

Research Support Fund Program – 2025-26

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 2025-26 is \$5,079,832.

[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. The values of the 2025-26 grants are based on the eligible funding (i.e. credits) that institutions received from the three federal granting agencies (NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR) during the 2021-22, 2022-2023 and 2023-24 fiscal years, and according to the 2025-26 RSF, Incremental Project Grants and Research Security funding budgets totaling \$369,403,000 and \$88,685,090, \$24,720,000 respectively.

More details about the Program can be found at 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 scholarly, research and creative (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:

- building costs, maintenance and depreciation (including renovations required for specific laboratories, heating, cooling and lights);

- maintenance, upgrading and depreciation of equipment purchased that enable faculty to undertake SRC activities;
- faculty salaries and benefits, where these are not charged directly to an SRC project;
- University, Faculty and Departmental/school administration such as payroll, human resources, accounting, purchasing and accounts receivable, insurance/risk management, occupational health and safety, legal, etc.;
- library and other research resources, including maintenance of on-line search capabilities and data-bases;
- central computing services;
- financing (e.g., payment of salaries of students or research technicians, purchase of materials and supplies, prior to the billing and receipt of revenue from a sponsor); and
- intellectual property assessment and advice.

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. The breakdown of the 2025-26 allocation is as follows:

Facilities	\$1,624,030
Resources	\$323,962
Management & Administration	\$2,842,760
Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation	\$129,080
Intellectual Property	\$160,000
Total Research Support Fund 2025-26	\$5,079,832

Affiliation

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

Incremental Project Grant – 2025-26

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

This stream stems from additional funding for the RSF announced in Budget 2018. An additional top up was announced in Budget 2024, totalling \$73.8 million in 2024-25, \$89.25 million in 2025-26, \$115.77 million in 2026-27, \$160.33 in 2027-28, and \$208.5 million in 2028-29, with \$208.5 million per year ongoing thereafter.

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;
- equity, diversity and faculty renewal (in the context of equity, diversity and inclusion); and
- research security

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 2025-26 is \$850,969. The costs are allocated within the three 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 Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) research through increased support for commercialization and knowledge dissemination; and, (2) ensure the integrity of the research being undertaken through creation of resources and training around SRC integrity and inclusion.

Research Security – 2025-26

The Government of Canada released the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships in July 2021. The new requirements are to ensure the Canadian research ecosystem is as open as possible and as safeguarded as necessary and to integrate national security considerations into the development, evaluation and funding of research partnerships. TMU has been working and will continue to work with counterparts at other universities, government stakeholders, and with our researchers and internal partners to support the development of research security risk assessments and appropriate mitigation strategies and plans, whilst adhering to the fundamental principles of academic freedom and intellectual property policies. Our objective is to strengthen the management and administration of the institution's research risk management and security capacity using the Research Security program to fund three priority areas including:

- salaries and benefits for staff who assist and coordinate research security activities across the institution, and aid in identifying risks and risk mitigation measures across risk areas (physical, cyber, partnerships and international collaborations, intellectual property, people);
- costs associated with providing training (e.g., workshops) associated with research security, as well as tools and resources such as software licenses used to conduct open source due diligence searches; and
- Acquisition, maintenance and/or upgrade of information technology and research security systems.

The total allocation for 2025-26 is \$276,224.

Performance Objectives 2025-26 - RSF

Eligible expenditure category	Institutional performance objective	Indicator	Outcome reported at year end
Research Facilities	Provide research and innovation infrastructure support to increase scholarly, research and creative (SRC) quality, participation, and funding	Renovation of research and innovation premises	Square footage of research and innovation space renovated
	Coordinate and integrate activities of OSSU Research Centres	Maintain suitable office space to execute OSSU activities	Coordinating Centre space
Research Resources	Provision of subscription library resources in support of research	Access and use verified via proxy data	Total access and uses of online library resources
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 Financial Services	Number of research grant/contract applications
	OSSU – Maintain adequate staffing levels to execute organizational coordination and integration activities	Employ a coordinator to support attainment of organizational goals and objectives	Number of new research cost centres Achieve organizational goals and objectives
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

Performance Objectives 2025-26 - IPG

Project Title	IPG Priority Area	Output (investment of IPG grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator
Tri-Agency Open Access Policy Compliance, Scholaris, and Research Impact Template Projects	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	\$100,000 invested in staffing to support a proactive approach to the deposit of articles in TMU's institutional repository, RShare, to ensure policy compliance, and to increase the visibility of TMU's research output due to the new draft Tri-Agency Open Policy; in migrating to Scholaris, a new national repository platform; and in piloting the Research Impact Template project	Improve compliance with OA mandates; enhance the reach and use of institutional research, and strengthen the quality of research grant applications and evaluations	<p>A centralized open access compliance support framework with dedicated staffing and online resources;</p> <p>Success in system migration, with increased volume and quality of deposits in Scholaris, supported by streamlined workflows;</p> <p>A suite of discipline-sensitive Research Impact Templates, training workshops, and sample narratives, as well as improved visibility of institutional research outputs both within and beyond academia</p>
Strengthening, Growing, and Advancing the IP Portfolio and Protection Strategy	Innovation and commercialization activities	\$360,000 invested in expertise recruitment, portfolio assessment, and commercialization support services	Focus the support of inventions and patents to increase the impact of the institutional innovation capacity and researcher commercialization	Number of disclosures supported and ventures, researcher engagements, and commercialization agreements initiated

<p>Advancing EDI and SRC Analytics Through Dedicated Evaluation and Governance Coordination Capacity</p>	<p>Equity, diversity and faculty renewal</p>	<p>\$120,000 invested in hiring of Program Evaluation and Governance Specialist</p>	<p>Build institutional capacity to evaluate EDI efforts, support Dimensions Action Plan implementation, and improve rankings analytics</p>	<p>Position hired and onboarded</p> <p>Evaluation framework developed</p> <p>At least 3 analytical reports or dashboards produced to support EDI, Dimensions, or rankings</p>
<p>Research Integrity – Outreach, Awareness and Education (Phase 2)</p>	<p>Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases</p>	<p>\$120,000 invested in hiring of SRC Policy Coordinator</p>	<p>Monitor and evaluate the integrity e-resources to enhance research integrity educational resources</p> <p>update and expand educational opportunities</p> <p>support the research integrity event and related resources</p> <p>support broader policy implementation infrastructure</p> <p>Continued growth of engagement with research community and institutionalization of strong research integrity practices across the</p>	<p>Enhanced engagement with the research integrity resources across the SRC community</p> <p>Continued review and revision of the eLearning Module</p> <p>Strong attendance and engagement at the research integrity day with follow up evaluation</p> <p>Implementation, tiered introduction to, and assessment of the use of the e-submission form for allegations of breach of research integrity</p>

			<p>university through a continued comprehensive evaluation exercise resulting in updates to digital educational resources, the delivery of an inaugural research integrity day and policy implementation infrastructure</p>	
<p>Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer Support</p>	<p>Innovation & commercialization</p>	<p>\$150,969 invested in IP strategy, patent drafting and filing services</p>	<p>Deliver IP support services and education sessions to increase research commercialization outcomes</p>	<p>Number of patents supported (new filings and maintained)</p>

Performance Objectives 2025-26 – Research Security

Project Title	Output (investment of research security funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
Advancing Research Security and Resilience at TMU	\$276,224 invested in hiring research security staff; procurement and deployment of enhanced risk assessment tools; development of new training modules and risk self-assessment resources	Deepen the institutional integration of research security risk management frameworks and expand operational capacity across TMU's research enterprise	Number of internal and external consultations Number of risk assessments conducted Number of training sessions/presentations delivered Uptake rate of research security self-assessment tools among researchers Number of national/international research security policy engagements	TMU researchers and staff are better equipped to identify and mitigate research security risks Research security considerations embedded across TMU policies and processes Due diligence applied consistently across grants and international engagements TMU's reputation as a trusted and resilient research partner is enhanced Research security is recognized and addressed in TMU's enterprise risk management system