

2026 Images of Research Competition

Terms of Reference

1. The competition is open to all University of Saskatchewan (USask) faculty, students, staff, retirees and alumni.
2. Entrants may submit up to one image per thematic category. Any subsequent submissions will not be considered. All images must depict USask-affiliated research*.
3. Images entered into the competition must not have been entered into any previous USask Images of Research Competition.
4. Entrants may not submit images that were generated fully or partially using Artificial Intelligence.
5. Contest organizers reserve the right to remove any submission from the competition which depicts or could be perceived to depict any conduct/practice which violates standards and norms for the ethical conduct of research.
6. Images must be accompanied with a great title and a clear, informative and vibrant description of what is depicted in the image and its relation to the entrant's work (120 words, max. 900 characters). This description is intended for members of the general public, so should be written in plain language and kept free of jargon.
7. Submission timelines will be announced at the launch of the contest in early 2026.
8. Only high-resolution images that are the original work of the entrant or the entrant's research partners** will be accepted. Images should be sent in PNG or JPG file format with the longest side measuring at least 3130 pixels (26.5cm at 300ppi).
9. Winners in the five thematic image categories will be selected from anonymized entries by a multidisciplinary jury and according to the following criteria:
 - a. Aesthetic appeal of image

- b. Creativity
- c. Degree to which the image showcases the entrant's research
- d. Clarity and creativity of written description and title in conveying the research impact

10. The *Best Description* category will be judged on submitted images, primarily on criterion (9.d) above, with secondary consideration given to the visual criteria.

11. All submitted images will be available online for public voting following the close of the contest. The two images that receive the most votes will be named the winner and runner-up of the *Viewers' Choice* category.

12. The use of false or temporary email addresses to vote is considered fraudulent and will be removed from the competition.

13. In the *Community Impact* category only, faculty can submit on behalf of community research partners**. Images captured by research partners may be entered into the contest so long as:

- a. The image captures USask-affiliated research*.
- b. The image submission is made by the USask faculty member who is the principal investigator on a project and/or holds/held the research ethics approval for the project.
- c. The USask faculty member making the submission on behalf of the research partner assumes responsibility for any ethical or administrative considerations pertaining to the image (see 16.).
- d. Payment for winning images will be made to the USask faculty member. By submitting an image on behalf of a research partner, this individual assumes the responsibility of distributing any awarded prize money thereafter.
- e. Please note that clause 2. still applies when submitting images on behalf of research partners.

14. One winner and one runner-up will be chosen from each of the competition's five submission categories (*From the Field*, *More than Meets the Eye*, *Research in Action*, *Community Impact* and *Arts in Focus*) and two additional categories (*Best Description* and *Viewers' Choice*) and awarded \$300 and \$200, respectively. One winner from the

five category winners will be awarded the Grand Prize and receive \$500. As a result, the runner-up in the winner's original category will be promoted to category winner, and a new runner-up will be selected.

15. The winning images will be announced as the 2026 USask Images of Research, celebrated at the Images of Research reception, and displayed publicly along with their accompanying text both on campus and online.

16. To enter the competition, entrants must:

- a. Certify that they (or their research partner**) are the copyright owner of the submitted image and have the necessary rights, permissions, and/or licenses to submit the image to the competition, for use by USask in accordance with the license below, according to the full contest rules and conditions. These rights and permissions include, but are not limited to, permission from the author, any identifiable human subject depicted, and/or permission from publishers, funding agencies, or research partners who have been involved in the work depicted.
- b. Provide USask with the nonexclusive right to use the submitted image for any purpose. All entrants (or their research partner) remain the copyright holder of their image. The university will make every effort to include the entrant's name with their photograph whenever it is used, but reserves the right to use the photo without credit when and wherever deemed appropriate, including for marketing purposes.

**Defined here as research projects for which ethics approval is/was held by a USask faculty, staff or student and/or the Principal Investigator is/was a USask faculty, staff or student.*

*** Research partners are considered here as those individuals actively involved in a research project but who are external to USask. This may include industry-partners, community-partners and others.*