

PRESIDENT'S SSHRC RESEARCH FUND – CONNECTIONS GRANT

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

The President's SSHRC (PSSHRC) Connections Grant supports small-scale **connections activities** (e.g. small workshops, research team development, community engagement) in SSHRC-relevant disciplines to enable researchers to position their research for success in a future [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada](#) (SSHRC) granting competition.

PSSHRC Connections applications are subject to competitive adjudication by members of the President's SSHRC Committee, appointed by the Office of the Vice-President Research.

The PSSHRC Research Fund is financed from an annual grant made to the President by SSHRC in general support of research and scholarly work in the social sciences, humanities and fine arts at the U of S. The size of this annual grant is based on the University's performance in SSHRC's research grants programs and the number of University faculty members who are eligible for SSHRC funding. In addition to this grant, under certain conditions SSHRC permits the University to retain residual balances of completed SSHRC grants. The University of Saskatchewan utilizes these residual funds to support the PSSHRC Program.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

The annual competition deadline is **May 1st**. A second competition, deadline **December 1st**, may be held if sufficient funding is available. If the date lands on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be moved to the next working business day. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered.

All applications must be made by completing the appropriate pdf-fillable form and attaching the required CV and documentation. *Applicants may wish to supply their SSHRC peer assessment comments (if available) for any requests related to a resubmission of a previously unsuccessful SSHRC proposal.*

The form-fillable Application can be downloaded from the Research Webpage, under [Internal Funding Programs](#).

Applications are to be submitted to Research Services and Ethics Office via [UnivRS](#). Paper applications are not accepted.

AMOUNT OF AWARD

The maximum level of support is \$3,000.

As the demand for funds normally exceeds the funds available, not all meritorious proposals can be supported. In the interest of funding as many requests as possible, if funding is insufficient to award all proposals recommended for funding, the Committee may reduce each grant awarded for the current competition. Subsequent competitions may be cancelled for that fiscal year.

The term of the award is a maximum of 2 years with a start date of either May 1st or December 1st.

ELIGIBLE CONNECTIONS ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities include small workshops, events or other organized forums for the purpose of, in **order of priority**:

- a) Intersectoral exchanges of knowledge or knowledge creation activities between the applicant and research partners or participants, namely **Aboriginal communities**, and other local community or not-for-profit organizations.
- b) Intersectoral exchanges of knowledge or knowledge creation activities between the applicant and research partners or participants, namely private sector, and government departments and agencies.
- c) Exchanges of knowledge or knowledge creation activities between the applicant and academic co-applicants, when such co-applicants are *not* located at the University of Saskatchewan.

PSSHRC Connections does **not** support exchanges of knowledge or knowledge creation activities that involve only U of S researchers.

ELIGIBLE TO APPLY TO PSSHRC CONNECTIONS:

- Applicants must be eligible under SSHRC's criteria. Eligibility criteria specific to each funding opportunity are detailed in the individual SSHRC funding program descriptions: <http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/index-eng.aspx>
- U of S faculty members whose research or scholarly work falls within the disciplines supported by SSHRC, i.e. the social sciences, humanities and fine arts, library.
- U of S faculty with term appointments who at the time of receiving a President's SSHRC would have a minimum of 3 years remaining in their current contracts.
- Full-time faculty members of St. Thomas More College may only apply through their U of S affiliation and only jointly with a U of S faculty member for support of a project of direct interest to the research.
- Ineligible: Students and Research Staff.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The direct, short-term funding provided by the PSSHRC Connections grant is intended to increase the competitiveness of either a **new** application or **resubmission** of an unsuccessful application to a future SSHRC grant program.

- Applicants may apply to other social sciences and humanities funding agencies or organizations, but those indicating an intent to apply to SSHRC will be given priority.
- Applicants do not have to apply to SSHRC before being eligible to apply to the PSSHRC Connections fund.
- Applicants are eligible to apply to both the PSSHRC Insight and PSSHRC Connections competition in the same competition year. Sufficient justification must be provided when applying to both programs.
- Recipients can be awarded only one PSSHRC Connections grant per competition year.
- Previous recipients of PSSHRC Connections funds are eligible to apply to the PSSHRC Connections fund again, provided an application was submitted to SSHRC or other funding agency.
- Applications will be prioritized based on the list of eligible activities noted above.
- Past support through the PSSHRC Connections fund will be taken into account for future decisions. If the applicant has been awarded PSSHRC Connections support in the past 2 years, these requests will be ranked as lower priority.
- Researchers seeking support for health-related social sciences and humanities research should review SSHRC's eligibility guidelines prior to applying: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The PSSHRC committee evaluates the short-term research activities to be completed within the length of the grant (2 years) as outlined in the PSSHRC Connections proposal taking into account the following:

- Priority of the activity with regard to the list of eligible activities noted above.
- Degree to which this funding will enable researchers to position their research for a successful application to a future SSHRC granting program.
- Completeness and clarity of the application.
- Feasibility, including appropriateness of strategies and timelines for the design and conduct of the activities proposed.
- Quality of student training and mentoring opportunities, where applicable.
- Anticipated impact and contribution to knowledge.
- Research achievements of the applicant (publications and training of HQP).

ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

All expenditures **must** be justified and are subject to the use of grant funding restrictions listed below and in the Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/FinancialAdminGuide-GuideAdminFinancier/FundsUse-UtilisationSubventions_eng.asp

Further PSSHRC Connections restrictions on use of funding:

- Conference travel is not an eligible expense under the Connections program.
- For personnel costs, please use the current University rate of pay and include non-discretionary benefits (Canada Pension Plan, Workers' Compensation, Employment Insurance, Vacation). See <http://working.usask.ca/salaries/index.php>.
- Release time stipends and teaching releases are not eligible.
- Activities conducted under contract for a public or private agency or firm are not eligible.
- Collection or preparation of material primarily intended for personal classroom needs or teaching purposes is not eligible.
- Purchase of equipment is not eligible. Rental of equipment (e.g. for workshops, meetings) is eligible.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

Recipients must submit an application to SSHRC (or other social sciences and humanities funding agency or organization) as stated in the original President's SSHRC Connections proposal. **Those not meeting the conditions of the award may not be eligible to apply to future competitions.** *Support received from the President's SSHRC Fund must be acknowledged in any resulting publications.*

Applicants must complete and submit a brief (maximum 1 pg) report on grant activities (e.g. output, HQP training) to the PSSHRC Committee within 12 months of the PSSHRC Connections grant end date. The information is used to monitor and assess the overall impact of the PSSHRC Connections program.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

Applicants will normally be advised of results within 8 weeks after the competition deadline. If awarded, funds will be available for use immediately following the award and the establishment of a research fund. If the research requires human ethics, animal care and/or biohazard approval, the fund will not be established until Research Services and Ethics Office has been notified the required approvals are in place.

OVER EXPENDITURES AND EXTENSIONS

Over expenditures of grants are not permitted and will become the recipient's personal liability. Arrangements may be made to extend the term of the grant. Requests for extensions must be made in writing to Research Services and Ethics Office at least one month prior to the end-date of the grant, citing the reasons for the delay in completing the research and the anticipated date of completion. Extensions do not normally exceed 6 months.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Research Services and Ethics Office

Telephone: (306) 966-8576

Email: research.services@usask.ca

