

2026 Research Junction Seed Grant - Guidelines

Research Junction Seed Grants will support the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and City of Saskatoon in their efforts to kickstart new research partnerships. Individual seed grants of up to \$5000 will be awarded and carried out by USask faculty in partnership with City of Saskatoon staff. These projects will explore and develop capacity, new partnerships and promising new ideas. The projects should create a new collaborative partnership or broaden the scope of an existing partnership.

This one-time seed grant supports small-scale activities intended to explore and develop future research projects. Eligible activities include:

- Literature reviews and sector research;
- Project development and planning activities;
- Partnership, stakeholder engagement, and network building activities;
- Proposal development and grant writing/editing activities.

Eligibility:

Open to research teams consisting of at least one USask faculty member (tenured, tenure-track, or term) who is eligible to hold and administer research funds at USask and one City of Saskatoon staff member pursuing a research project. A City of Saskatoon collaborator and a USask faculty member must jointly design the project. USask faculty are limited to one submission per competition. Current or previous grant holders are only eligible to apply if they have a new partner.

Criteria:

Funding will be awarded following a review process by adjudicators appointed by the City of Saskatoon and University of Saskatchewan. Adjudicators are guided by the following criteria:

- The potential research is original, will reflect a research need for the City of Saskatoon, and has clear objectives;
- The appropriateness of the applicants' expertise in the proposed area of research;
- The activities of the project are feasible and are likely to be completed within a 12 month period;
- The budget is realistic and adheres to eligibility guidelines;
- The project will have a clear positive outcome or contribution to the City of Saskatoon, regardless of success at the next stage of funding;
- The feasibility of plans to move from the seed funding stage to a funded research project.

Eligible Expenses:

Funding requests must be reasonable and fully justified. Eligible expenses include:

1. Undergraduate or graduate student wages or stipend.
2. Salary contributions to Postdoctoral fellow, research associate or technical assistant.
3. Travel as necessary for the collaboration.
4. Stakeholder and partnership engagement activities.
5. Materials and supplies necessary for the project.

6. Costs associated with grant writing and development.

Terms of Support:

Recipients will have 12 months from their desired start date to use the funds with any remaining funds returned at the end of the project. Recipients will commit to applying for a grant within 18 months of receiving this award. Grant recipients are required to submit an end-of project report.

Should recipients apply for and receive a 2027 Research Junction Development Grant for this research project, the total funding amount available will be reduced by the total amount of this seed grant.

Application Procedure:

The application should include the following:

1. The signed application form.
2. A 1-page letter of support from the participating City of Saskatoon department outlining their interest in the project, any resource contributions (ie. data, personnel, or funding), and the role of the City lead in supporting the project. See details on page 2 of the application form.
3. A research proposal (3 pages maximum). See details on page 3 of the application form.
4. A budget and justification (1 page maximum). See details on page 3 on the application form.

Application Deadline and Submission:

Submit applications to UnivRS **by 22 May 2026 at 4:00pm**. All submissions are subject to UnivRS approvals and compliance checks over the following five business days.

Support for Locating a Collaborator in the City or University:

USask faculty and City of Saskatoon staff who have a project idea and are interested in identifying and establishing a collaborator should contact research.junction@usask.ca.

Note: Partnership identification and matching can take up to a month before a team can start planning their proposal. Please allow additional time for this when requesting a match.