

Research Support Fund Distribution

The University of Calgary and its affiliated institutions are committed to building a culture of research and innovation. The Research Support Fund (RSF) is invested in various services to support the research enterprise.

In 2024/25, UCalgary invested the RSF grant in **facilities** to support and maintain laboratories across campus. These funds help provide a vital physical space where the lights are on, the environment is safe, and the equipment is functional to ensure that research teams can rely on lab space where they can discover, create, and innovate. The RSF funding also continues to provide critical infrastructure to support UCalgary-affiliated researchers' access to Alberta Health Services (AHS) resources vital to their clinical health research projects. This is particularly true for grant-funded and unfunded studies.

Dedicating a significant portion of the grant to **research resources** ensures current and relevant material is available to support research and training at the undergraduate, graduate, and faculty levels. Maintaining a current library is at the very core of a post-secondary institution as it is a repository of knowledge and an academic foundation for the research enterprise.

This year, the portion of the RSF grant allocated to **management and administration** supported salaries and benefits from Institutional Programs and Finance (Research Accounting, Financial Reporting, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Payroll, Supply Chain Management and Financial Operations). These teams operate as a central service responsible for the post-award financial administration of sponsored research and restricted funding. The teams are instrumental to research at UCalgary as they work with researchers, administration and leadership, and funding agencies to ensure compliance with agency guidelines and policies, as well as accurate and timely reporting. The RSF funding allocated to Alberta Health Services (AHS) is reinvested in various services to UCalgary faculty and staff provided by the AHS Health System Access (HSA) team. Overall, the RSF funding has enabled staff to continue supporting researchers in meeting administrative requirements, to reduce the administrative barriers of initiating research and innovation, and to carry out their important work in the most efficient manner. The RSF funding positively contributed to ongoing process improvements and increasing capacity to accommodate research activities, including research requests for access to [Connect Care](#).

The portion of the RSF grant allocated to **regulatory requirements and accreditation** supported Animal Care, Research Services ethics and compliance, and environment health and safety staff this year. The Institutional Research Information Services Solution (IRISS) provides researchers and their teams a convenient, secure, online process that streamlines and modernizes research certification application processes related to human ethics and animal care protocols. IRISS aims to reduce process time and will alert researchers of potential compliance issues. A key area of investment is to ensure AHS maintains its regulatory obligations to maintain patient privacy, a detailed health information disclosure log and monitoring of chain of custody for the disclosures.

In line with the strategic vision to harness the power of research and innovation, UCalgary has dedicated salary support for in-house legal counsel to ensure faculty and students protect their **intellectual property** and successfully execute contracts and agreements when working with research funding agencies, including industry and community partnerships.

Affiliated Institutions

- Alberta Health Services (AHS)
 - Alberta Children's Hospital
 - Alberta Children's Hospital Research Centre
 - Alberta Precision Laboratories (formerly Calgary Lab Services)
 - Foothills Hospital
 - Peter Lougheed Centre
 - Rockyview General Hospital
 - South Health Campus
 - Tom Baker Cancer Centre

- Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute
- Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre
- Alberta Sulphur Research Limited (ASRL)
- Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre
- Canadian Institute of Resources Law (CIRL)
- Canadian Research Institute for Law and the Family
- Carbon Management Canada Inc. (formerly Carbon Management Canada Research Institutes Inc.)
- Platform Calgary (formerly Calgary Technologies Inc.)
- PolicyWise
- The Arctic Institute of North America (AINA)
- The Van Horne Institute
- TRIUMF
- University Technologies Inc.
- Vecova Centre for Disability Services and Research

Outcomes Report

Listed below are the qualitative and quantitative measurements on the impact of the Research Support Fund at the University of Calgary, supplemented by the university's internal operation budget. Funds have been invested in each eligible category.

Research Facilities

UCalgary has many research facilities that support thousands of researchers (including faculty members, students and postdoctoral fellows) and provide the infrastructure to implement hundreds of research projects each year. A list of 33 core facilities across 7 faculties is available on the [website](#). Additional facilities that support research include: [Centre for Mobility and Joint Health \(MoJo\)](#), [Arctic Institute of North America](#), [Biogeoscience Institute](#), [International Microbiome Centre](#), [Institutional Infrastructure for Innovation](#), [Prairie Regional Research Data Centre](#), [W.A. Ranches](#), and [School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape \(SAPL\) City Building Design Lab](#). These facilities are crucial in the support of leading-edge research and innovation.

Innovate Calgary activates three Innovation Hubs on behalf of the University of Calgary: the [Life Sciences Innovation Hub](#), [Social Innovation Hub](#), and the [Aerospace Innovation Hub](#). Located at both the Calgary International Airport and the [University Innovation Quarter](#), these spaces form a cornerstone of Calgary's broader innovation ecosystem.

The [Biogeoscience Institute](#) is open 24/7 and had 11,710 user days (#users on a per day basis) which accounted for 3,184 individual users and 140 groups. The [Kluane Lake Research Station](#), operated by the [Arctic Institute of North America](#), is open for ~6 months each year, had 1,665 users.

Research Resources

A number of initiatives have been established at UCalgary in 2024/25:

- Significant ongoing upgrade in digital research infrastructure for advanced research computing and data management.
- Significant addition to the digital research infrastructure with the deployment of the AWS secured cloud for research proof of concept which diversifies services offering to the research community.
- Continued support and deployment of Secure Research Computing platform for L3/L4 data storage processing.
- Ongoing development of the Research Data Workflow platform and ongoing support of the team. This will develop automated data pipelines to managing data across projects and cohorts and for secondary use of data.
- Libraries and Cultural Resources (LCR) continues to be very active in Research Data Management, with the Vice Provost co-chairing the Steering Committee to implement the institutional strategy. LCR staff provide support to the Implementation Plan Steering Committee and to research data management activities on campus and across Canada, which in the past year have focused on sensitive data and institution-wide training. We also continue to provide local administrative support as well as contribute to national development of Borealis, a national repository for research data hosted by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL).
- LCR actively collaborates with the Knowledge to Impact team to implement the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) at UCalgary, as well as to support efforts to advance and promote Open Science. We partnered with other

units on campus to acquire an institutional license to Overton, which allows UCalgary researchers to track the impact of their research on policy, a key indicator of real world impact for both DORA and Open Science frameworks.

- LCR is a key partner with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and other academic library partners in implementing Scholaris, is a national shared repository service that provides hosted infrastructure and support for Canadian institutional repositories. UCalgary migrated its institutional repository to Scholaris during this reporting period and is supporting other institutions across Canada to do so as well. This service will advance scholarship and foster open access to research and increase the discoverability and impact of Canadian research excellence, particularly in the context of the TriAgencies' anticipated updates to the Open Access Policy.
- LCR has been actively exploring, assessing, and licensing Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to support research. In this reporting period, we decided to license Scite.AI, a large language model-enabled tool that facilitates search and summarization of research topics.

Management and Administration of Institutions and Research Enterprise

- More than 300 personnel are dedicated to research support systems in Finance, People and Culture, IT, and Legal.
- UCalgary's Research Services Office, with a staff of 80+, offers services ranging from pre-award assistance to facilitation of major strategic initiatives, partnerships, and research infrastructure programs (including business case development, securing matching industrial support and developing commercialization strategies as necessary).
- Fifteen faculty-embedded research facilitators across the UCalgary campus provide local support for individual researchers in securing and utilizing research funding.
- *Strategic University Proposal and Platform Opportunity Review Team (SUPPORT)*: Five committees (Chairs and Professorships, Research Infrastructure, Partnerships and Major Grants, Research Awards, and Training and Professional Development) provide content feedback to researchers and make recommendations to the Vice-President (Research) for the strategic allocation of institutional opportunities, quotas, and major infrastructure and operating funds. The SUPPORT process provides more than 100 full peer reviews of research funding applications annually, and feedback to researchers has significantly improved quality and success of our applications. Committees comprise over 50 faculty members from across campus, plus associate vice-presidents (research) and representatives from service units responsible for implementation, such as Facilities Development and IT.
- AHS utilizes the partnership model to provide research support through staff dedicated to the HSA team. These services include administrative support platforms (e.g., access to AHS IT systems, extraction of data from repositories, access to operational areas, etc), efforts to accelerate timelines for study initiation, navigation to appropriate AHS resources, streamlining of approval processes to enable researchers to focus more directly on their programs of research, and engaging with clinical leaders and staff about the importance of research to improve patient care. HSA outcomes for 2024-245: 618 studies assessed (20.4 days average assessment time); 330 data approvals processed (31.2 days average approval time); 584 UCalgary affiliated research staff actively managed for IT access; 172 new non-AHS employee research staff provisioned and trained for Connect Care access provincially; 103 RSH records created to support UCalgary (non-adult oncology) researchers.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

The Institutional Research Information Services Solution (IRISS) is an online, automated workflow system that facilitates the application process for research certifications involving animal or human participants. In 2024, the platform integrated University of British Columbia into the REB Exchange. This implements reciprocal ethics review between UAlberta, UBC, and UCalgary, which reduces duplicative reviews and total review time, allowing human participant research to begin sooner than ever.

IRISS supports over 24,000 researchers annually, significantly reducing the administrative burden of obtaining animal or human ethics certification. It also enhances the efficiency of review boards while ensuring compliance with Canadian Council on Animal Care and Tri-Council policy guidelines.

- REB Submission Stats for 2024-2025: (includes certification, modification, renewal & closure): 9,228 applications.
- Time to Determination in 2024-2025: (upon submission to REB) 46 days for CHREB (*certification only*) and 52 days for CFREB (*certification only*).
- ACC Submission Stats for 2024-2025: (includes certification, modification, renewal & closure): 1,666 applications.
- REB Exchange (REBX): Launched to facilitate a single ethics application for multi-site studies, reducing the administrative burden for participating sites, REB administrators, and REBs. Currently, over 1,056 sites have utilized REBX, with an average ethics review time of 4 days.
- AHS Submission Statistics: 667 submissions; 560 processed.
- Quality Assurance (QA) and Regulatory Compliance services are provided to ensure that all clinical research meets high-quality standards.

- The team conducted 7 QA file reviews of investigator-initiated clinical trials
- Annual CITI Canada online training completed: 725 people - Good Clinical Practice course; 254 people - Health Canada Division 5 course; 66 people - Biomedical Ethics course; 16 people- Social & Behavioural Research Course.
- 9 new Clinical Trial Applications (CTAs) and 10 Clinical Trial Application Amendments (CTA-As) were reviewed by the QA office and approved by Health Canada
- 2 Regulatory Sponsor inspection completed for a UCalgary trials:
 - Health Canada Compliance Regulatory Inspection (IIT)
 - Health Canada QI GCP Inspection (Industry)
 - FDA Sponsor Inspection (IIT)
 - FDA Clinical Investigator Inspection (IIT)
 - FDA Clinical Investigator Inspection (Industry)

Intellectual Property

- The Research Legal Team, under General Counsel, works closely with the Office of the Vice-President (Research), Deans, faculty, Innovate Calgary and other university units.
- The team provides advice on the legal and business aspects of partnered research activities and assists researchers in understanding options for commercialization.
- Research Legal continues to expand its outreach within the University community to faculty, students, post-docs, and other internal units to provide education on intellectual property and partnered research.
- The breadth and diversity of research relationships sought by researchers continues to grow, and external partners span North and South America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, and include many prominent research institutes, governmental agencies, and corporations.
- The volume of research funding tied to commercial outcomes continues to grow and the Research Legal team, together with Innovate Calgary, continues to be involved in supporting external partners in the testing, validation and advancement of inventions developed both at the University of Calgary or externally by our partners.
- The Research Legal team continues to work closely with Innovate Calgary to ensure efficient and effective commercial advancement of innovations arising from university research pursuits.
- Innovate Calgary manages the University of Calgary's intellectual property with the goal of maximizing both societal impact and economic benefit. In the most recent reporting period, UCalgary contributed 13 of Canada's 104 new startups. During that same period, the university generated 13 licenses, filed 20 new patent applications, and achieved \$5.57M in gross license income. Over the past six years, UCalgary has launched 105 technology startups - more than any other university in Canada. This track record underscores its position as a leading innovation centre and the single largest university contributor to the Canadian startup ecosystem during that time.
- The ElevateIP Alberta program, delivered by Innovate Calgary, focuses on expanding knowledge and awareness of intellectual property across the province, while also aiming to increase the impact of IP-based businesses in Alberta. Supporting both on-campus researchers and community IP creators, the program has educated over 1481 researchers and IP creators through events and workshops to date and has funded the development and peer review of more than 128 IP strategies and 67 IP implementation projects leading to 165 IP application filings by Albertan startups.
- The number of active NSERC partnership grants in 2024/25 is 218 (including various Alliance programs as well as the I2I, L2M, and legacy CRD and IRC programs).