



## Research Partnership Accelerate Grants Terms of Reference

**Aim:** *Catalyzing and/or accelerating the development of research partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborations to enhance Tri-Agency partnership and interdisciplinary grant applications*

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies invites interest from faculty who are actively engaged in fostering partnerships and interdisciplinary collaborations with the outcome of developing applications for Tri-Agency funding competitions within 12 months.

**Objective:** To support the development of research partnerships and/or interdisciplinary collaborations for research activities suitable for future Tri-Agency competitions (eligible competition programs are listed below). This funding will support preliminary small-scale initiatives and activities that will foster relationships between academic researchers and/or partner organizations committed to work collaboratively to achieve mutually agreed upon goals.

Partnerships may involve more than one discipline, and may be between one or more academic institutions, or between one or more academic institutions and one or more non-academic partner organizations including universities, research institutes, foundations, other non-profit organizations, community and industry partners, government organizations, or crown corporations.

Partnerships/collaborations may be Indigenous-led and/or community-driven partnerships, interdisciplinary, multi-institutional and/or international research collaborations.

Funding priority may be given to projects that align with the University's priority research themes, as described in the [Strategic Research Plan](#).

### **Eligible Tri-Agency partnership/collaboration programs:**

- SSHRC [Partnerships Suite](#): [Partnership Grants \(PG\)](#), [Partnership Development Grants \(PDG\)](#), [Partnership Engage Grants \(PEG\)](#); SSHRC [Connection Grants](#), SSHRC [Transatlantic Platform \(Socioeconomic Recovery 2021\)](#), [CFI Partnership Grants](#) for infrastructure support (SSHRC PG only)
- [New Frontiers in Research Fund](#) (Transformation and International Streams)
- [NSERC Alliance Grants](#) (Option 1, project cost \$100K and more per year)
- [CIHR Team Grants](#)
- [CIHR Pre-Announcement: Human Frontier Science Program Research Grants Program](#)

Research Partnership Accelerate Grants are committed to the principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), principles which strengthen our communities and the quality, social relevance, and impact of research. Sound EDI practices increase access to the largest pool of qualified potential participants, enhance the integrity of a program's application and selection processes, strengthen the research outputs, and increase the overall excellence of research. TRU's programs and peer review system are intended to ensure fair treatment of all applicants. TRU is committed to implementing policies, processes, and initiatives to identify and mitigate barriers and biases that may exist within its own programs and systems, and to work collaboratively with other stakeholders, when appropriate, to do the same. Continuing with our commitment to EDI, we will be working with the guidance of the University's EDI Action Plan on developing processes for the collection of self-identification data from all applicants and co-applicants.

**Funding:** Up to \$7,500 (\$2,500 for SSHRC PEG and Connection Grants) is available for use toward activities that will enhance partnership arrangements and activities, including cost associated with funding proposal development and expenditures directly related to the research.

**Deadline: Feb 22** (if the deadline falls on a weekend or on a Canadian public holiday, application portal will be open till the following day until 4 p.m.).

**Results:** Applicants will be notified, and funds will be available for use starting **March 15**. If your research requires human ethics review, animal care and/or biohazard approval, the fund will not be established until such approvals are in place.

**Duration:** Funds must be spent by the deadline of the proposed grant competition in next 12 months (e.g., for SSHRC PDG, deadline to spend funds is November 15). Unspent funds will be returned to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

**Applicant Eligibility:** Full-time faculty (with ongoing or tenure-track appointments or term-certain appointments of more than one year and not be in the final year of these appointments) who are applying as Principal Applicants for Tri-Agency grants within 12 months. An applicant who has previously received any internal research grant must have submitted a final report to be eligible for this competition.

**Eligible Expense:** Expenses must be specific and justified in relation to how they will foster partnerships and collaborations and strengthen your application for submission to the Tri-Agency competitions. Eligible expenditures must adhere to the [Tri-Agency Financial](#)

[Administration Guide](#) governing the use of funds, and may include but are not limited to:

- salaries/benefits for Highly Qualified Personnel /research assistants
- completion of a preliminary study and/or literature review
- cost of holding meetings/workshops for developing partnerships/collaborations including any travel costs for such meetings
- communications costs or other costs associated with partnership/collaboration development
- expenses associated with the development of funding proposals (e.g., professional fees for editing)
- any other appropriate activity that contributes to the development of the partnership/collaboration and application

*Funding cannot be used for conference travel.*

**Application Process:** Applications are accepted in [Romeo](#) (click on Apply New, followed by Research Partnership Accelerate Grant Application, fill all the tabs). Prepare your application using the *Template Application Form* provided in Romeo and attach it along with *Required Attachments* under 'Attachments' tab in Romeo.

**Required Signatures:** The applicant must sign and date the application in the appropriate box. The applicant's Dean must also sign and date the application.

**Applications that are missing required signatures will be considered incomplete.**

**Evaluation Process:** In accord with the [Tri-Agency Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#), the adjudication process will apply EDI principles in its pursuit of excellence in research outcomes and training. Adjudication committee will be a multidisciplinary sub-committee of the Senate Research Committee with additional faculty as required to fulfil the requirement of EDI commitment.

**Adjudication Criteria:****1. Challenge**—The aim and importance of the endeavour (40%):

- quality, originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge
- appropriateness of the approach and proposed activities for the development of a partnership/collaboration
- challenges related to EDI specific to TRU and field of research are described
- [quality of training and mentoring](#) to be provided to students, and other highly qualified personnel (HQP), and opportunities for them to contribute
- specific actions to support the recruitment of diverse groups of HQP and an inclusive research design (if applicable) are defined, and
- potential for the proposed partnership/collaboration and related activities to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the research community.

**2. Feasibility**—The plan to achieve excellence (30%):

- probability that the proposed activities will result in a viable and formal partnership/collaboration for the purpose of addressing an issue of mutual interest
- alignment with the selected Tri-Agency program
- appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of proposed costs
- feasibility of timeline of activities leading to the submission of Tri-Agency grant application
- the justification of how the grant will enable the applicant(s) to position their application for a successful outcome in the selected Tri-Agency funding program

**3. Capability**—The expertise to succeed (30%):

- quality, quantity, and significance of experience and published and/or creative outputs of the applicant(s) relative to their roles in the development of the partnership and to their respective stages of career
- experience in training of HQP
- potential of the applicant(s) to make future contributions

**Acknowledgement:** Please acknowledge the support provided through the PA Grant in any publication/ funding application resulting from the grant.

**Conditions of the Award**

- The grant recipient commits to applying to an eligible Tri-Agency grant program within 12 months.
- Within two months of the completion of the grant/activity, the recipient agrees to submit a brief final report in Romeo on how the fund aided and contributed to the development of the partnership and/or interdisciplinary collaborations and have strengthened a new partnership and/or interdisciplinary Tri-Agency grant application. *The report must be submitted to remain eligible for future funding opportunities.*
- Expenditures may be made only for those cost elements identified in the application. Minor allocations of funds from one budget category to another are permitted. Major changes or the use of funds for a previously unspecified expense or a new budget item requires prior approval by the AVP Research and Graduate Studies. *All expenses must be in compliance with the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#) and TRU policies.* Over-expenditures of grants are not permitted. After the completion of the award, any remaining funds will be returned for the Office of Research and Graduate Studies

- The grant recipient must abide by all University policies and procedures including, but not limited to, [Integrity in Research and Scholarship](#), ethics for human study, animal care, and biosafety. Where applicable, ethics review must be completed before the funds are released to the applicant.
- An extension of up to three months may be granted in exceptional circumstances. The request must be made a minimum of *two months* before the grant end date by contacting the Office of Research and Graduate Studies.

## ANNEXURE

### Snapshots of Eligible Tri-Agency Partnership and Collaborative Grants

#### 1. The suite of SSHRC partnership funding opportunities includes:

- **Partnership Engage Grants** are the smallest grants, with a value of up to \$25,000 over one year. The grants are for short-term, small-scale research partnerships between an academic researcher and one non-academic partner organization. The stakeholder-driven partnerships supported through this type of grant are meant to respond to immediate needs and time constraints facing organizations in non-academic sectors.
- **Partnership Development Grants** are slightly larger grants with a longer duration, up to \$200,000 and three years. There is no limitation for the number of partner organizations involved. Partnership Development Grants support **formal partnerships** to develop and test new approaches to research and related activities with new or existing partners.
- **Partnership Grants** are the largest grants and provide funds between \$500,000 and \$2.5 million over four to seven years. The grants are awarded to institutions, to support formal partnerships that advance research and/or knowledge mobilization activities. Partnership Grants involve a two-stage application process. Applicants successful in the Stage 1 competition are invited to submit a full application at Stage 2.
- **Connection Grants** with a value of up to \$25,000 over one-year support knowledge mobilization events or outreach activities that facilitate:
  - disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary scholarly exchanges leading to long-term partnerships
  - intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers and researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors
  - international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges

[Frequently asked questions about partnership funding opportunities](#)

[Partnerships Toolkit](#)

- **CFI Partnership grant for infrastructure:** CFI partners with the SSHRC **Partnership Grants** programs through John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) to create competitive packages for the funding of infrastructure and research support. Institutions can submit proposals requesting up to \$800,000 from the CFI, with a maximum total eligible cost of \$2 million.

#### 2. NSERC Alliance Funding

The NSERC Alliance program is uniquely designed to help academic researchers to perform innovative research projects with Canadian companies. Both parties are actively involved in the collaboration and work together to progress the project to completion. Alliance program supports 1-5-year research projects and directly offset a portion of university research fees to reduce the contributions required from a participating organization.

- Amount: Option 1 – Up to 66% (SMEs) or up to 50% (large businesses) to a maximum \$1 million/ project/year. Option 2 – Up to 90% – 100% of eligible project costs to a maximum of \$100,000/year.

- Timeline: Continuous intake of applications; research partnerships are required to apply together with the university researcher acting as the primary applicant.
- Eligibility: Public, private, and non-profit organizations that can collaborate on research activities, use the project's research results, and achieve its desired outcomes, and mobilize the research findings upon project completion.

### 3. New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF)

The [Canada Research Coordinating Committee](#) designed the NFRF following a comprehensive [national consultation](#), which involved Canadian researchers, research administrators, stakeholders and the public. NFRF is administered by the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat, which is housed within the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\)](#), on behalf of Canada's three research granting agencies: the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#), the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) and SSHRC.

The fund will invest \$275 million over the next 5 years beginning in fiscal 2018-19, and \$65 million ongoing, to fund international, interdisciplinary, fast-breaking and high-risk research.

NFRF is composed of three streams to support groundbreaking research.

- [Exploration](#) generates opportunities for Canada to build strength in high-risk, high-reward and interdisciplinary research.
- [Transformation](#) provides large-scale support for Canada to build strength and leadership in interdisciplinary and transformative research; and
- [International](#) enhances opportunities for Canadian researchers to participate in research with international partners.