

External Funding Opportunities

Updated November 22, 2024

By: Sarah Cullingham, Faculty Grant Officer for Social Sciences

Federal Tri-Agency Funding Opportunities*

CANADIAN INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR)				
Catalyst Grant	These grants are intended to support the initial stages of research in new areas of investigation.	Various deadlines	\$100,000/year (typically)	1 year
Operating Grants	These grants fund researchers working in specified priority areas, projects respond to research needs identified by the institutes.	Various deadlines	\$100,000-\$1M/year (typically)	2-5 years (typically)
Project Grants	Supports individual researchers or groups of researchers to advance fundamental or applied health-related knowledge in all areas of health.	Fall and Spring Applications	Variable value ~\$200,000/year average	1-5 years (4 yrs average)
Planning & Dissemination Grants	Supports activities, partnership development, and events that increase the understanding of and communicate health research evidence.	Summer and Winter Applications	Variable funding limits \$50,000/year maximum	1 year
Other	Rolling competitions. All open competitions are posted on ResearchNet.	Various deadlines	Variable	Variable
NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (NSERC)				
CREATE Grants	Supports teams of researchers to offer training and mentoring opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.	Spring LOI Fall Application	Maximum of \$1.65M total	Up to 6 years
Discovery Grants	Supports individual researchers' long-term program of research.	Summer LOI Fall Application	Variable value ~\$35,000/year average	Up to 5 years
Alliance Grants	Supports cross-sectoral and international research collaborations. Three different streams: Advantage (to address partner needs); Society (to address societal challenges); International (for global academic partnerships).	Ongoing Intake	Variable by stream	
Research Tools and Instruments	Supports NSERC-funded researchers to purchase research equipment, repair, upgrade, or rent equipment, or fabricate equipment that is not readily available off the shelf.	Fall Application	Up to \$150,000	1 year

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NEW FRONTIERS IN RESEARCH FUND (NFRF)				
Exploration	Supports novel interdisciplinary research that has the potential to make a significant impact (high reward) but which carries a potential risk of failure (high risk).	Annual competition with variable deadlines	Up to \$125,000/year	Up to 2 years
Transformation	Supports large-scale Canadian-led interdisciplinary research	Biennial competition with variable deadlines	\$2M minimum - \$4M maximum	6 years
International	Supports Canadian participation in international research through joint funding calls with international research funding agencies and support for Canadian researchers who are part of international teams applying for funding from global sources.	Variable	Call specific	Call Specific
SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (SSHRC)				
Insight Grants	Supports longer-term (2-5 year) research projects that build knowledge about people, societies, and the world. Can be used to support ongoing research.	Oct Application	\$7,000 - \$400,000	2-5 years
Insight Development Grants	Supports the initial stages of research that builds knowledge about people, societies, and the world. Established Scholars may only apply to pursue new research questions and/or approaches that are distinct from previous and ongoing research. This restriction does not apply to Emerging Scholars.	Feb Application	\$7,000 - \$75,000	1-2 years
Connection Grants	Supports short-term knowledge mobilization initiatives (outreach activities and/or events). Applicants can apply for funding exceeding the \$50,000 limit for outreach activities if the request is well justified.	Feb, May, June, Nov Applications	\$7,000 - \$50,000 \$25,000 max. for events	1 year
Partnership Engage Grants	Supports short-term (1 year) research projects that respond to the needs of a single partner organization.	Mar, May, Sept, Dec Applications	\$7,000 - \$25,000	1 year
Partnership Development Grants	Supports shorter-term (1-3 year) projects to develop partnership-based research or knowledge mobilization projects, or design/test new partnership approaches.	Nov Application	\$75,000 - \$200,000	1-3 years
Partnership Grants	Provides long-term (4-7 year) support for new or existing partnerships to advance research training and/or knowledge mobilization. Includes a two-stage application process	Stage 1 Feb Deadline Stage 2 Oct Deadline	Stage 1: up to \$20,000 Stage 2 up to \$2.5m	Stage 1: 1 year Stage 2: 4-7 yrs

*For help interpreting the eligibility guidelines and mandates of each agency (and specific guidance for health researchers) refer to the [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#) webpage.

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Provincial Health Research Funding

MICHAEL SMITH HEALTH RESEARCH BC (MSHRBC)

Research Trainee	Individual award to provide salary support to postdoctoral or health professional researchers.	Winter Application	\$60,000 + allowance	up to 3 years
Scholar	Individual award to fund protected research for health researchers within six years of the start of their institutional appointment.	Winter Application	\$90,000	5 years
Convening & collaborating	Supports short-term (1 year) projects aimed to build collaboration, knowledge sharing, and research co-development with health research users.	Spring Application	\$20,000	18 months
Reach	Supports short-term (1 year) research projects aimed to disseminate health research findings.	Spring Application	\$20,000	18 months
Health Professional-Investigator (HP-I)	Supports health professionals to build research programs.	Winter Application	\$90,000	5 years

Student Internships and Fellowships

TRI-AGENCY FELLOWSHIPS

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships	Provides funding to top qualifying national and international postdoctoral applicants.	Fall Application	\$70,000	2 years
CIHR Fellowship	Supports highly qualified health researchers who have recently completed a PhD or health professional program to engage in health research in Canada or abroad.	Fall application	Up to \$60,000	Up to 5 years
NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship	Supports promising researchers who have recently obtained a PhD in a field funded by NSERC to pursue research in Canada or abroad.	Fall application	\$70,000	2 years
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships	Provides stipendiary support to recent PhD graduates in the social sciences and humanities to establish their research career and pursue research in Canada or abroad	Fall application	\$70,000	2 years

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MITACS**				
Accelerate	Internship-based funding for students, postdoctoral fellows, and recent graduates to complete discrete research projects with partner organizations. Internship units (IUs) are 4-6 month in length. These grants must be co-funded by a partner organization (min. \$7,500/IU).	Ongoing Intake	\$15,000/IU Min. \$10,000 stipend/IU	Limits based on program level
Accelerate Fellowship	Internship-based funding for Master's and PhD students to partner with for-profit, not-for-profit organizations, municipal governments or hospitals to complete discrete research projects. Internship units (IUs) are 6 months in length. These grants must be co-funded by a partner organization (\$6,000/IU).	Ongoing Intake	\$13,333/IU Min. \$20,000 stipend/year	1.5-4 years
Business Strategy Internship	Internship-based funding for students to work with for-profit and eligible not-for-profit organizations to solve operational challenges. Must be co-funded by a partner organization (\$5,000 to \$7,500 contribution).	Ongoing Intake	\$10,000 or \$15,000 Min. \$10,000 stipend	4 months
Elevate	One to two-year funding for postdoctoral fellows. Must be co-funded by a partner organization (min. \$30,000/year).	Ongoing Intake	\$60,000/year Min. \$55,000 stipend/year	1-2 years
Globalink Research Award	Supports students and postdoctoral researchers to conduct research in another country. In some instances a \$2,000 contribution towards the \$6,000 award may be required from the faculty member (which cannot be from a tri-agency grant).	Ongoing intake	\$6,000	12-24 months

** Contact Mitacs Advisor Nolan Beise (nbeise@mitacs.ca) to discuss your project ideas and for support navigating Mitacs funding opportunities, including assessing partner organization eligibility.

Other Sources of Funds

Members of the UVic community have access to [Pivot-RP](#), a searchable database of global funding opportunities. The Office of Research Services has a number of [resources](#) to help you use Pivot-RP.