
TO: Deans/Executive Directors, Centre Directors, & Signature Area Leads

CC: Vice/Asso. Deans Research,

DATE: 4 February 2025

SUBJECT: Call for Canada Research Chair Nominations

The University of Saskatchewan's Research Chairs Oversight Committee (OC) is inviting Deans/Executive Directors, Centre Directors (CD), & Signature Area Leads (SAL) to submit proposals for CRC theme areas.

Theme proposals must fit within the funding mandates of either NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR. The OC will award up to a total of five CRCs: two NSERC Tier 1; one SSHRC Tier 2; and two CIHR Tier 1 .

Tier 1 CRCs are for outstanding researchers acknowledged by their peers as world leaders in their fields. Tier 2 CRCs are for exceptional emerging researchers (typically within 10 years of highest degree). Please see the [CRC website](#) for additional details.

The OC would like to focus on recruiting global leaders to create critical mass where needed and further fortify areas (identified gaps) where we already have strengths at University of Saskatchewan (USask). Ideally, these candidates should have profiles and intentions to pursue and lead large multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary grants such as the New Frontiers in Research Transformation (NFRF-T) and Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) and further advance global reputation of RSAW at USask. In this round we intend to undertake cohort recruitment of CRCs, e.g. multiple centers/ signature areas/ schools/ colleges coming together to nominate one or more chairs.

The OC will accept submissions from either Deans/Executive Directors, CDs or SALs. Proponents are asked to initiate a consultative process to identify themes which are critical to the advancement of the signature areas and for which a gap currently exists. Submissions from CD and SLA are asked to include in their submissions the description of the consultation with relevant academic units. Any College/School, Signature Area or Center may submit more than one proposal. Academic units supporting multiple proposals are asked to rank their proposals.

It is anticipated that the theme areas identified will advance USask's commitment to:

- leading edge and impactful research;
- utilizing its CRC allocation to foster multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary scholarship; and
- equity, diversity and inclusion as critical to research and learning excellence.

USask is committed to using its CRC positions to recruit external exceptional scholars. Only under exceptional circumstances the Oversight Committee comprised of Vice-President Research and Provost-Vice-President Academic with input from Deans/Executive Directors will consider internal candidates to address retention of current members of faculty.

Institutional support is critical for demonstrating the importance of the CRC theme to the university. The university has established a Research Chairs Fund which covers 50% of institutional support for the first 3 years for Tier 2 chairs and 5 years for Tier 1 chairs (see attachment 1).

The CRC Advisory Committee (AC) will review all submissions and make a recommendation to the OC which proposals have the greatest potential. The OC will review the AC recommendations then work with Deans/Executive Directors, CD or SAL to identify and secure appropriate academic homes for the potential CRCs, if needed.

Please see attached the guidelines for the *Call for CRC Theme Areas* (attachment 2).

Proposals may be submitted to Doreen Canillas (doreen.canillas@usask.ca) by **April 2, 2025**.

Please do not hesitate to consult with Phani Adapa (phani.adapa@usask.ca) or Doreen Canillas (doreen.canillas@usask.ca) if you require further information or have any questions on this process.

Canada Research Chair (CRC) External Nominations– Institutional Support

Institutional support is critical for demonstrating the importance of the CRC research program to the university and ensuring the success of CRC nominations. It is an expectation of the CRC Secretariat that chairholders receive support over and above that of faculty members.

The below table describes the source and *minimum commitments* from the University. Colleges/Schools/Departments may provide additional research, HQP, and infrastructure funding.

Tier 2 CRC
<p>1) External funding – to the university:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100K/year from Federal CRC to support Chairholder salary/stipend/benefits and research program (<i>USFA salary bands for 2025-26: Assistant Professor: \$110,489 - \$131,909; Associate Professor: \$131,909 - \$153,329. A higher starting salary is possible to recognize exceptional circumstances.</i>) <p>2) External funding – to Chairholder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20K/year research fund from Federal CRC. • Eligible to apply for \$175K from Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) via JELF-Partnership program. <p>3) University/ College/School/Department contributions* support for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remainder of salary and benefits not covered by category 1 above. • Remainder of \$5K - \$10K/year CRC salary stipend plus benefits (\$15K in exceptional circumstances) not covered by 1 above. • \$200K start-up research funds. • \$175K match for a CFI-JELF Partnership application. • HQP support for UGrad, Masters, PhD, and PDF trainees - \$40K/year for Y1-Y2, declining to \$20K for Y3, \$0 for Y4-Y5. <p><i>* These costs are shared 50-50 between the OVPR/Provost and the College/School/Department in years 1 – 3, following which the College/School/Department covers all costs.</i></p> <p>4) College/School/Department contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected time for research (valued at ~\$10K)
Tier 1 CRC
<p>1) External funding – to the university:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200K/year from Federal CRC to support Chairholder salary /stipend/benefits and research program (<i>USFA salary bands for 2025-26: Associate Professor: \$131,909 - \$153,329; Full Professor: \$153,329 - \$178,319. A higher starting salary is possible to recognize exceptional circumstances.</i>) <p>2) External funding - to Chairholder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible to apply for \$175K from Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) via JELF-Partnership program <p>3) University/ College/School/Department contributions* support for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remainder of salary and benefits not covered by category 1 above. • Remainder of \$15K - \$20K/year CRC salary stipend plus benefits (\$25K in exceptional circumstances) not covered by 1 above. • \$200K start-up research funds • \$175K match for a CFI-JELF Partnership application • HQP support for UGrad, Masters, PhD, and PDF trainees - \$40K/year for Y1-Y4, declining to \$20K for Y5, \$0 for Y6-Y7 <p><i>*These costs are shared 50-50 between the OVPR/Provost and the College/School/Department in years 1 – 5, following which the College/School/Department covers all costs.</i></p> <p>4) College/School/Department Contribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protected time for research (valued at ~\$10K)

CALL FOR CRC NOMINATIONS IN THEME AREAS

Proposals for CRC nominations should be brief – using 12-point font, please address the following topics. Submissions are limited to 3 pages.

1. Title and Type

- Title of the proposed CRC
- The agency (NSERC, SSHRC or CIHR)
- Indicate whether you are pursuing NSERC T1 chair, SSHRC T2 chair, or CIHR T1 chair

2. Description of proposed nomination

- Describe the area of CRC nomination. The proposal should be innovative and compelling, focused on an area of strategic importance to a signature area, and help position USask as an internationally leading institution.
- Proposals should describe how the nomination is at the cutting edge of research and will address the following key CRC goals:
 - improve our depth of knowledge and quality of life;
 - strengthen Canada's international competitiveness; and
 - help train the next generation of highly skilled people.

3. Description of how the proposed CRC will enhance and accelerate Signature Area development and impact.

- With which signature area(s) will this chair be associated?
- What significant gap has been identified and how will the chair contribute to the development of the signature area?
- How will the chair contribute to, and forge, inter- and multi-disciplinary collaborations?

4. Description of the potential for the CRC to augment college or school or centers research strengths

- Which college/school might be an appropriate home for the CRC, if proposed by a Signature Area lead?
- How would the chair contribute to college/school research priorities?
- For Signature Area leads, please describe your consultations with college/school leadership.

5. Description of the institutional environment which will support the CRC.

- With which existing faculty and/or research groups will this chairholder work? (Please be specific.)
- Does USask have the necessary research infrastructure to support the chair? Please describe the existing infrastructure and indicate what, if any, additional investments will be necessary.

6. Commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

USask is committed to EDI as critical to excellence in discovery and learning. The Tri-Agencies, through which the CRC program is funded, are similarly committed to inclusive excellence and have set institutional targets related to representation of the four designated groups (women and gender equity-seeking groups, racialized individuals, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities) among chairholders. By 2029, the University needs to meet the EDI targets as required by the CRC Program (50.9% women and gender equity-seeking groups; 22% racialized individuals; 7.5% persons with disabilities; and 4.9% Indigenous Peoples).

Describe the potential of the CRC theme to recruit individuals who self-identify as a member of one of the four designated groups.