

2026 Strategic SRC Initiative Fund Competition

Virtual Information Session

Thursday, February 5, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Toronto
Metropolitan
University

Office of the
Vice-President,
Research & Innovation



Welcome



Please have your microphone muted if you are not speaking



If you have headphones, please use them as they will reduce echo / feedback



If you would like to speak - please indicate in the chat or use the raise hand function



This meeting is being recorded

Toronto is in the “Dish With One Spoon” territory. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land.

Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect.



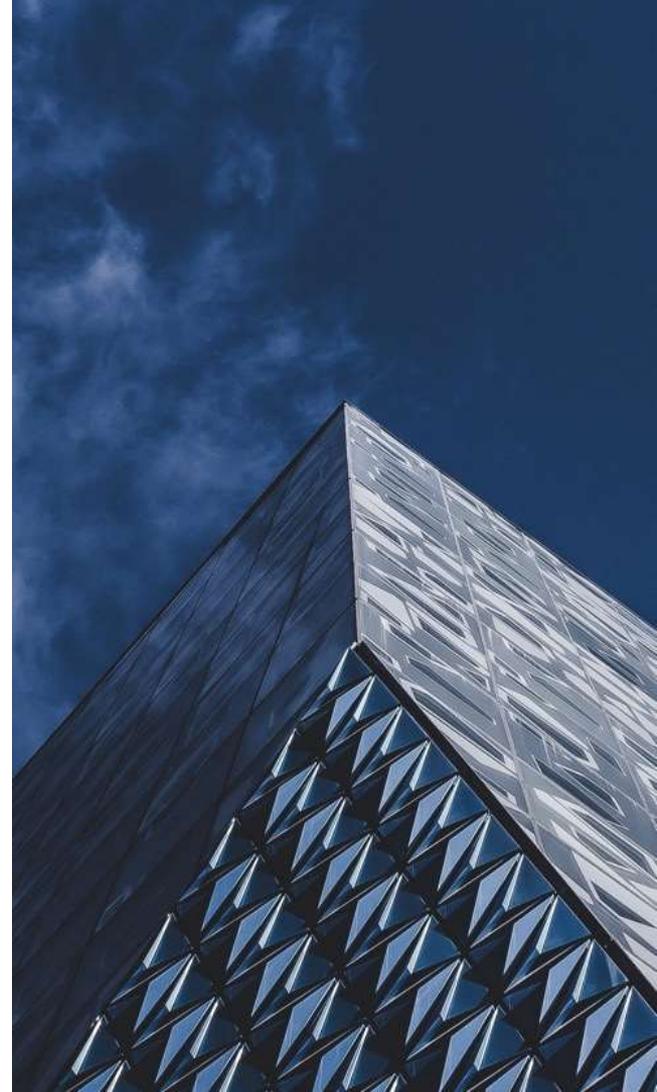
Agenda

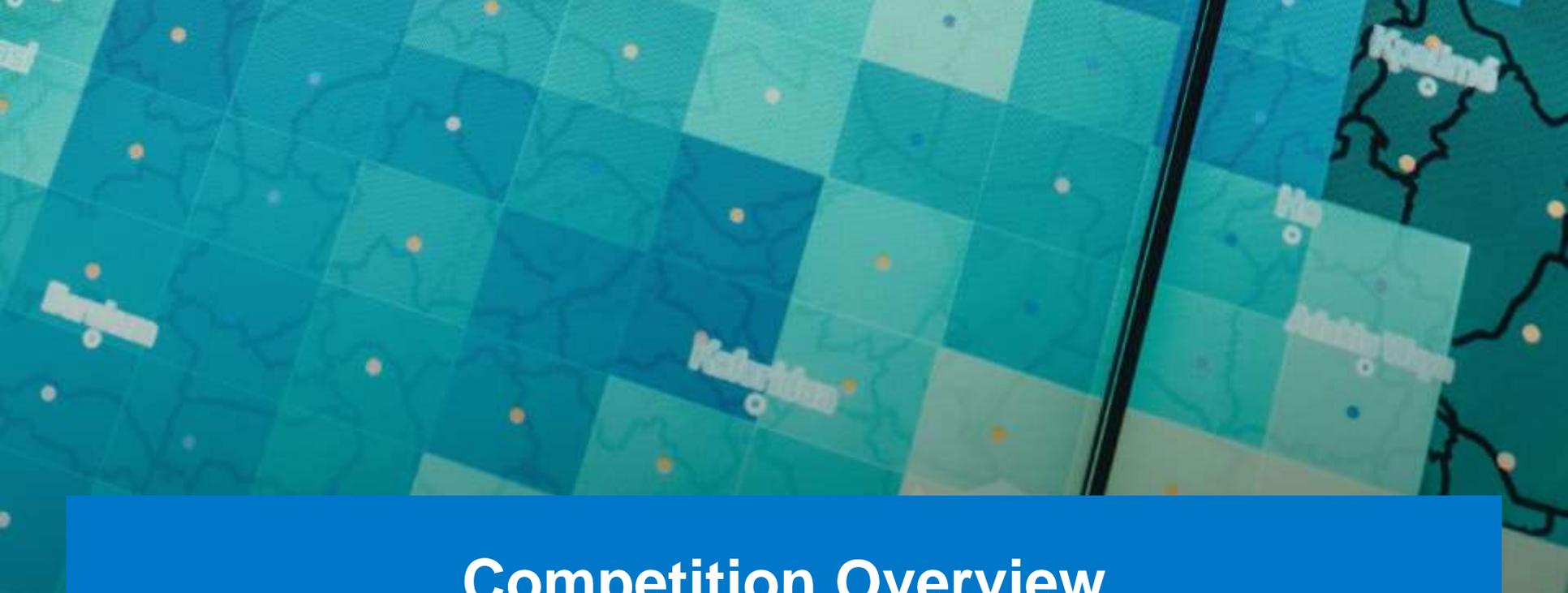
Competition Overview 5

Application Process 10

**Review, Reporting and
Acknowledgement** 17

FAQs 22





Competition Overview

Strategic Research Plan 2025-2030

Purpose

Strategic SRC Initiative Fund grants provide up to \$20,000 of internal funds per award to eligible TFA members to nurture and scale SRC initiatives. This furthers the goal of strengthening areas of SRC excellence that are of strategic importance to the university.

Objectives:

- Support exploratory SRC programs with long-term goals or short-term SRC development projects.
- Strengthen collaboration amongst multidisciplinary and multisectoral researchers.
- Address increasingly interconnected, complex problems.

Applicant Eligibility

- Tenured or tenure-track members of the TFA are eligible to apply.
 - Emerging researchers/scholars* and established researchers/scholars will be reviewed against a set of weighted criteria.
- Applicants can apply as the PI for only **one** Strategic SRC proposal per competition.

***Emerging Researcher/Scholar:** To identify as an emerging scholar, the applicant must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have completed their highest terminal degree no more than seven years before the competition deadline (TMU considers only the date of completion of the first terminal degree).
- Have held a tenured or tenure-track academic appointment for less than seven years total at any institution.

Applicant Eligibility

- You are **not eligible** for this competition if you:
 - Were previously awarded a Strategic SRC Initiative Fund grant.
 - Have any internal or external funding for any SRC activities proposed for funding in the Strategic SRC Initiative Fund proposal.
- Co-applicants on the same project cannot apply separately for, or receive, Strategic SRC Initiative Fund support for the same proposal. There can only be one application per project.

Eligible Expenses

All expenses **must** conform to the **university's guidelines** regarding [eligible research expenses](#).

For further guidance, visit [Financial Services – Research Accounting](#).

Examples of Eligible Expenses:

- Research-related costs
- Dissemination of findings
- Recruiting costs, salaries, stipends and benefits for research personnel
- Third-party subcontract costs

Examples of Ineligible Expenses:

- Non-capital purchases (e.g., access to data)
- Basic computers and related equipment
- Select stationery and office supplies
- Items typically covered by departmental budgets (e.g., printers)
- Indirect costs



Application Process

How to Apply

Deadline:

Monday, March 9, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET

Application Instructions

- Download and complete the application package (fillable PDF).
- Create your new GAF.
- Upload your completed application (PDF) to your new GAF.
- Upload your up-to-date abbreviated Common CV or OCGS CV.

RIS can be accessed in two ways:

1. torontomu.ca/research
 - OVPRI website, under “Researcher Resources”.
2. my.torontomu.ca
 - Your TMU portal, under “My Links” > “Research”.

How to Apply - RIS

Research Information System Welcome OVPRI!

This application form is for external sponsors and OVPRI programs only.
To apply for Faculty Grants like Travel and Seed Grants, please go to Faculty Grants tab.

1 → [New GAF](#)

2 → Internal OVPRI Programs

3 → Internal Program: 2026 Strategic SRC Initiative Fund

Researcher's Information

Researcher's Last Name: _____
Researcher's First Name: _____
Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: researcher@torontomu.ca
Appointment Status: **4** → TFA
Faculty of primary appointment: Vice President Research and Innovation
Department of primary appointment: Office, VP Research & Innovation
Is this project associated with a Faculty based Centre or Institute?

Only TFAs are eligible to apply

[Back to Assistant Page](#)

Application Package

Proposals **must** be submitted using this fillable application form (PDF).

The application form is accessible via:

- [Direct Download](#)
- [OVPRI Internal Funding Opportunities page](#)

The image shows a screenshot of a web-based application form for the 2026 Strategic SRC Initiative Fund. The form is titled "2026 Strategic SRC Initiative Fund Application" and has a deadline of "Monday, March 9, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) EDT". The form includes several sections with input fields and radio buttons:

- Name of Principal Applicant:** Text input field.
- Department/School:** Text input field.
- Faculty:** Text input field.
- Email Address:** Text input field.
- Emerging Researcher/Scholar*:** Radio buttons for "Yes" and "No".
- Title of Proposal:** Text input field.
- Total Amount Requested (up to \$25,000):** Text input field with a "\$" symbol.
- Indigenous Focus:** A paragraph explaining that applicants can indicate an Indigenous focus, which will be reviewed within the context of the [Guidelines for the merit review of Indigenous research](#). Below this is a radio button for "Yes" and "No".
- Hazardous Materials:** A question "Will your project involve humans, the use of animals, controlled goods or hazardous materials?" with radio buttons for "Yes" and "No".
- Ethics Review:** A statement "If yes, the project will require ethics review and approval. For further information, see the research ethics website." followed by a radio button for "Yes, I confirm." and a "Date" field.
- Certification:** A statement "I certify that this proposal does not hold any internal or external funding, and the information provided in this application is true and verifiable." followed by a radio button for "Yes, I confirm." and a "Date" field.

At the bottom, there is a footnote: "* For the definition of Emerging Researcher/Scholar, refer to the 2026 Strategic SRC Initiative Fund Guidelines." and a page number "1".

Application Package

Abstract (max 100 words)

- The abstract should be free of technical jargon and clearly describe the proposal and its potential impact.

Project Description (max 1500 words)

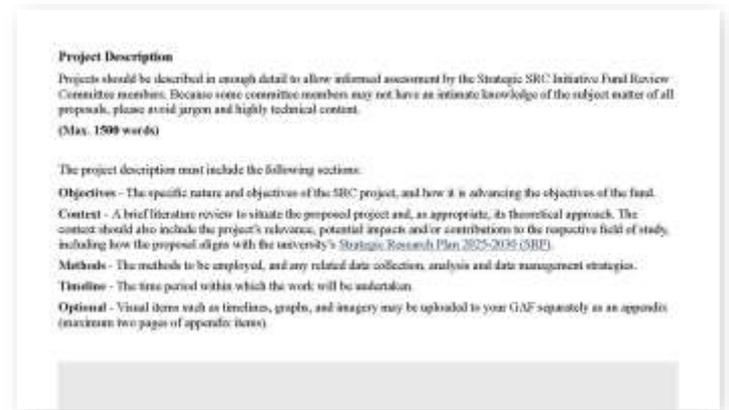
- Describe the project in enough detail to allow informed assessment by the Review Committee.
- Please avoid jargon and highly technical content.

Description Must Include:

- I. Objectives
- II. Context
- III. Methodology
- IV. Timeline

Optional:

- V. Appendix



Curriculum Vitae

Separate PDF Upload

Current Common CV (CCV)

- Updated CV in CCV or OCGS format highlighting the relevant key contributions related to the proposal in yellow.

The image shows a screenshot of the OCGS Curriculum Vitae form from Toronto Metropolitan University. The form is titled "OCGS CURRICULUM VITAE" and includes the following sections:

- a) NAME:
- b) DEGREES:
- c) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:
- d) HONOURS: F.R.S., F.R.S.C., Governor General Award, honorary degree, etc.
- e) SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: e.g., executive and editorial positions but not memberships in societies
- f) GRADUATE SUPERVISIONS: count of master's, doctoral, postdoctoral – completed / in progress:
Completed: MA, PhD, Postdoctoral
In progress: MA, PhD, Postdoctoral
NAME OF STUDENTS supervised, title of thesis or project, year of first registration and year of completion:
- g) GRADUATE COURSES: by year
Direct Studies:
Graduate courses:
- h) 1. EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING: by year, indicating source (granting councils, industry, government, foundations, other), amount, principal investigator, purpose (research, travel, publications, operating equipment, etc.)
Year: Source: Amount: Type: Amount/Year: \$: Purpose:

*Type: C – Granting Councils, G – Government, F – Foundations, O – Other



Review, Reporting and Acknowledgement

Review | Process

Committee Structure

- Two TFA representatives from the faculties of Arts, Community Services, FEAS, Science, Law, TRSM and The Creative School.
- Naomi Adelson, Associate Vice-President, Research and Innovation will chair the committee (non-voting)
- Guided by:
 - [SSHRC EDI in the research enterprise](#)
 - [SSHRC guide to addressing EDI in applications](#)
 - [NSERC EDI guidelines](#)
 - [CIHR EDI guidelines](#)
 - For a project which falls under [SSHRC's definition of Indigenous research](#), the [Guidelines for the merit review of Indigenous research](#) and [TCPS 2 \(2022\) – Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada](#) (i.e., as required)
- Vice-President, Research and Innovation approval
- Competition results expected in May 2026

Review | Selection Criteria

Criterion	Emerging Scholar Scoring	Established Scholar Scoring
Excellence and Strategic Alignment	30%	30%
Feasibility	30%	20%
SRC Impact	20%	30%
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access	20%	20%
Total	100	100

SRC Ethics and Integrity

- Funding for all projects that require REB and/or other SRC approval will not be released prior to the relevant approval.
- If you are unsure of whether your study requires Research Ethics review and approval, please refer to the [OVPRI Research Ethics](#) page.
- Completion of the [SRC Integrity eLearning Modules](#) is highly recommended.



Post-Award

If awarded, grant holders must:

- Commence projects within **3 months**.
- Sign Award Agreement/Terms and Conditions.
- Submit expenses as they are incurred to your Faculty's RASO.
- Submit a report within **3 months** of project completion or **1 year** after release of funds.





FAQs

FAQs

Q: Does the deadline date refer to the point when the applicant submits the GAF or when the chair and dean approve the submitted GAF?

A: The deadline refers to the point when the **applicant** submits the GAF.

FAQs

Q: How do I know whether my research requires REB Approval?

A: Most research involving human participants will require ethics approval before recruitment may begin. If you are unsure of whether your study requires Research Ethics Board review and approval, please refer to the [OVPRI Research Ethics page](#).

FAQs

Q: I am applying for the fund as part of a team of scholars. How do I indicate this on the application form?

A: Applications can be submitted by either an individual researcher or a team of researchers (consisting of one principal applicant and one or more co-applicants and/or collaborators). Only one can be the principal applicant. The rest of the team may be listed in the “co-applicants” section of the application.

Q: Does this mean that each of us can submit the exact same application as a primary applicant and identify the rest as co-applicants?

A: No. Only one application per project is allowed. Please do not submit multiple applications for the same project.

FAQs

Q: If I had a one-year leave, can I exclude this from my calculation for the emerging researcher/scholar distinction?

A: Periods of career interruptions due to health or family reasons are not included when calculating the number of years for the emerging researcher/scholar distinction.

FAQs

Q: If Person X is a Principal Applicant in one application, may they be a co-applicant in another application?

A: The same person can be on two applications (one as PI and one as co-applicant) as long as the proposals are different.

Q: If a Principal Applicant was NOT awarded last year, can they be a co-PI on someone else's application this year?

A: Yes. Any unsuccessful applicant in a given year can apply again in the following year.

FAQs

Q: How and when do I reference this award?

A: Recipients of a Strategic SRC Initiative grant are asked to acknowledge the university of their research or research-related activities in all outputs. The following wording is suggested:

“This research [or activity] has been supported by Toronto Metropolitan University’s Strategic SRC Initiative Fund.”

Helpful Links

- [Strategic SRC Initiative Fund Application Package](#)
- [Strategic SRC Initiative Fund Competition Guidelines](#)
- [NSERC EDI Considerations](#)
- [OCGS CV Template](#)
- [Research Data Management](#)
- [DMP Assistant](#)
- [Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund Guidelines](#)
- [SSHRC Guidelines for the merit review of Indigenous research](#)
- [TCPS 2 \(2022\) – Chapter 9: Research Involving the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)
- [Research Ethics Website](#)
- [Research Information System \(RIS\)](#)
- [SRC Integrity eLearning Modules](#)
- [Strategic Research Plan 2025-2030](#)
- [Financial Services](#)
- [Tri-Agency Statement on EDI](#)
- [SSHRC Guidelines for effective research training](#)



Questions?