

SSHRC Insight Grants (IG) vs Insight Development Grants (IDG)

The following is an attempt to compare some of the major (and minor) elements of SSHRC's two most high-volume funding competitions, the IGs and the IDGs. For any definition of terms (like the difference between emerging and established scholars), please go to SSHRC's glossary at <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/definitions-eng.aspx>.

Similarities

1. Broad Objectives

- Both the IGs and IDGs are expected to respond to the objectives of the Insight Program, which are to:
 - o build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector - perspectives through support for the best researchers;
 - o support new approaches to research on complex and important topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, institution or discipline;
 - o provide a high-quality research training experience for students;
 - o fund research expertise that relates to societal challenges and opportunities; and
 - o mobilize research knowledge, to and from academic and non-academic audiences, with the potential to lead to intellectual, cultural, social and economic influence, benefit and impact.(from https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/umbrella_programmes-programme_cadre/insight-savoir-eng.aspx)

2. Subject Matter Eligibility and Primary Objectives

- Both (like all SSHRC funding) fall under SSHRC's subject matter eligibility guidelines: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/apply-demande/background-renseignements/selecting_agency-choisir_organisme_subventionnaire-eng.aspx
- Projects whose primary objective is curriculum development, preparation of teaching materials, program evaluation, organization of a conference or workshop, digitization of a collection, or creation of a database are not eligible for funding under the IG or IDG funding opportunities (as per the IG (https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/insight_grants-subventions_savoir-eng.aspx) and IDG (https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/insight_development_grants-subventions_de_developpement_savoir-eng.aspx) program guidelines).

3. Budget

For both the IG and IDG:

- An application will be declared ineligible if it is determined 30% or more of the requested budget has been allocated to ineligible expenses (budgets for the IG and the IDG, like all SSHRC funding, should be guided by both the "Use of Grant Funds" section of the Tri-Agency Guide on

Financial Administration (https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/interagency-interorganismes/TAF-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp) and their individual program guidelines).

- Committees may consider failing a project on the Feasibility criterion if they determine that 30% or more of the overall budget request is insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate to the proposed objectives or outcomes of the project.
- Committees will use the principle of minimum essential funding to guide their budget discussions.
- Committees may recommend minor budget reductions when they determine the request is inadequately justified and/or not appropriate as described above, and where they judge that savings could be achieved without jeopardizing the project objectives.
- An application will automatically be failed if the committee deems that 50% or more of the overall budget is insufficiently justified and/or not appropriate to the proposed objectives or outcomes of the project.

4. Specific rules for the use of grant funds

- IG and IDG funds cannot be used for remuneration, or the travel and subsistence costs of presenters or guest speakers.
- No team members (applicant, co-applicant or collaborator) can be remunerated with grant funds, including postdoctoral fellows serving in any of these capacities.
- IG and IDG funds cannot be used for collaborators' research costs. However, their travel and subsistence expenses related to research planning, the exchange of information with the grantee, and for the dissemination of research results are considered eligible.
- Consultation fees are eligible for expert and/or professional and technical services that contribute directly to the proposed research as long as the service is not being provided by a team member or other persons whose status would make them eligible to apply for a SSHRC grant.

5. Applicant eligibility

Eligibility to be the main Applicant for an IG and IDG are the same, in that:

- Applications can be submitted by an individual researcher or a team of researchers (consisting of one applicant and one or more co-applicants and/or collaborators).
- Applicants (except postdoctoral researchers and PhD students) must be affiliated with a Canadian postsecondary institution that holds institutional eligibility at the time of application and before funding can be released. Researchers who maintain an affiliation with a Canadian postsecondary institution, but whose primary affiliation is with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution, are not eligible for applicant status.
- Applicants who have received a SSHRC grant of any type but have failed to submit an achievement report by the deadline specified in their Notice of Award are not eligible to apply for another SSHRC grant until they have submitted the report.
(for more information, including eligibility of Postdoctoral researchers and PhD students to apply, please go to the individual funding opportunities on SSHRC's website).

Differences

	IG	IDG
Project scopes and objectives	Support for large-scale, long-term initiatives that can be aligned with past research contributions and applicant's ongoing research program(s)	Short term projects, early stage research, clearly delimited, which enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas, but not intended to support large-scale initiatives
Who can apply?	Emerging and Established Scholars	Emerging and Established scholars, but proposals from Established Scholars must show that they will explore new research questions and/or approaches that are distinct from the applicant's previous/ongoing research
Evaluation criteria and scoring	Challenge = 40%, Feasibility = 20%, Capability = 40%	Challenge = 50%, Feasibility = 20%, Capability = 30%
Duration of Grants	2-5 years	1-2 years
Budget	\$7,000 - \$400,000 (applications are divided into two streams: Stream A (requests between \$7k and \$100k) and Stream B (requests between \$100,001 and \$400k))	\$7,000 - \$75,000 (not divided into streams)
Special considerations	Stream A and B are adjudicated in the same way, by the same committee, but the targeted success rate of Stream A applications is higher than for Stream B (usually about 5-7 % higher)	At least 50% of the IDG funding envelope is reserved for applications from Emerging Scholars
Co-Applicants (among other things, Co-Applicants are those that can incur research or research-related expenses (unlike Collaborators))	International Co-Applicants not allowed (Co-Applicants must meet the same eligibility criteria as the main Applicant. Among other things, this means that a co-applicant's primary affiliation must be with a SSHRC-eligible Canadian postsecondary institution)	International Co-Applicants (who are formally affiliated with a postsecondary institution outside of Canada) are allowed
Application	Completed through SSHRC's online application site: https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en_CA	Completed through the Government of Canada Research Portal: https://portal-portail.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/s/login.aspx

CV requirement (for main Applicant and any Co-Applicants)	SSHRC CV (part of SSHRC's online application site)	Canadian Common CV: https://ccv-cvc.ca/indexresearcher-eng.frm (this is a potentially much more time-consuming element to this application compared to the IG, especially if the Applicant and one or more Co-Applicants do not have an existing CCV)
Evaluation and Adjudication	Applications assessed by both SSHRC IG adjudication committee members and external assessors (SSHRC will seek, but cannot guarantee, a minimum of 2 external assessors per application. Adjudication committees consider but are not bound by the judgments of the external assessors)	Single-stage IDG adjudication committee review (no external assessors)
Annual deadline	October 1 (UofT internal deadlines in late September)	February 1 (UofT internal deadlines in late January)
Can apply for both in the same year?	You can apply for an IG in the same calendar year as an IDG, but only if the your IDG application was unsuccessful	Also, you can apply for an IG in October of one calendar year, and then an IDG in February of the next calendar year, but the objectives of the research must be significantly different

For more information on these funding opportunities, please go to the SSHRC website:

For the IG: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/insight_grants-subventions_savoir-eng.aspx#4

For the IDG: https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programmes-programmes/insight_development_grants-subventions_de_developpement_savoir-eng.aspx#4