

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 2025/26, 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. RSF funding continues to provide critical infrastructure supporting UCalgary-affiliated researchers' access to health system resources vital to their clinical health research projects, including both 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 (Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Financial Reporting, Payroll, Research Accounting, and Supply Chain Management). 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 Acute Care Alberta (ACA) has been reinvested in services provided by the Health System Access (HSA) team that support UCalgary faculty and staff. 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 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 ensuring the Re-Focused Health System (RHS) maintains its regulatory obligations as a custodian of health information, including protecting patient privacy, maintaining detailed health information disclosure logs, and monitoring the chain of custody for information 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)
 - Acute Care Alberta
 - Alberta Children's Hospital
 - Alberta Children's Hospital Research Centre
 - Alberta Precision Laboratories (formerly Calgary Lab Services)
 - Assisted Living Alberta
 - Foothills Hospital
 - Medicine Hat Regional Hospital
 - Peter Lougheed Centre
 - Recovery Alberta
 - Richmond Road Diagnostic & Treatment Centre
 - Rockyview General Hospital
 - Sheldon M. Chumir Centre
 - South Calgary Health Centre
 - South Health Campus

- Sunridge Professional 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.)
- Innovate Calgary
 - University Technologies International Inc.
 - UTI Limited Partnership
 - UTI Commercial Trust
- Platform Calgary (formerly Calgary Technologies Inc.)
- PolicyWise
- The Arctic Institute of North America (AINA)
- The Van Horne Institute
- TRIUMF
- 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](#), [Kananaskis Centre](#), [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 two Innovation Hubs on behalf of the University of Calgary: the [Life Sciences Innovation Hub](#) and the [Aerospace Innovation Hub](#). Located at the Calgary International Airport and the [University Innovation Quarter](#), these spaces form a cornerstone of Calgary's broader innovation ecosystem.

The [Kananaskis Centre](#) is open 24/7 and had 12,179 user days (users on a per day basis) in 2025/26, which represented 3,047 individual users and 131 groups. The [Kluane Lake Research Station](#), operated by the [Arctic Institute of North America](#), is open for ~6 months each year and hosted 1471 overnight user days and an additional 100 daytrip users, facilitating over 480 unique guests from 51 groups.

Research Resources

A number of initiatives have been established at UCalgary in 2025/26:

- 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.

- 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 has resulted in guidance on sensitive data and on training and capacity building. 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 partners across campus, including the Knowledge to Impact unit, to support efforts to advance and promote Open Science, especially in the context of stewarding and preserving research outputs in our institutional repository infrastructure. We continue to partner with other units on campus to maintain 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. This year, we ran a campus wide trial of Altmetrics.com, to gauge interest from campus stakeholders in the utility of this tool, which measures the impact of research on alternative media sources. Additionally, we have been working to advance a recognition program for scholars engaged in Open Science practices at UCalgary.
- LCR is a key partner with the Canadian Association of Research Libraries (CARL) and other academic library partners in implementing Scholaris, a national shared repository service that provides hosted infrastructure and support for Canadian institutional repositories. This service is advancing scholarship and fostering open access to research to increase the discoverability and impact of Canadian research excellence. Through CARL, we have been active in working with the Tri-Agencies on how to operationalize and support 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 have maintained a license to Scite.AI, a large language model-enabled tool that facilitates search and summarization of research topics. We have also licensed the AI add-on to the Scopus database and are trialing a second research assistant tool called Consensus. We continue to engage researchers on the ethical and strategic use of AI research assistants.

Management and Administration of Institutions and Research Enterprise

- A comprehensive network of administrative, technical, financial, legal, and human resource support across multiple university units underpins the research enterprise, enabling researchers to focus on discovery, innovation, and impact.
- UCalgary's Research Services Office, with a staff of 90+, 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.
- ACA, through the Health System Access (HSA) team, utilizes the partnership model to provide research support services to UCalgary researchers across Alberta's re-focused health system. These services include administrative support platforms (e.g., access to IT systems, data extraction from repositories, access to operational areas, and Connect Care research services), efforts to accelerate timelines for study initiation, navigation to appropriate health system resources, streamlining of approval processes, and engagement with clinical leaders and staff regarding the value of research improving patient care. HSA outcomes for UCalgary researchers included: 717 studies assessed (14.1 days average assessment time); 395 data approvals processed (28.6 days average approval time); 698 UCalgary-affiliated research staff actively managed for IT access; 121 new research users trained for Connect Care access provincially; and 89 Research Study Health (RSH) records created to support UCalgary researchers.

Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation

The Institutional Research Information Services Solution (IRISS) is an online workflow platform that supports the submission, review, and certification processes for research involving human participants and animals. The system streamlines research compliance activities while ensuring adherence to Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS 2) requirements and Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines.

IRISS supports more than 24,000 researchers annually, reducing administrative burden for researchers and review boards while improving the efficiency, consistency, and transparency of research certification processes.

- Research Ethics Board (REB) Applications:
 - Total applications processed (certifications, modifications, renewals, and closures): 9,552
 - Average time to determination for new certifications:
 - Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (CHREB): 57 days
 - Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board (CFREB): 50 days
- Animal Care Committee (ACC) Applications:
 - Total applications processed (certifications, modifications, renewals, and closures): 1,989
- REB Exchange (REBX):
 - Used by 1,260+ sites to date
- Quality Assurance (QA) and Regulatory Compliance services are provided to ensure that all clinical research meets high-quality standards.
 - The team conducted 6 QA file reviews of investigator-initiated clinical trials
 - Annual CITI Canada online training completed: 765 people - Good Clinical Practice course; 248 people - Health Canada Division 5 course; 119 people - Biomedical Ethics course; 83 people- Social & Behavioural Research Course.
 - 13 new Clinical Trial Applications (CTAs) and 14 Clinical Trial Application Amendments (CTA-As) were reviewed by the QA office and approved by Health Canada
 - 3 new Investigational Testing Authorizations (ITAs) and 1 Investigational Testing Authorizations Amendment (ITA-As) were reviewed by the QA office and approved by Health Canada

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 to support the research activities and facilitate the efficient and effective commercialization and advancement of innovations arising from university research.
- 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 funders are increasingly requiring research projects to progress to commercial application. The Research Legal team, together with Innovate Calgary, continues to be involved in supporting our researchers and external partners in the testing, validation and advancement of inventions developed both at the University of Calgary or externally by our partners.
- Innovate Calgary manages the intellectual property of University of Calgary researchers with the goal of maximizing both societal impact and economic benefit. In the most recent reporting period, UCalgary contributed 13 of Canada's new startups. During that same period, the university generated 8 licenses, filed 10 new patent applications and achieved \$5.13M in gross license income.
- The ElevateIP Alberta program, delivered on behalf of UCalgary by Innovate Calgary, focuses on expanding knowledge and awareness of Intellectual Property (IP) across the province, while also aiming to increase the impact of IP-based businesses in Alberta. This year ElevateIP Alberta educated 557 researchers & community IP creators and funded the development and peer review of more than 22 IP strategies and 45 IP implementation projects leading to 56 IP application filings by Albertan startups. Over the first four-year term of the program (2023-26), ElevateIP Alberta educated over 1878 researchers & community IP creators and funded 132 IP strategies and 141 IP implementation projects leading to 230 IP application filings. Funding for an additional four-year term was announced in Federal Budget 2025, positioning UCalgary and Innovate Calgary as leaders in IP commercialization support in Alberta. ElevateIP Alberta is working in collaboration with the recently announced Alberta IP Office to coordinate support and maximize impact across the province.
- The number of active NSERC partnership grants was 225 (including various Alliance programs as well as the I2I, L2M, and legacy CRD and IRC programs).