Overview of the Insight Development Grants Funding Opportunity

December 2016

Canada
Insight Development Grants (IDG)

- Supports research in its initial stages by emerging and established scholars

- Enables development of new research questions, experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches, and ideas
IDG: Features

- **Applicants:** Must be affiliated with an eligible Canadian post-secondary institution
- **Co-applicants:** post-secondary scholars (can be international)
- **Duration:** 1 to 2 years
- **Value:** Up to $75,000
- **Funding:** Separate budgetary envelope for Emerging Scholars (minimum 50% of overall envelope)
- **Application process:** One-stage application
IDG Applicants: Emerging Scholars

- May not have held a grant* as principal investigator or project director through any of Tri-Agency funding opportunity (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR)

- Meet at least one of the other criteria for emerging scholars

- Career development

* With the exception of knowledge mobilization grants (e.g. Connection, Knowledge Synthesis)
IDG Applicants: Established Scholars

- Must clearly demonstrate how proposed research differs from previous research
- Does not support ongoing research by established scholars
Multiple Applications and Re-applications

Applications submitted as an applicant

IDG Feb 2016 + IG Oct 2016 = ❌

IG Oct 2016 + IDG Feb 2017 = ✅ Objectives must be significantly different

- No limit to the number of applications as a co-applicant or collaborator.

- Grant holders may re-apply to the same funding opportunity in the final year of funding.

- Automatic one-year extension for all grants.
IDG: What's new?

- Updated definition of Emerging Scholar
- Improved CCV
- Revised instructions for Funds Requested from SSHRC module
- Joint Initiatives:
  - Department of National Defense
IDG Deadlines

Faculty/School – earlier
ORS – January 20, 2017
SSHRC – February 3, 2017
Evaluation and Adjudication

- No external assessments
- Single-stage committee review process
- Committees include national and international scholars (and sometimes experts from other sectors)
- SSHRC makes funding decisions based on committee recommendations and funds available
IDG Adjudication Committees

- Multidisciplinary, thematic and disciplinary committees
- Number and nature of committees is based on number of applications received
- Three readers
- Optional cross-committee evaluation for multidisciplinary applications
IDG Evaluation Criteria

**Challenge:**
The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%)

**Feasibility:**
The plan to achieve excellence (20%)

**Capability:**
The expertise to succeed (30%)
1. Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%):

- originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge;
- appropriateness of:
  - literature review;
  - theoretical approach or framework;
  - methods/approach;
- quality of training and mentoring to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute; and
- potential for the project results to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.
2. Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (20%):
   - probability that the objectives will be met within the timeline proposed;
   - appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of proposed costs;
   - indications of financial and in-kind contributions from other sources, where appropriate;
   - quality and appropriateness of knowledge mobilization plans, including for effective dissemination, exchange and engagement with stakeholders within and/or beyond the research community where applicable; and
   - appropriateness of the strategies for conducting the research activity/activities proposed.
3. **Capability—The expertise to succeed (30%)**:

- quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/or creative outputs of the applicant and any co-applicants, relative to their roles in the project and their respective stages of career;
- **evidence of other knowledge mobilization activities** (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, experience in collaboration / other interactions with stakeholders, contributions to public debate and media), and of impacts on professional practice, social services and policies, etc.;
- evidence of **contributions to the development of talent**; and
- potential of the applicant/co-applicant to make future contributions.
6-point Scoring Scale

Excellent
Very good
Good
Satisfactory
Moderate
Unsatisfactory

* «moderate» = minimum required for each of 3 criteria
Adjudication Process

- Calibration exercise
- Preliminary scores & ranking
- Emerging and established scholars ranked and discussed separately
- No discussion of applications ranked in bottom 30%
- Committee discussion
- Final ranking
Budget Evaluation

- Increase in number of applications and budgets requested = declining success rate for Insight Development Grants

- Ensure proposed budgets are appropriate and well-justified

- **Automatic** failure on Feasibility if 50% or more of request insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate
Feedback Provided

- Result letter
- Notice of Decision
  - Committee and competition statistics
- Committee Evaluation form (if discussed)
Questions?