitacs Accelerate—Grants

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? See the Library's Research Data Management Guide for more information, or contact the library.

Spotlight

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Research: Anti-Racist Research

As we near the close of Black History Month, a reminder that RRU hosts the Anti-Racism in Research toolkit – free for use and sharing within and beyond our university. From the toolkit: "Race as a categorical variable in quantitative research data collection or as a descriptor of a community in qualitative research needs to be critically evaluated for its reliability and validity. Anti-racist approaches in research design and implementation are important to research processes." (p.6-7).

You can find the toolkit as a Word and PDF document here, and watch a presentation from the author.

Upcoming Horizon Europe Events and Webinars

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!

February 25, 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.*

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