

2027 Indigenous Scholarly, Research and Creative (SRC) Distinction Fund Guidelines

Overview

Available Funding

One grant of a maximum of \$25,000 for up to 2 years. This funding opportunity will be offered biennially.

Purpose

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund provides internal funds to recognize and support a TMU Indigenous faculty member's SRC excellence and, in particular, Indigenous Scholarship (as defined by [TMU's Memorandum of Understanding 26 \(MoU 26\): Hiring and Evaluation of Indigenous Faculty Members, Librarians and Professional Counsellors](#)).¹ Preference may be given to a project which has Indigenous² community or SRC partnership(s) and/or addresses issues of significance to Indigenous peoples in an urban context and/or the PI is supporting Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate student(s) research assistants.

Submission Deadline

Tuesday, November 24, 2026 by 12 p.m. (noon) ET. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Eligible

Indigenous tenured or tenure-track faculty and librarians who are affirmed by TMU are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to Indigenous Scholars as defined in MOU 26.³

Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers with a nominated PI that fits the eligibility criteria above.

[Emerging researchers/scholars](#) and established researchers/scholars are encouraged to apply and will be reviewed against the weighted criteria as set out in the review procedures below.

¹ Indigenous Scholar as defined in MoU 26: An Indigenous faculty member or librarian who is affirmed as an Indigenous Scholar by the Indigenous Scholarship Committee.

² Indigenous as defined in MoU 26: For the purposes of this MOU, Indigenous refers to First Nation, Métis and Inuit individuals and communities within Canada and the United States.

³ See Indigenous Scholar definition in footnote 1.

Not Eligible

You are not eligible to apply to this competition if you have any internal or external funding for any SRC activities proposed for funding in the Indigenous SRC Distinction proposal. This means that proposals must be independent of, but can be built upon or related to, but not overlap with, existing or past funded work. There must be no duplication of funding.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, start-up funds and the Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund are not included in the scope of internal funding.

Review Process

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund Review Committee will include at least one Indigenous member designated by the Indigenous Scholarship Committee. The committee will assess the submitted applications and recommend a ranked list to the Vice President, Research and Innovation (VPRI) for approval and dissemination of funds. For further details, see [Review Procedures and Selection Criteria](#) below.

How to Apply

Download and complete the [Application Package](#). Please see the [Application Requirements](#) below for full details.

Submit your application online via the university's [Research Information System \(RIS\)](#). Applications will not be accepted via email.

Information Session

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET.

In this session, we will review the application process and requirements. [Sign up for the information session](#) to receive the Zoom link.

OVPRI Contact

Internal SRC Funding and Awards
Email: srcfunding@torontomu.ca

Detailed Guidelines

Submission Deadline

Tuesday, November 24, at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET.

Applications submitted to RIS after this deadline will be considered late and will not be accepted by the system.

Funding Available

This funding opportunity will be offered once every two years. The maximum amount of funding that will be granted for this fund is one award of \$25,000 for up to two years.

You will not be penalized if your budget request is less than the maximum amount.

Description

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) is committed to the university's collective advancement and support of Indigenous scholarship as outlined in the [Community Consultation Summary Report 2018](#) plan and in alignment with [Memorandum of Understanding 26 \(MoU 26\): Hiring and Evaluation of Indigenous Faculty Members, Librarians and Professional Counsellors](#) to the Toronto Metropolitan Faculty Association's Collective Agreement. To that end, the OVPRI has established a funding opportunity to recognize and support Indigenous faculty members' leading SRC excellence at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU).

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund provides internal funds in support of Indigenous researchers who are tenured or tenure-track members of the Toronto Metropolitan Faculty Association. Priority will be given to Indigenous Scholars as defined in MOU 26 (see footnote 1). Preference may be given to a project which has Indigenous community or SRC partnership(s) and/or addresses issues of significance to Indigenous peoples (see footnote 2) in an urban context and/or is supporting the work of Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate student(s) research assistants.

Foundational to SRC activity at the university are the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion (EDI) and access. Together, these principles underscore our commitment to and expression of social justice and are essential to our integrated approach to SRC activity as they crosscut the university's strategic SRC themes and objectives and contribute to inclusive excellence.

As outlined in [the Tri-Agency statement on equity, diversity and inclusion](#), we are "acting on the evidence that achieving a more equitable, diverse and inclusive Canadian research enterprise is essential to creating the excellent, innovative and impactful research necessary to advance knowledge and understanding and respond to local, national and global challenges." Learn more about [equity, diversity, inclusion and access at TMU](#).

Eligibility

Eligible

Indigenous tenured or tenure-track faculty and librarians who are affirmed by TMU are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to Indigenous Scholars as defined in MOU 26 (see footnote 1).

Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers with a nominated PI that fits the eligibility criteria above.

[Emerging researchers/scholars](#) and established researchers/scholars are encouraged to apply and will be reviewed against the weighted criteria as set out in the review procedures below.

Not Eligible

You are not eligible to apply to this competition if you have any internal or external funding for any SRC activities proposed for funding in the Indigenous SRC Distinction proposal. This means that proposals must be independent of, but can be built upon or related to, but not overlap with, existing or past funded work. There must be no duplication of funding.

For the purposes of this funding opportunity, start-up funds and the Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund are not included in the scope of internal funding.

Ethics Approval

TMU research is governed by policies and practices that ensure the protection of research participants, researchers (faculty, students and staff members), the university and the public. These policies and practices cover research involving humans, the use of animals, controlled goods and hazardous materials, among others.

All funded or unfunded research involving humans, animals or controlled goods undertaken at the university's facilities and conducted by university faculty, students and staff is subject to university review and approval prior to the disbursement of any funds.

For more information, please visit the [TMU research ethics website](#).

SRC Integrity

As set out in [Policy #118 – Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity \(SRC\) Integrity Policy](#), TMU expects that all members of the university (including faculty, staff and students), as well as those who are not members of the university but who are conducting research on university premises or using university resources, will observe the highest standards of SRC integrity in the conduct of their SRC activities.

The OVPRI is responsible for implementing the Senate policy on SRC integrity (Policy 118). Discover applications of SRC Integrity values and principles in the [SRC Research Integrity Training Modules](#) and/or the [SRC Reference Guide for Research Integrity](#).

Term of Award

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund will be awarded for a period of two years. Projects must commence within three months of the award of funding. Extensions will not normally be permitted. Under extraordinary circumstances, extensions may be approved for a period of up to a maximum of one year. Unused funds at the end of the grant period will be automatically returned to the OVPRI.

Acknowledgement

Recipients of an Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund grant are asked to acknowledge the university in the dissemination of research results. The following wording is suggested:

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

Reporting Requirements

Recipients of an Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund grant must submit a report within three months of completion of the project or two years after the release of funds, whichever comes first. Recipients will receive information about how to complete the online report.

Application Requirements

Application Package

Please download and complete the [Application Package](#) to complete your application. This package must be completed and uploaded in order to be deemed eligible for review.

This fillable PDF form consists of the following sections:

a) Cover Page

(Maximum 1 page.)

b) Abstract

(Maximum 100 words.)

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

c) Proposal

i. Project Description

(Maximum 1500 words.)

Applications should describe the research/project in enough detail to allow informed assessment by the Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund Review Committee members. Since not all Committee members will have an intimate knowledge of the subject matter of all proposals, the proposal must avoid jargon and highly technical content.

The project description must include:

- **Objectives** – The specific nature and objectives of the SRC project to be funded. As preference will be given to a project which has Indigenous community or research partnership(s) and/or addresses issues of significance to Indigenous peoples in an urban context and/or is working with Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate student(s), please ensure that the project description addresses these preferences, if applicable.
- **Context** – A brief literature review to situate the proposed project and, as appropriate, its theoretical approach. The context should also include the project's relevance, potential impacts and/or contributions to the respective field of study.
- **Methods** – The methods to be employed, as well as analysis strategies and data sovereignty considerations, as appropriate.
- **Timeline** – The time period within which the work will be undertaken.
- **Appendix (Optional)** – Up to a limit of 2 pages of visual assets such as timelines, graphs or imagery may be uploaded to your GAF separately as an Appendix.

ii. Knowledge Mobilization and Anticipated Outcomes

(Maximum 500 words.)

There should be a clear indication of the expected outcome(s) of the proposed SRC project (e.g., publications, presentations, preliminary stage of a large project, community engagement initiatives/outreach, etc.), including any relevant student/HQP training. As appropriate, proposals should indicate how the SRC project will prepare the applicant for future externally funded opportunities.

iii. List of References

(Maximum 1 page.)

d) Budget and Budget Justification

(Space provided on Application Form.)

An itemized budget explaining the relationship of the funds requested to the proposed SRC project. Please see the note below about the Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund, which can potentially be used to support items that would not fit within the standard budget request.

Note on eligible expenses: Funds can be used only for research-related costs, including costs related to Indigenous community or research partnership(s) and those that conform to the university's guidelines regarding pay and benefit rates and allowable expenses. Please refer to the [Financial Services website](#) for guidance.

Note on Research Assistant (RA) / Academic Assistant (AA) salaries: Please see the details on RA and AA remuneration on the [Compensation page of the Human Resources website](#).

Note on the Supplemental Indigenous SRC Fund: This fund offers non-competitive supplemental SRC funding support to Indigenous faculty members' SRC programs, including the training of Indigenous undergraduate and/or graduate students towards expanding Indigenous scholarship at the university. You can find the guidelines and application form under Internal Funding Opportunities on the [OVPRI's Funding Opportunities website](#).

Updated Common CV (CCV)

Please submit your updated CCV. If you cannot provide a CV in CCV format, please submit your updated OCGS CV. See "Curriculum Vitae (CV) in the OCGS Format" on the [Faculty Affairs website](#).

Please highlight, in yellow, relevant key contributions related to the proposal.

Application Submission

Log in to the university [Research Information System \(RIS\)](#):

1. Under "Grant Authorization Form (GAF)", select "New GAF."
 2. Select "Internal OVPRI Programs."
 3. From the Internal Program drop-down list, select "2027 Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund."
- Note: If you select the wrong program, your application will not be considered.**
4. Check your appointment status. Only TFA members are eligible to apply.
 5. Upload the following application documents as two separate PDF documents:
 - a. Completed Application Package (1 PDF document).
 - b. Updated Common CV (or OCGS CV) (1 document).
 6. When the application is ready to submit, click the "Submit for Approval" button before the deadline.

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

Internal Program: 2027 Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund **3**

Researcher's Information

Researcher's Last Name:
Researcher's First Name:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:
Appointment Status:
Faculty of primary appointment:
Department of primary appointment:
Is this project associated with a Faculty based Centre or Institute? ☐

Only TFAs are eligible to apply **4**

OVPRI
552792
researcher@torontomu.ca
TFA
Vice President Research and Innovation
Office, VP Research & Innovation

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The completed application must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET on Tuesday, November 24, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Review Procedures and Selection Criteria

Committee Structure

The Indigenous SRC Distinction Fund Review Committee will consist of one TFA faculty member recommended by the Associate Deans, Research from each of the faculties; at least one Indigenous member designated by the university's Indigenous Scholarship Committee; and includes the Associate Vice-President, Research and Innovation (AVPRI) as an ex-officio non-voting member. At its discretion, the Committee will be chaired by either one member selected by a majority of the Committee or by the AVPRI at the request of the Committee.

The Committee will ideally be composed of Indigenous reviewers and, as needed, non-Indigenous reviewers who have experience and expertise in Indigenous-focused research and, preferably, Indigenous community research experience.

The recommended ranked list will be forwarded to the VPRI for final approval and dissemination of funds.

Preparation for Review

The Review Committee will be guided by:

- [SSHRC Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)
- [Chapter 9 of the TCPS2: Research Involving First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples of Canada](#)

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed using the following weighted criteria:

1) Feasibility and challenge

- Originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge.
- Appropriateness of the literature review.
- Appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework.
- Appropriateness of the methods/approach.
- Probability of effective and timely attainment of the research objectives.
- Appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of proposed costs.
- Strategies and timelines for the design and conduct of the activity/activities proposed.

Emerging scholar scoring: 45%

Established scholar scoring: 35%

2) Contribution to HQP training and development

- Quality of training and mentoring to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute.

Emerging scholar scoring: 20%

Established scholar scoring: 30%

3) Knowledge mobilization

- Quality of knowledge mobilization plans, including effective knowledge dissemination, knowledge exchange and engagement within and/or beyond the research community.

Emerging scholar scoring: 35%

Established scholar scoring: 35%

Emerging Researcher/Scholar

For the purpose of this funding opportunity, the following definition of an emerging researcher/scholar will be used.

An emerging researcher/scholar is someone who has not yet had the opportunity to establish an extensive record of SRC achievements but is in the process of building one. To identify themselves 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.

The emerging researcher/scholar window can be adjusted for all eligible protected leaves. Professional leaves (e.g., training, sabbatical, administrative) are not credited.

Communication of Results

Applicants will be informed of the competition results via email in early February 2027. Reviewers' comments will be shared anonymously with applicants when result notifications are provided.