

## Research Support Fund Program – 2018-19

The Research Support Fund (RSF) assists Canadian postsecondary institutions and their affiliated research hospitals and institutes with the expenses associated with managing the research funded by the three federal research granting agencies:

- the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR);
- the [Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council](#) (NSERC); and
- the [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC).

Every year, the federal government invests in research excellence in the areas of health sciences, engineering, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities through its three granting agencies. The Research Support Fund reinforces this research investment by helping institutions ensure that their federally funded research projects are conducted in world-class facilities with the best equipment and administrative support available. The total allocation for 2018-19 is \$5,040,914.

[Eligible institutions](#) receive an annual grant through the fund to help pay for a portion of the central and departmental administrative costs related to federally funded research.

The program (formerly known as the Indirect Costs Program) was introduced in 2003 as part of the federal government's strategy to make Canada one of the world's top countries in research and development. It currently has a budget of \$369 million and serves about 125 postsecondary institutions across the country.

More details about the Program can be found at [http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au\\_sujet/index-eng.aspx](http://www.rsf-fsr.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/index-eng.aspx).

### Definition of the Indirect Costs of Research

Indirect Costs (IDCs) are real costs attributable to SRC activities. IDCs are those costs incurred at the University that are necessary for maintaining an environment and infrastructure that support research. IDCs are incurred at faculty and departmental levels for purposes common to all research projects, programs, or activities of the University, but which cannot be identified and charged directly to individual projects, programs, or activities with a reasonable degree of accuracy, and/or without an inordinate amount of accounting.

IDCs include but are not limited to:

- Faculty salaries and benefits, where these are not charged directly to a research contract or grant.

- Building construction, maintenance, and depreciation costs (including costs of renovations required for specific laboratories, heating, cooling, and lights).
- Maintenance and upgrading of equipment that enable faculty to undertake SRC activities.
- University, Faculty, and departmental/school administration such as payroll, human resources, accounting, purchasing and accounts receivable, insurance/risk management, occupational health and safety, legal costs, etc.
- Library and other research resources, including maintenance of online search capabilities and databases.
- Central computing services.
- Financing (e.g., payment of salaries for students or research technicians, purchase of materials and supplies prior to the billing and receipt of revenue from a sponsor).
- Intellectual property assessment, advice, and protection.

**Overview of How the Institution Allocates its RSF**

The grant has been divided between the five different areas covered under the award. This was done for two reasons: 1. as the funded amount varies from year to year and could theoretically be cancelled we did not want any one area to be completely dependent upon the grant, and 2. dividing the grant between the different areas afforded the opportunity to discuss and explain the broad spectrum of RSF at the University.

The grant is held centrally and costs are attributed to the grant. The costs incurred are central costs primarily, however some costs such as lab renovations are paid centrally but the benefit is at the departmental/faculty level. Below is the breakdown of the 2018-19 allocation:

Facilities	\$1,381,832
Resources	\$701,724
Management & Administration	\$2,558,278
Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation	\$129,080
Intellectual Property	\$270,000
Total Research Support Fund 2018-19	\$5,040,914

**Affiliation**

Ontario Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit (OSSU)

## **Incremental Project Grant – 2018-19**

The Incremental Project Grants (IPG) funding opportunity is a new stream of the Research Support Fund (RSF), in addition to the RSF grant, that provides further support for the indirect costs of research.

This new stream stems from additional funding for the RSF announced in Budget 2018, totalling \$231.3 million over five years (\$28.75 million in 2018-19) and \$58.8 million per year after that.

The IPG will provide eligible institutions with additional support for projects that focus on a set of priorities that cut across the RSF's [five existing categories of eligible expenses](#). The initial four IPG priority areas are:

- innovation and commercialization activities;
- facilities renewal, including deferred maintenance;
- information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases; and
- equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the context of equity, diversity and inclusion).

The objective of the IPG stream aligns with the RSF's objective to reinforce the federal research investment by helping Canadian postsecondary institutions ensure their federally funded research projects are conducted in world-class facilities with the best equipment and administrative support available. By directing funds to specific investments and annual or multi-year projects initiated by institutions, the IPG will facilitate tracking and reporting, to better demonstrate the impact of these investments.

The total allocation for 2018-19 is \$252,097. The costs are allocated within the two IPG priority areas to meet emerging SRC priorities. The allocation of the IPG funds reflects the strategic plan of the University to: (1) increase the impact of Ryerson's research through increased support for commercialization and knowledge dissemination; (2) enhance the student pipeline through the greater engagement of students' involvement in research.

## Institutional Performance Objectives 2018-19 - RSF

Eligible expenditure category	Institutional performance objective	Indicator	Outcome reported at year end
Research Facilities	<p>Provide research and innovation infrastructure support to increase scholarly, research and creative (SRC) quality, participation, and funding</p> <p>Coordinate and integrate activities of OSSU Research Centres, IMPACT projects and working groups</p>	<p>Renovation of research and innovation premises</p> <p>Maintain suitable office space to execute OSSU activities</p>	<p>Square footage of research and innovation space renovated</p> <p>Portion of research support fund grant used for Coordinating Centre rent</p>
Research Resources	<p>Provision of Elsevier Science Direct Journals and Cambridge Journals Online</p> <p>Provide optimal databases, telecommunications, information technology and research tools in OSSU</p>	<p>COUNTER Usage report JR1</p> <p>Negotiate service level agreement for information resources</p>	<p>Number of successful full text article requests from Science Direct Journals</p> <p>Number of successful full text article requests from Cambridge Journals</p> <p>Equipped data networks with adequate bandwidth; support for voice services; secure back up network; secure mobility across platforms (i.e. mobile devices)</p>
Management and Administration	Provide pre- and post-award support services to faculty members to enhance SRC excellence and impact of SRC activities	Research administration services provided by the Offices of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation and Vice-President, Finance and Administration	<p>Number of research grant/contract applications</p> <p>Number of new research cost centres</p>

	Centralized HR recruitment and onboarding process of new employees and centralized communications and payroll functions in OSSU	Increase efficiencies in human resources, communications and payroll	Improved orientation, standardized payroll process for employees
Regulatory Requirements and Accreditation	Provide the ethics protocol review and approval services to faculty members and graduate students to enhance SRC excellence and impact of SRC activities	Reviews and approvals of ethics protocol applications	Number of ethics protocols reviewed
Intellectual Property	Provide support to faculty member with respect to intellectual property activities to enhance impact of SRC activities	Number of invention disclosures filed	Number of invention disclosures filed

#### **Institutional Performance Objectives 2018-19 - IPG**

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>IPG Priority Area</b>	<b>Output (Investment of IPG grant funds)</b>	<b>Performance Objective</b>	<b>Performance Indicator</b>
Open research and data portal project	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	\$25,000	To further advance open science and open access scholarship	Impact metrics derived from increased open data and research data management
Increased commercialization supports	Innovation and commercialization activities	\$227,097	To increase commercialization and technology transfer involvement by faculty members and students to enhance impact of SRC activities	Number of invention disclosures filed