



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council  
Insight Development Grants | 2024 Competition

Research Services Office

2500 University Drive NW  
Calgary, AB, Canada T2N 1N4  
[rsogrants@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rsogrants@ucalgary.ca)

## General Information

### Objectives:

Insight Development Grants support research in its initial stages. The grants enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas. Funding is provided for short-term research development projects, of up to two years, proposed by individuals or teams. Projects may also involve national and international research collaboration, and the exploration of new ways of producing, structuring and mobilizing knowledge within and across disciplines and sectors.

### Award Amounts and Duration:

- \$7,000 to \$75,000 over 1 to 2 years

### Eligibility:

- Within the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity, funding is available for two distinct categories of scholars: [emerging scholars](#) and [established scholars](#). Eligibility under the emerging scholar definition is determined solely by the status of the applicant.
- SSHRC defines an *emerging scholar* as someone who has not applied successfully, as principal investigator or project director, for a grant offered through SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR (with the exception of knowledge mobilization grants). They must also meet at least one of the following:
  - have completed their highest degree no more than six years before the competition deadline (SSHRC considers only the date of completion of the first doctorate); or
  - have held a tenured/tenure-track postsecondary appointment for less than six years; or
  - have held a postsecondary appointment, but never a tenure-track position (in the case of institutions that offer tenure-track positions); or
  - have had their careers significantly interrupted or delayed for health or family reasons within the past six years.
- **Applicants** must be affiliated with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution at the time of application. Researchers who maintain an affiliation with a Canadian postsecondary institution, but whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution, are not eligible for applicant status within the Insight Grants funding opportunity.
- Any individual whose primary affiliation is with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution or with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution are eligible to participate as **co-applicants**. In the case of international co-applicants, the rationale for international collaboration must be clearly outlined in the application.
- Any individual who will make a significant contribution to the research initiative is eligible to be a **collaborator**. Collaborators do not need to be affiliated with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution.
- Researchers may not apply, as **Applicant**, for an Insight Development Grant and an Insight Grant within the same calendar year, unless they are unsuccessful in their IDG (they can then apply for an IG in the fall). A researcher who applied for an IG in the fall can apply for an IDG the following year, provided that the objectives of the research are significantly different.

- Researchers may apply, as **applicant**, for only one Insight Development Grant at a time.
- There is no limit to the number of SSHRC applications on which a researcher may be listed as a co-applicant or collaborator.
- Applicants who have received a SSHRC grant of any type but have failed to submit a [final research report](#) by the deadline specified in their Notice of Award are not eligible to apply for another SSHRC grant until they have submitted the report.

**Resources:**

- [Program Guidelines](#)
- [Application Form](#)
- [SSHRC Canadian CCV Instructions](#)
- [Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization](#)
- [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#)
- [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)
- [Guidelines for Support of Tools for Research and Related Activities](#)
- [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#)
- Library of Successful Applications: the Research Services Office (RSO) maintains a library of successful applications, which includes over 30 Insight Development Grant applications from the 2018 competition onwards. Sample applications are available to faculty members to assist with the preparation of their own applications. Please contact RSO ([rsogrants@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rsogrants@ucalgary.ca)) to view application(s).

**Application Deadline to Research Services Office:**

<p>Deadline for Detailed Review: January 19th at 4:00 p.m. Final Internal Deadline: January 30th at 12:00 p.m.</p>
--

Your application will not be considered submitted and will not be reviewed until both the application is submitted in the Research Portal (a paper copy is not required) and the [RMS](#) record have been received with approval from the PI, Department Head, and Dean or Associate Dean (Research). Please check with your Department and Associate Dean (Research) for timelines and processes to obtain signatures prior to submitting to Research Services.

*The **detailed administrative review** includes a detailed review of the application, checking for eligibility and UofC commitments and risk, compliance with program guidelines, completeness of application, and the opportunity for feedback to improve the application.*

*The **basic administrative review** involves a minimal check of the application for eligibility and any UofC commitment or risk.*

## Guide to Applying

To apply, submit an [Application](#), and a SSHRC [Canadian CCV](#). Full instructions can be accessed [here](#) for the full application and [here](#) for the SSHRC Canadian CCV.

### Application Overview

**Application Form** (click links to be directed to the relevant section of this guide)

- [Identification](#)
- [Activity Details](#)
- [Revisions since previous application \(optional\)](#)
- [Summary of Proposal](#)
- [Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- [Roles and Training of Students](#)
- [Knowledge Mobilization Plan](#)
- [Expected Outcomes](#)
- [Funds Requested from SSHRC](#)
- [Funds from Other Sources \(optional\)](#)
- [Reviewer Exclusions \(new & optional\)](#)

**Free Form Attachments**

- [Detailed Description](#)
- [Timelines](#)
- [List of References](#)
- [Research-Creation Support Material](#) (if applicable)  
– please consult [the SSHRC definition of R-C](#) prior to selecting this

**SSHRC Canadian CCV**

*Required for applicants and co-applicants*

**Invitations**

### A. Create an Application

1. Sign in to the [Research Portal](#).
2. Select the Funding Opportunity and click Create.
3. Under Form, select Insight Development Grants.
4. Complete your Eligibility Profile and check “I have read the information on eligibility”.
5. Click on Continue and Create Application.
6. Under Applications, Open the application.
7. Click on Edit to complete the different sections.
8. At the bottom of the main application page select “Manage Invitations” to invite co-applicants and collaborators to your project. We suggest sending these invitations early.

### B. Complete the Application

#### **Formatting Attachments**

*Attachments must be formatted as follows:*

- 1) Converted to PDF
- 2) 8 ½" x 11" (216 mm x 279 mm) or A4 page size
- 3) No more than the maximum number of pages and file size for each attachment
- 4) Body text in a minimum 12 pt Times New Roman font
- 5) Single-spaced, with no more than 6 lines of type per inch
- 6) All margins set at a minimum of 3/4" (1.87 cm)

**Note:** Failure to adhere to the guidelines will lead to your application being declared ineligible.

#### **Identification**

- Application Title
- Language (English or French)
- Research group
  - Select the group that is representing the research field most appropriate to the subject and discipline of your proposal
- Multidisciplinary evaluation
  - If your proposal requires adjudication by experts in more than one field, select “Yes”

- Joint/Special Initiative (if applicable, select from list)
  - If Department of National Defence Research Initiative is selected, you must complete the associated module (TEXT BOX – 3800 characters).
- Research-creation
  - Adjudication of research creation projects may include evaluation by research-creation experts, and collaboration with the Canada Council for the Arts. More information can be found [here](#).
- Aboriginal Research
  - Select “yes” if you wish to signal to the adjudication committee that your application should be reviewed in the context of SSHRC’s definition of [Aboriginal research](#) and its [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#).
- Scholar Type: [Emerging](#) or [Established](#)
  - If **established**, complete the Established Scholars: Proposed Versus Ongoing Research section (TEXTBOX - 3800 characters)
    - Explain how the proposed research is distinct from your previous/ongoing research. Proposed projects should be clearly delimited and in early stages.
- Administering Organization
  - Select University of Calgary, and Department as applicable

#### **Activity Details (mandatory)**

- Indicate if your project involves human subjects or animals (yes/no)
- Indicate any Environmental Impacts (yes/no)
- Keywords (at least 1 required)
- Disciplines
  - Indicate and rank up to three disciplines relevant to your proposal, with Entry 1 the most relevant
- Areas of research
  - Indicate and rank, in decreasing order of importance, up to 3 areas of research related to your proposal
  - At least one is mandatory, but it can be "Not Subject to Research Classification" if desired
- Temporal Periods, Geographical Regions, and Countries (if applicable)

#### **Revisions since previous application (optional)**

- Maximum one page (TEXT BOX – 3,800 characters)**
- Applicants may, if they wish, outline the revisions made since their previous IDG application.
- Note:** Adjudication committees are not bound by the deliberations or scores of previous committees. Members of the current committee will not be given copies of the earlier application(s)
- You can leave this blank.**

#### **Summary of Proposal (mandatory)**

- Maximum one (1) page (TEXT BOX – 3800 characters)**
- Provide a research proposal summary written in clear, plain language. It should be written in non-technical terms and clearly understood by scholars with varied expertise. Clearly indicate:
  - The **problem or issue to be addressed**; and
  - The **potential contribution** of the research in advancing knowledge and, where applicable, the **wider social benefit** (e.g., Will this research be of interest to other areas of research/disciplines? Will it be of interest outside the academic community? How will it be used and by whom?).
- Key evaluation criteria to address:*
  - *originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge (Challenge)*
  - *potential for the project results to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community. (Challenge)*

- *for established scholars: relevance of the proposal to the objectives of the funding opportunity (Challenge)*

### **Roles and Responsibilities (mandatory)**

- Maximum one (1) page (TEXT BOX – 7600 characters)**
- Explain the relative roles, responsibilities and contributions of the applicant, and of any co-applicants and collaborators (if applicable, clearly outline the rationale for international collaboration);
- For team applications explain the relative proportion (in percentage) of each team member's contribution to the proposed project; and
- The proportion of time to be spent on this project in relation to any other ongoing research projects or programs (excluding prospective grants).
- If the project involves community participants such as knowledge users, the support provided by the community, and the applicant's ties with said communities.
- Note:** For team applications, if the adjudication committee determines that the applicant is not responsible for, or equipped to exercise, the leadership of the research, the Feasibility score may be lowered.
- Key evaluation criteria to address:*
  - *quality of training and mentoring to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute (Challenge)*
  - *expertise of the applicant or /team in relation to the proposed research (Feasibility)*
  - *Capability – depending on size of team (and thus, the space available in this section), can use this space to demonstrate the sub-criteria that fall under Capability.*

### **Roles and Training of Students (mandatory)**

- Maximum one (1) page (TEXT BOX –3800 characters)**
- Clearly describe the specific roles and responsibilities of students and research assistants, and indicate the duties, especially with respect to research, that they will be undertaking, as well as how these will complement their academic training.
- Refer to SSHRC's [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#).
- Key evaluation criteria to address:*
  - *quality of training and mentoring to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute (Challenge)*
  - *appropriateness of the requested budget, justification of proposed costs (Feasibility – in terms of number and level of expertise of students and the impact to the budget for their compensation)*
  - *quality and quantity of past contributions to the development of training and mentoring of students, postdoctoral researchers and other highly qualified personnel. (Capability)*

### **Knowledge Mobilization Plan (mandatory)**

- Maximum one (1) page (TEXT BOX – 2000 characters)**
- Applicants are encouraged to consult SSHRC's [definition of knowledge mobilization](#) and SSHRC's [Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization](#)
- Please include the following information:
  - An overall plan to increase the accessibility flow and exchange of social sciences and humanities knowledge among appropriate audiences or participants (academic and/or non-academic);
  - A plan for engaging appropriate audiences or participants;
  - A schedule for achieving the intended knowledge mobilization activities; and
  - Elaboration on the purpose of the knowledge mobilization activities and/or other goals
- Grant holders must comply with the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#). To learn more, consult SSHRC's [Open Access overview](#).

- Further to SSHRC's [Research Data Archiving Policy](#), SSHRC also encourages researchers to manage and share data arising from their research in accordance with community standards and best practices. All research data collected with the use of SSHRC funds should be preserved for use by others within a reasonable period of time. *SSHRC considers "a reasonable period" to be within two years of the completion of the research project for which the data was collected.*
- Key evaluation criteria to address:*
  - *potential for the project results to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community. (Challenge)*
  - *appropriateness of the proposed timeline (Feasibility)*
  - *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. (Feasibility)*
  - *appropriateness of the requested budget, justification of proposed costs (Feasibility – in terms of perceived value of an KMB activities with an associated budget line)*

### **Expected Outcomes (mandatory)**

- This is essential information for adjudication of the proposal and is part of the [Challenge evaluation criteria](#).***
- Indicate and rank up to 3 **Scholarly** benefits (select from list or enter other value)
  - Describe the potential scholarly benefits/outcomes that could emerge from the proposed project (TEXTBOX – 1000 characters max).
- Indicate and rank up to 3 **Societal** benefits (select from list or enter other value)
  - Describe the potential societal benefits/outcomes (e.g., effects, implications) that could emerge from the proposed project (TEXTBOX – 1000 characters max).
- Indicate and rank up to 5 **target audiences** (select from list or enter other value)
  - Describe the potential benefits the project's expected outcomes will have for the identified target audiences (TEXTBOX – 1000 characters max).
- Key evaluation criteria to address:*
  - *potential for the project results to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community. (Challenge)*
  - *originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge (Challenge)*

### **Funds Requested from SSHRC (mandatory)**

- A minimum request of \$7,000 is required in at least one of the years. The maximum value of an Insight Development Grant is \$75,000*
- Note:** Insight Development Grant funds must not be used for conference organization or for remuneration or travel and subsistence costs of presenters or guest speakers.
- Note:** Projects whose primary objective is the digitization of a collection or the creation of a database are not eligible for funding.
- Estimate as accurately as possible the costs you are asking SSHRC to fund. See the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#) for regulations.
- Personnel costs (student salaries and/or stipends, non-student salaries, postdoctoral, professional/technical, other)
- Travel and Subsistence Costs for Research (applicant/team members and students)
- Travel and Subsistence Costs for Dissemination (applicant/team members and students)
- Other expenses (supplies, non-disposable equipment, other)
- For each entry, justify all budget costs in terms of the needs of the project (500 chars max for each entry)
- Click Calculate Totals to complete the budget form.
- Key evaluation criteria to address:*

- *appropriateness of the requested budget, justification of proposed costs, and, where applicable, other financial and/or in-kind contributions (Feasibility)*

SSHRC provides the following guidelines to committee members regarding the adjudication of the budget subcriterion of the overall Feasibility score:

- Committees may consider **failing a project on the Feasibility criteria** if they deem that **30% or more of the overall budget request is insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate to the proposed objectives or outcomes of the project.**
- An application will **automatically be failed** if the committee deems that **50% or more of the overall budget is insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate to the proposed objectives or outcomes of the project.**
- Committees will use the principle of minimum essential funding to guide their discussions of project budgets
- Committees may recommend budget reductions in cases where they determine that the request is inadequately justified and/or not appropriate as described above, and where they judge that savings could be achieved without jeopardizing the project objectives

#### **Funds from Other Sources (if applicable)**

- You must include all contributors (e.g., individuals, not-for-profit organizations, philanthropic foundations, private sector organizations) that are providing contributions for the project. Indicate whether or not these contributions have been confirmed.
- Provide details on each contribution (500 chars max)
- IMPORTANT:** If you have contributions from the University of Calgary (e.g. Faculty or Department contributions, cash or in-kind) please provide Research Services with evidence of approval of these commitments, and check the box as appropriate on the RMS record.
- For examples of Canadian and international sources of eligible cash and/or in-kind support, see SSHRC's [Guidelines for Cash and In-Kind Contributions](#).

#### **Reviewer Exclusions (if applicable)**

- List individuals, collaborations or organizations that you wish to exclude from the review of the application. Enter the information and click Add.
- These are **not required**. Your application will not be sent to anyone who is, based on your CV, likely in a conflict of interest.

#### **Detailed Description (mandatory)**

- Maximum five (5) pages (ATTACHMENT) – 10 Mb max**
- Avoid jargon, acronyms and highly technical terms. Not all committee members will have an intimate knowledge of the subject matter of all proposals
- Using the headings below, describe the proposed research in enough detail to allow informed assessment by committee members:
  - Objectives
    - Briefly state the explicit objectives of your proposed research
  - Context
    - Describe the originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge.
    - Situate the proposed research in the context of relevant scholarly literature.
    - Describe the appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework.
    - Explain the potential influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.







**Research Creation Support Material (if applicable)**

- Maximum one (1) page (ATTACHMENT) – 10 Mb max**
- Research-creation project applications must include a website link to provide samples of work that best illustrate the qualifications of the team and/or nature of the proposed research-creation. See SSHRCs [Guidelines for Research-Creation Support Materials](#) for more information. Please ensure you closely review SSHRC’s definition of [research-creation](#) and [artist-researcher](#).
- If including a link:
  - Provide the complete and exact URL and indicate the path to access the intended support material on the website.
  - Include a list of up to three works or excerpts of works to which you would like to direct the reviewers (e.g., images, audio, video, written material, etc.). Please provide titles, dates of creation/production, and a brief context for the works presented. Explain why you are including these items, and how they relate to your proposed project.
  - Ensure that the website and all links involved will be operational up to six months after the application deadline.
  - Specify the browser and version that should be used.

**C. Inviting Participants**

- Click “Manage Invitations”
- Enter the email address, family name and role for each participant (co-applicants and collaborators). When you click “Invite,” an email will be sent inviting them to participate in the application.
- All participants will need to have registered on the SSHRC Research Portal in order to accept an invitation to participate.
- All co-applicants will need to complete a SSHRC Common CV. Collaborators are not required to complete a SSHRC Common CV.
- Your application will not be verified as complete until all invitations have been accepted and Common CVs uploaded.
- Once a co-applicant or collaborator has accepted an invitation, they will be able to view (but not edit) your application. Co-applicants will also be able to upload their Common CV using the same steps as the applicant.

**D. SSHRC Canadian CCV**

- Submit the SSHRC Canadian CCV. No other formats will be accepted.*
- Note:** The Applicant and any co-applicants must complete a SSHRC Canadian Common CV. Collaborators are not required to complete a SSHRC Canadian Common CV.
  1. Create an account (Register) and login to the Canadian Common CV [site](#).
  2. Once you log in and arrive at the Welcome Page, click on the CV tab in the menu bar and select “Funding”
  3. Select “SSHRC” from the funding source and CV type drop down menus, then click “Load”
  4. Complete the SSHRC CCV according to the [instructions](#) provided by SSHRC
  5. Once your CCV is complete, with no errors, click “submit” in the CCV system
  6. The Consent statement will appear. Click “I Agree.”
  7. When you click **Submit**, a confirmation number will automatically be provided onscreen. You will need to use this number when you later upload your SSHRC CCV in the Research Portal (if you lose it, it can be retrieved under the “History” tab).
  8. Return to the Research Portal and open the IDG application
  9. In the Canadian Common CV uploads section, enter your confirmation number and click “Upload”.
  10. A message will appear indicating that you have successfully uploaded your CCV. You then need to click on “Back to Application overview” and then “Submit” in order to successfully validate your application.

- Note:** co-applicants will follow these same steps to upload their CVs to your application, after they have accepted the invitation to participate.
- To successfully upload your CCV, the first name and family name used to create your CCV site account must be identical to those used to create your Research Portal account. As well, the email address used to create your Research Portal account must be identical to at least one of the emails you listed on the CCV site (i.e., the email used to create your CCV account, or any of the emails you included in the Email section of your CCV).
- Research Portal: To change your family name, first name and/or email address, go to User Profile.
- CCV: To change your family name, first name and/or email address, log into the CCV and click “Account” in the top menu bar. To change any other email addresses included in your CCV, go to the Email section of the relevant CCV template.
- The CCVs for yourself and any co-applicants should address the evaluation criteria for “Capability”*

#### **E. Submitting the Application to SSHRC**

- To initiate internal approvals, complete the Pre-Award/Application record on the Research Management System (RMS) (RMS login at <https://research.ucalgary.ca/rms>) well in advance of the internal deadline. Submit for approvals
- Submit your application to the University of Calgary Research Services Office **on the SSHRC Research Portal**. The Submit button will be displayed once you have validated all the sections of your application and uploaded your SSHRC CCV.
  - Once RSO receives *both* the online submission of the application *and* the RMS Pre-Award/Application record with your departmental/faculty approvals, your application will be placed in a queue for review and approval. If submitted before January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm, it will receive a detailed review. Applications submitted after January 19<sup>th</sup> will receive a basic review only, checking for eligibility, U of C commitments, and risk. **The final deadline for RSO to receive applications is January 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m.**
  - Once Research Services has approved and forwarded your application to SSHRC, the application status will be “Received by Agency.”

### EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING

The following criteria and scoring scheme are used by adjudication committee members to evaluate Insight Grant applications. **Be sure to address all of the sub-criteria in the applicable sections of the application.**

#### 1. Challenge – The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%)

- originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge;
- appropriateness of the literature review;
- appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework;
- appropriateness of the 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 effective dissemination, exchange and engagement with stakeholders within and/or beyond the research community, where applicable; and
- appropriateness of the strategies for conducting the 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.

Adjudication committee members assign a score for each of the three criteria listed above, based on the following scoring table.

Excellent
Very good
Good
Satisfactory
Moderate
Unsatisfactory