

SSHRC Insight Grant: Strategies for Success

August 18, 2026



Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates.

For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Wendat Nation, the Seneca, and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

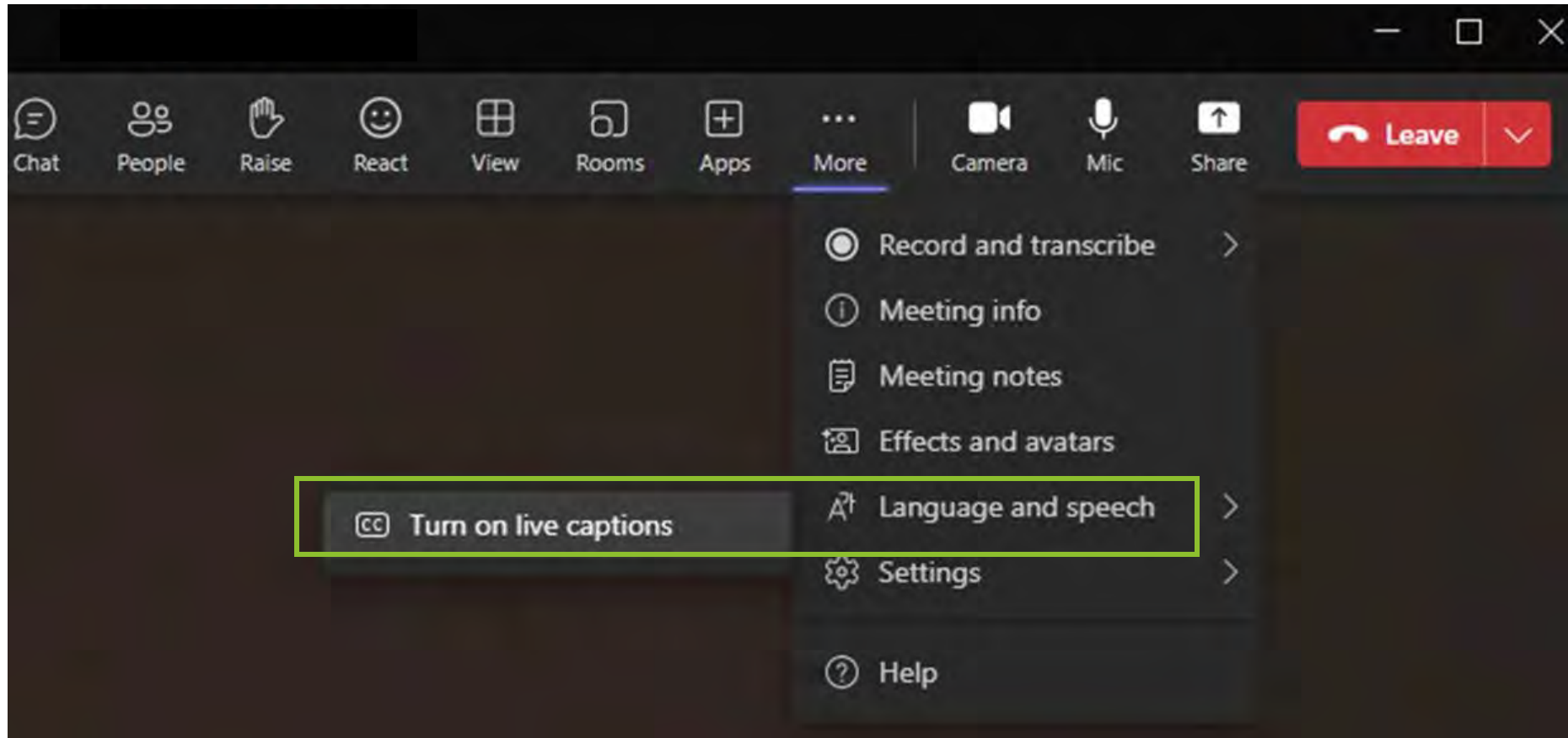
Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

Access Check

"We understand access to be a shared responsibility between everyone in this space. We will strive to create an accessible space that reduces the need for you to disclose a disability or impairment for the purposes of gaining an accommodation. In doing this together, we strive to welcome disability, and the changes it brings, into our space."

Please let us know if there is anything we need to address in order to remove barriers to participate in today's session

Turning 'live captions' on and off



Housekeeping

- This webinar is being recorded and transcribed.
- A link to the recording of the presentations and slides will be sent to all participants after the session.
- Please put questions into the chat, we will hold all questions until the end of the presentations.

Agenda

10:30 – 10:35 am

Welcoming Remarks

Elizabeth Parke, Faculty Programming Development Officer, CRIS

10:35 – 10:45 am

Grant Overview

Wei Ye, Research Funding Officer, Social Sciences & Humanities, Research Services Office

10:45 – 10:50 am

Research Security Overview

Edward Kim, Research Security Advisor, Division of Vice-President, Research & Innovation

10:50 – 11:10 am

Panel

Mark Bold, Research Funding Manager, Social Sciences & Humanities, Research Services Office (Moderator)

Fiorella Foscari, Professor, Faculty of Information

Paolo Frascà, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream Italian Studies, Affiliate Faculty at the Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science

Liz Page-Gould, Professor of Psychology, Faculty of Arts and Science

11:10 am – 11:40 am

Audience Question & Answer

11:40 am – 12:00 pm

RSO Tips + Q&A

Wei Ye, Research Funding Officer, Social Sciences & Humanities, Research Services Office

VPRI Speakers and Moderator



Wei Ye

**Research Funding Officer, Social
Sciences & Humanities
RSO, VPRI**



Edward Kim

**Research Security Advisor,
RST, VPRI**



Mark Bold

**Moderator
Research Funding Manager,
Social Sciences & Humanities,
RSO, VPRI**

Insight Grants in brief

- Most flexible SSHRC funding opportunity: short or long-term for any subject under SSHRC's mandate
- \$10,000 to \$500,000 over 2 to 5 years, maximum annual budget of \$125,000
- Two streams:
 - Stream A: \$10,000 - \$125,000
 - Stream B: \$125,001 - \$500,000Both streams are adjudicated by the same committees, though the targeted success rate is typically 5% -7% higher for Stream A than B.
- Automatic one-year extension (this additional year should **not be included** in your timeline)

Insight Grants in brief – Applicants

- Projects conducted by individuals or teams of researchers
- Applicants can be emerging or established scholars, but no separate envelope for emerging scholars
- Applicants and Co-applicants: must have a formal affiliation with SSHRC-eligible Canadian postsecondary institution (primary affiliation **cannot** be with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution, as int'l co-applicants not allowed)
- Collaborators do not need this main affiliation (IG funds cannot be used for Collab research costs)
- Postdoctoral fellows and PhD candidates in final year
 - Apply **directly** to SSHRC
 - Must hold appropriate affiliation within 5 months of the start date of the grant (i.e., by September, 2027)
 - Please contact Wei Ye at Research Services (wei.ye@utoronto.ca) well before the IG deadline and before you start the application.

Insight Grants in brief - Criteria

Evaluation criteria and scoring ([IG webpage](#) for details):

- Challenge 40% (originality, lit review, theoretical framework, method, training, impact)
- Feasibility 20% (timeline, expertise of applicant/team, budget, KM plan)
- Capability 40% (past experience in research, KM, impact on professional practices and policies, training & mentoring)

Eligibility Overview – Subject Matter

Applications must meet two criteria:

1. The proposed research or related activities must be primarily in the social sciences and humanities (i.e., aligned with SSHRC's [legislated mandate](#)).
2. The intended outcome of the research must primarily be to add to our understanding and knowledge of individuals, groups and societies—what we think, how we live, and how we interact with each other and the world around us.
 - If your application is Health- or Psychology-related – check [Subject matter eligibility](#), **but most importantly** speak to SSHRC IG program staff (insightgrants@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)
 - Projects whose **primary objective** is curriculum development, program evaluation, preparation of teaching materials, organization of a conference or workshop, digitization of a collection, or creation of a database are not eligible for funding

Eligibility Overview - Applicants

Eligibility to be an Applicant (PI) at UofT

At UofT, the “appropriate affiliation” would be one that is eligible to be PI on a grant (as per “[Eligibility to be PI \(UofT\) guidelines](#)).

- Tenure Stream Faculty
- Professoriate Non-Tenure Stream Faculty, including part-time or CLTA with conditions
- Teaching Stream Faculty
- Status Only (Professorial rank) with approval of unit head via MRA
- All librarians
- Emeritus Faculty Members with the authorization of their unit head
- Clinical Faculty with conditions and through UofT’s academic department

Not eligible to be PI on a grant at UofT

- Post Doctoral Fellows
- PhD student
- Adjunct faculty members (but eligible to be co-applicant if PI is from UofT)
- Research Associate

Eligibility Overview - Multiple Applications

- No limit to the number of applications on which a researcher may be listed as a co-applicant or collaborator.
 - Applicants who apply for an Insight Development Grant in February 2026 and **are not successful** can apply for an Insight Grant in October 2026.
 - If you are going to apply for an IG in Oct 2026, then you can still apply for an IDG in Feb 2027, but objectives must be significantly different.
 - Current IG holders may still submit an application this year, but only in the final year of their award. This is defined as the year in which the final grant installment is received, typically the year before the automatic extension year.
- ✗ IDG Feb 2026 + IG Oct 2026 (if IDG application successful)
 - ✓ IDG Feb 2026 + IG Oct 2026 (if IDG application unsuccessful)
 - ✓ IG Oct 2026 + IDG Feb 2027 (Objectives must be significantly different)

Please refer to [SSHRC's Regulations Regarding Multiple Applications](#) for more information.

Insight Grant Statistics

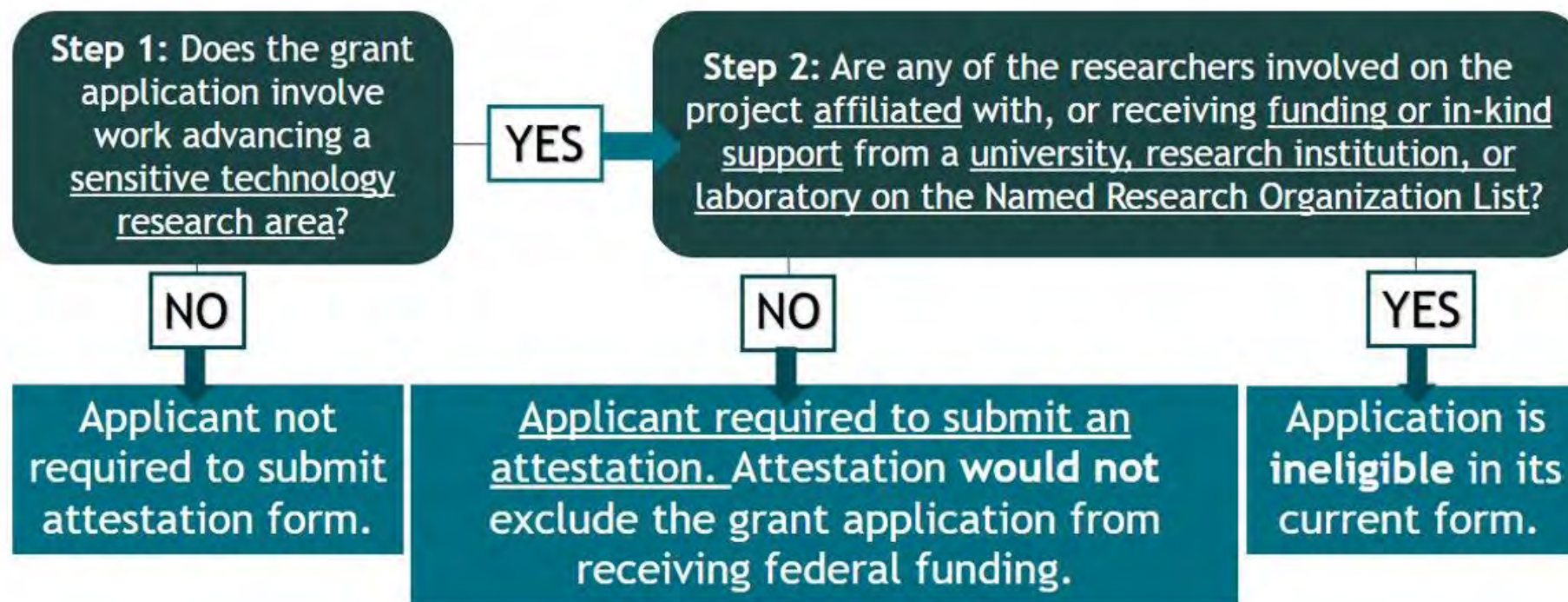
	2023		2024		2025	
	UofT	national	UofT	national	UofT	national
<i>Number of Eligible Applications</i>	169 (of 171)	1477	190 (of 193)	1720	221 (of 227)	1973
<i>Number of Awards</i>	66	503	93	693	97	808
<i>Success Rate</i>	39.1%	34.1%	48.9%	40.3%	43.9%	41.0%
<i>Total Amount Requested</i>	\$31,274,645	\$314,848,542	\$29,994,419	\$357,188,806	\$34,117,849	\$453,351,304
<i>Total Amount Awarded</i>	\$11,541,654	\$86,315,253	\$15,096,614	\$127,681,630	\$18,551,390	\$162,719,619
<i>Average Request</i>	\$185,057	\$213,168	\$157,865	\$207,668	\$154,379	\$229,778
<i>Average Grant</i>	\$174,874	\$171,601	\$162,329	\$184,245	\$191,251	\$201,386

Research Security

1. Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC)

- The policy operates using two lists that must be used in conjunction:
 - 1) [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) (STRA) List
 - 2) [Named Research Organizations](#) (NRO) List
- Grant applications that involve conducting research that aim to **advance** a STRA will **not** be funded if any of the researchers supported by the grant are affiliated with, or receiving funding/in-kind support from institutions that could pose a risk to Canada's national security.
- In the application, applicants will be asked if the proposed research aims to advance STRA.
 - o If the answer is “no”, no further action is required.
 - o If the answer is “yes”, applicants and other named roles must complete an [Attestation Form](#), to certify non-affiliation with an NRO, and include this in the application form.
- STRAC is applicable for **ALL** SSHRC funding opportunities.

Research Security – STRAC flowchart



* STRAC is applicable for **ALL** SSHRC funding opportunities.

Research Security

2. National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships (NSGRP) Risk Assessment

- If the research includes a **private sector partner**, PI must complete the [NSGRP Risk Assessment form](#) (RAF). Please see [U of T's Guidance on Completing the NSGRP Risk Assessment Form](#) for more detail.
- The [NSGRP risk assessment process](#) considers a broader range of entities than the STRAC process. It also looks at factors such as management and corporate partnerships, who has beneficial / controlling ownership, IP policy, etc.
- **NSGRP**- research security process for grant applications involving private sector partner(s). Applicable for:
 - Partnership Grants (PG)
 - Partnership Development Grants (PDG)
 - Partnership Engagement Grants (PEG)
 - Canada Biomedical Research Fund (Stage 2)
 - **Canada Impact + Research Chairs (New)**
 - **Canada Impact+ Emerging Leaders (New)**
- ***NSGRP is currently not applicable for IG, but subject to change.***

Research Security

SSHRC resources for Research Security:

- [Tri-agency guidance on research security](#) (guidance on [STRAC](#) & [NSGRP](#))
- [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnership](#) (NSGRP)
- [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) (STRAC)
 - [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) (STRA)
 - [Named Research Organizations](#) (NRO)

U of T resources for Research Security:

- U of T [Safeguarding Research – Research Security Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- U of T STRAC Policy information [website](#).
- UTM Research Security information [website](#).

U of T Research Security contacts:

General inquiries: researchsecurity@utoronto.ca

List of specific contacts at OVPRI: <https://research.utoronto.ca/contact-us> (search under “research security” to view a list of contacts to see who supports your division)

*****NOTE** that more slides with additional information about these research security elements of the IDG application are included in the appendices of this slide deck for your reference

Research Security – additional information

Research Security Self-Assessment

Menu

Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation

Research & Innovation > Safeguarding Research > Research Security Self-Assessment



Research Security Self-Assessment

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Responses



Research Security – additional information

- Those with named roles must provide the completed attestation forms to the applicant, who must save them as a single PDF and upload it to the STRAC Attestation Module of the application form .
- For application aiming to advance a STRA, the inclusion of completed attestation forms is an eligibility issue. However, whether an application aims to advance a STRA or not will not affect merit review.
- If an application aiming to advance a STRA is successful, any post –award additions of participants with named roles will require completed attestation forms.
- Grantees must also inform SSHRC if the nature of their research evolves such that activities supported by the grant would aim to advance a STRA. Grant recipients cannot proceed with these new research activities until the appropriate granting agency's approval has been obtained .
- For further guidance and FAQs: <https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/safeguarding-your-research/guidelines-and-tools-implement-research-security/sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern/frequently-asked-questions-faq-policy-sensitive-technology-research-and-affiliations-concern>

Research Security – additional information

“Will the proposed research activities supported by this grant aim to advance any of the listed Sensitive Technology Research Areas?” – if “yes”, the “STRAC Attestation” section must be completed

Application - STRAC Attestation

In accordance with the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern (STRAC), if you answered "Yes" to the Sensitive Technology Research Areas question, you must complete and attach [attestations](#) from researchers with named roles in the grant application. Attestation forms must be merged into one, single PDF document.

Click on the "Instructions" button in the menu above for information outlining the content requirements for your document.

The file containing your attachments must ...

Your electronic file attachment must meet the following specifications:

- PDF format (.pdf extension); unprotected
- Maximum file size of 10 Mb
- 8 ½" x 11" (216 mm x 279 mm)

General Presentation

- Body text in a minimum 12 pt Times New Roman font
- Single-spaced, with no more than 6 lines of type per inch
- All margins set at a minimum of 3/4" (1.87 cm)

File name No file selected.

Research Security – additional information – Attestation form

The link to the attestation form is available in the IG application instructions, in the “STRAC Attestation Module” section: <https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/instructions/ig-ss/applicant-candidat-eng.aspx#STRAC-RTSAP>

Attestation for Research Aiming to Advance Sensitive Technology Research Areas

Date of attestation (yyyy-mm-dd)

Form instructions

- To certify your compliance with the Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern, complete the form below and save a read-only copy. To save the file as read-only, one option is to save the file as a PDF. Keep a copy of the completed form for your records.
- The lead applicant is responsible for collecting and merging all completed attestation forms from researchers with named roles in the grant application. The lead applicant is encouraged to use a trusted PDF merging tool provided or recommended by their institution.
- The lead applicant must then upload the single PDF file to the corresponding module in the grant management system.

PART 1 – RESEARCHER INFORMATION

Last name of researcher	First name of researcher	Primary affiliation of researcher
Email address 		
Public profile link of researcher (optional) - for the purpose of identification. 		
Any public profile can be provided, including but not limited to ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, LinkedIn, or a personal or institutional webpage.		

PART 2 – ATTESTATION

As of the date of this attestation, I [researcher named in Part 1] attest by completing this form that I have read, understood, and am compliant with the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#), which states that:

Grant applications submitted by a university or affiliated research institution to the federal granting agencies and the Canada Foundation for Innovation involving research that aims to advance a listed [Sensitive Technology Research Area \(STRA\)](#) will not be funded if any of the researchers involved in activities supported by the grant are currently affiliated with or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from any of the listed [Named Research Organizations \(NRO\)](#).

For more information, including definitions of bolded terms, see the [Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#).

I [researcher named in Part 1] understand that:

- This attestation form is required because the lead applicant, on behalf of the research team, has certified that the research supported by this grant will aim to advance a listed [Sensitive Technology Research Area \(STRA\)](#).
- By completing this form, I take responsibility for the accuracy of my attestation statement.
- All information provided in this form will be stored securely by the relevant granting agency in accordance with the [Privacy Act](#) and may be shared with Government of Canada departments and agencies at any time for the purpose of national security assessment to validate compliance with the policy.
- Should the grant be awarded, compliance with the STRAC policy as defined at the time of application will be required for the duration of the grant, in accordance with the grant's Terms & Conditions of Award.
- Following the [Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#), actions may be required if there are changes to the nature of the research or to the composition of the research team.
- Non-compliance with this policy may represent a breach of the [Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research](#).

For more information

Consult the [Tri-Agency Guidance on the STRAC Policy](#), the [STRAC Policy](#), the [STRAC Policy FAQ](#), and the [Sensitive Technology Research Areas \(STRA\)](#) and [Named Research Organizations \(NRO\)](#) lists.

Attestation statement

☐ As of the date of attestation on this form and to the best of my knowledge, I [researcher named in Part 1] attest that by checking this box, I am not affiliated with or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from any of the listed [Named Research Organizations \(NRO\)](#). I also understand that all researchers involved in the activities supported by this grant must comply with the [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#), as defined at the time of application, for the duration of the grant.

(06-2024)

PROTECTED B WHEN COMPLETED

Ce formulaire est disponible en français.

 Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada



Research Security – additional information – National Security Guidelines for Research Partnership (NSGRP) Risk Assessment



Research Security – additional information – RAF

The link to the Risk Assessment Form (RAF) is available here:

https://science.gc.ca/site/science/sites/default/files/attachments/2023/risk_assessment_form_ISED-ISDE3832E.pdf



Innovation, Science and
Economic Development Canada

Innovation, Sciences et
Développement économique Canada

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Reset

Family name of applicant:

Initial(s) of all given names of applicant:

Grant administering institution:

Introduction

The Risk Assessment Form is a tool to identify and assess potential risks that research partnerships may pose to Canada's national security as outlined in the [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#) and to develop effective mitigation measures.

In answering the Risk Assessment Form questions, you will provide information – to the best of your ability – that is specific to your proposed area of research and prospective research partner organizations. This information will be used to assess national security risks where the proposed research partnership could expose the research project to foreign interference, espionage or theft from foreign governments, militaries and other organizations, and also pose potential risks to the wider Canadian research enterprise.

For the purpose of the National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships, a partner organization is any organization that plays an active role in the project and/or supports a research partnership through cash and/or in-kind contributions. Examples of a partner organization's role may include:

- Sharing in intellectual leadership or providing expertise;
- Active participation in research activities; and/or
- Application of research results and/or active participation in translating or mobilizing the knowledge produced to help achieve the desired outcomes of the project.

National security risks may be described as, but not limited to circumstances where there are potential instances of foreign interference, espionage, intellectual property theft or unauthorized knowledge transfer that:

- contribute to the advancement of military, security, and intelligence capabilities of states or groups that pose a threat to Canada; and/or
- disrupt the development of Canadian research and innovation, weaken the resiliency of critical infrastructure, or jeopardize the protection of sensitive data of Canadians.

The information collected will not be used to substantiate if you are compliant with any legislative or regulatory requirements that may apply to your proposed research project. The collection of this information will be used to assess the overall risk profile of your research project.

Who needs to complete the Risk Assessment Form?

Anyone can use the Risk Assessment Form to conduct due diligence when establishing and/or continuing partnerships with national, international and multinational partners.

This form may be required for specified federal research funding opportunities. You should consult the appropriate program literature associated with the funding opportunity to which you are applying to determine if you are required to submit a Risk Assessment Form with your grant application.

Depending on the specific funding opportunity, the "applicant" may be an individual, on behalf of any co-applicants, or may be a post-secondary or research institution.

What resources and tools may assist you?

You are encouraged to conduct open-source research to complete the Risk Assessment Form and to consult with your partner organization(s), where appropriate, to validate the information. For more information, consult the comprehensive guide [Conducting Open Source Due Diligence for Safeguarding Research Partnerships](#).

Additional guidance and resources, including Public Safety Canada's [Safeguarding Science Workshop](#) and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service's [Threat Intelligence and Checklist](#), that may assist in the completion of this form can be located on the [Safeguarding Your Research](#) portal.

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Panelists



Paolo Frascà

Assistant Professor, Teaching
Stream, Department of Italian,
Spanish, Portuguese & Latin
American Studies



Fiorella Foscarini

Professor, iSchool



Liz Page-Gould

Professor, Psychology

Writing your proposal

- The entire application should be clear, thorough, written in accessible language
- Follow all instructions, using headings (e.g. “Detailed Description”) for sections
- Attachments: comply with formatting specs and ensure correct document and correct version is attached
- Read guidelines on [student training](#), [Knowledge Mobilization](#)
- Text boxes: use preview to ensure text is visible/legible
- Avoid typos and math errors – proof and polish!
- Have co-applicants complete CV and “Research Contributions” doc (and “Career Interruptions” doc, if applicable) as early as possible as it is time consuming
- Suggested Assessors: Maximum 3. No conflict of interest, offer direction
- Write with committee/assessors in mind: address evaluation criteria thoroughly
- Write for a multi-disciplinary committee (i.e, Academic audience/peers, but not necessarily specialists in your field)
 - Define all terms, do not assume anything is obvious

Budget

Minimum essential funding

- Committee may recommend cuts if budget is deemed insufficiently justified or not appropriate
- Budgets that the committee considers inflated may receive lower scores under the Feasibility, which can negatively impact the overall ranking:
 - at 30% may fail Feasibility
 - at 50% must fail Feasibility
- know the typical budgets in your field, unrealistically high or low budgets will lower score
- justify all costs (**HOW** and **WHY**)
- be consistent with proposal description
- budget for any one year cannot exceed **\$125,000**
- do not include ineligible expenses
 - Payments to Applicant/Co-Applicants/Collaborators
 - Remuneration & travel for guest speakers and presenters
 - Course release time to allow an individual to engage in research activities.
 - Research expenses for collaborators

Budget cont'd

3 questions that should be answered for each item in one's budget:

How much? How did you calculate this cost? Why is this expense essential?

The budget is split into two sections*:

1. Funds requested from SSHRC (i.e., the budget table)

- This section is just for the numbers (i.e., **How much?**)
- The budget for any one year cannot exceed **\$125,000**

2. Budget Justification document (max 2 pages)

- Strongly recommended to organize the budget justification by category, following the structure of the “Funds Requested from SSHRC” table.
- Show **HOW** an expense was calculated and **WHY** it's necessary for the project
 - **HOW**: Don't make the reviewers do math, indicate how the # was calculated
 - **WHY**: link justification to your methodology – account for every dollar, justifications should align with the project description and other parts of application

Budget cont'd

Applicants should consult the [Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#) (Part 2: Use of Grant Funds), particularly the [4 basic principles](#) that govern the appropriate use of grant funds, as grant expenditures must:

- contribute to the [direct costs](#) of the research/activities for which the funds will be awarded, with benefits directly attributable to the grant (so the grant-related purpose for an expense must be clear, and it should be essential to the project)
- not be provided by the administering institution to their [research personnel](#)
- be [effective and economical](#)
- not result in [personal gain](#) for members of the research team

Additionally, any institutional policies would apply (like those detailed in the [UofT Guide to Financial Management](#) (e.g., [per diem rates](#))).

Budget Tips

Budget *Do's*

- Should be reasonable and justify proposed expenditures
- Should strongly relate to research objectives and methodology in proposal
- Explain HOW amounts are calculated and WHY they are necessary
 - Follow institutional guidelines for student compensation (BO) and [per diems](#) (\$100 domestic, \$125 international)
 - Explain tasks students will do and why that level (undergraduate, Masters, PhD or postdoc) is appropriate

Students may be compensated either by stipend or hourly wage. If paid by stipend, the justification must be based on the nature of the work related to the project—please avoid using general terms like 'departmental standard' or 'going rate.' If paid hourly, ensure the total rate includes benefits and vacation pay. Note that stipends cannot be offered as small scholarships in addition to an hourly wage. For details on compensation rates, please consult your business officer.
- Budget justification should mesh with other application sections (Detailed Description, Student Training & KM plan)

Budget Tips Cont'd

Budget *Don'ts*

- Specific rules for the use of IG funds (slide under “Budget”)
- Don't include ineligible items – see the updated [Tri-Agency guide](#) and also the "[Specific rules for the use of grant funds](#)" section in the IG guidelines.
 - Only direct costs for the research being proposed - No overhead or general administrative costs
 - No alcoholic beverages
- Don't pad or inflate costs
- Avoid:
 - Math errors
 - Multiple trips to one destination without justification
 - Hiring non-students without a clear justification
 - “Premature” expenses that could be a red flag (e.g., dissemination costs in Year 1 without proper justification)

Submission Checklist

Applicant

1. Complete all mandatory fields
2. Attach all mandatory documents
3. Ensure all participants have included relevant attachments
4. Verify and preview your application
5. Click “Submit” for institutional approval
6. Institutions forward applications to SSHRC
7. Leave enough time!

Co-applicant

1. Create and verify SSHRC CV
2. Accept the invitation and upload Research Contributions (PDF).

Collaborator

1. Fill out a profile
2. Accept invitation

Timeline

Internal deadlines:

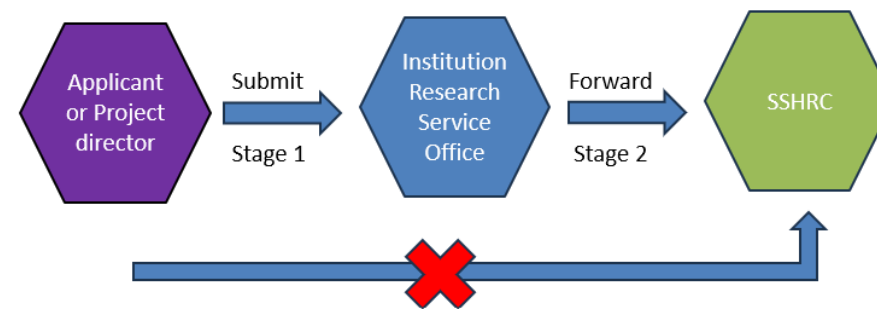
- Deadline to receive [MRA](#) by RSO – noon, Tuesday, **September 22, 2026**
 - Logon [My Research \(MR\) | EASI \(utoronto.ca\)](#)
 - Upload draft proposal, firm budget amount
 - MRA can take several days to approve – please submit early
- Deadline to submit complete application on the SSHRC portal – 9 am, Monday, **September 28, 2026**
 - Logon https://webapps.nserc.ca/SSHRC/faces/logon.jsp?lang=en_CA

Final deadline for RSO's forwarding:

- Deadline for [RSO](#) to forward your application to SSHRC, 8pm, Thursday, **October 1, 2026**
- Postdocs and PhD students can apply directly to SSHRC (don't fill the institution info) - no institutional approval until after *award*

Result out: the beginning of April 2027

Funding start date: April 2027



No deadline extensions for technical delays

If the SSHRC platform experiences website downtime that prevents you from submitting online—as occurred during the previous IG competitions—please note that SSHRC does not guarantee deadline extensions due to their technical issues.

To avoid any last-minute complications, please submit your application as early as possible.



SSHRC Resources

- SSHRC IG funding opportunity description, link to application and application instructions
http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/programs-programmes/insight_grants-subventions_savoir-eng.aspx
- Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration (TAGFA)
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/InterAgency-Interorganismes/TAFA-AFTO/guide-guide_eng.asp
- SSHRC program staff (funding opportunity questions)
insightgrants@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca or 1-855-275-2861
- Technical support for Application Form and CV
webgrant@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca or 613-995-4273

UofT Resources

Research Services Office

- Website: <https://research.utoronto.ca/funding-opportunities/db/insight-grants>
- Tip-sheet at the above website
- Research Services SSHRC team
 - Wei Ye, Research Funding Officer (wei.ye@utoronto.ca) – main RSO contact for IG

MRA

- Login: <https://easi.its.utoronto.ca/administrative-management-systems/my-research-mr/>
- Technical help and access: raise@utoronto.ca or 416-946-5000

UofT Resources

Department/Division

- Business officer (compensation, travel, supplies costs)
- Grant writing support (peer review, archived applications, internal deadlines)
- Dept/Divisional Research Facilitator (for proposal development/editorial services)

Guide to Financial Management: <http://www.finance.utoronto.ca/gtfm.htm>

- UofT travel policies and per diems

UofT Centre for Research & Innovation Support (CRIS) : <https://cris.utoronto.ca/>

- Central Research & Innovation hub (partnership between VPRI, UTL and ITS)

UofT Libraries

<https://library.utoronto.ca/use/service/open-access-agreements-apc-discounts>

- Advice on compliance with Open Access Policy, publication

<https://library.utoronto.ca/use/service/dmp-review>

- Advice on data management, DMPs

<https://utsc.library.utoronto.ca/research-publishing>

- List of UTSC Library Liaisons to assist with OA pubs and DMPs

<https://utm.library.utoronto.ca/research-scholarship-data-services/open-access>

- UTM library info for help with OA pubs and DMPs

UofT Resources

Research supports/contacts at Divisional levels

CORE:
Community for
Research Excellence

FAS: Gabrielle Sugar
Tim Nieguth
Amy Ratelle

DLSPH: Caroline Godbout

iSchool: Emina Veletanlic

FASE: Myriam Couturier **FIFSW:** Vesna Bajic

TFoM: Dawn Bannerman **LDfP:** Lia Cardarelli

UTM: Kate Steinmann **Nursing:** Beatriz Franco Arellano

UTSC: Anika Mifsud **KPE:** Kay Li

Law: Kelly Nolan **Rotman:** Joanne Pereira

Music: Ely Lyonblum **FALD:** Shirley Chan

OISE: Madeleine Taylor

KEEP CALM AND JUSTIFY EVERYTHING

***and follow the [IG application instructions](#)**

****and look at the appendix that follows**

Upcoming Events:

A poster for the Faculty Writing Accelerator 2026. The background is a purple silhouette of a person's head and shoulders, with a photograph of a group of people sitting at a long table in a meeting room. The text is white and yellow. At the top right, it says "Interested faculty should apply by August 21, 2026" and "Register now: <https://cris.utoronto.ca/programs>". The main title is "FACULTY WRITING ACCELERATOR 2026:" in large white letters, followed by "CRAFTING COMPETITIVE GRANT PROPOSALS FOR ANY DISCIPLINE" in smaller white letters. Below that, it says "Fridays, 10:00am – 12:00pm" and "October 2 to November 27, 2026". At the bottom right, there is a logo for the University of Toronto and the Centre for Research & Innovation Support.

Interested faculty should apply by August 21, 2026
Register now: <https://cris.utoronto.ca/programs>

FACULTY WRITING ACCELERATOR 2026:

CRAFTING COMPETITIVE GRANT PROPOSALS FOR ANY DISCIPLINE

Fridays, 10:00am – 12:00pm
October 2 to November 27, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Centre for Research & Innovation Support

Faculty Writing Accelerator: Crafting Competitive Grant Proposals for any Discipline

[Apply by Aug., 21, 2026](https://cris.utoronto.ca/programs)

A poster for the SharePoint for Research event. The background is a photograph of a person's hands typing on a laptop. A white rounded rectangle is overlaid on the image. The title is "SharePoint for Research: What Every Researcher Should Know" in dark green. To the right of the title is the SharePoint logo. Below the title, it says "September 29, 2026", "1:00pm - 2:00pm", and "Online" with corresponding icons. At the bottom, it says "Register now: <https://cris.utoronto.ca/events/>". At the bottom right, there is a logo for the University of Toronto and the Centre for Research & Innovation Support.

SharePoint for Research: What Every Researcher Should Know

September 29, 2026
1:00pm - 2:00pm
Online

Register now: <https://cris.utoronto.ca/events/>

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Centre for Research & Innovation Support

SharePoint for Research: What Every Researcher Should Know

[Sept 29, 2026 | 1:00pm-2:00pm](https://cris.utoronto.ca/events/)

Feedback Form

SSHRC Insight Grant: Strategies for
Success - August 18, 2026



Appendix

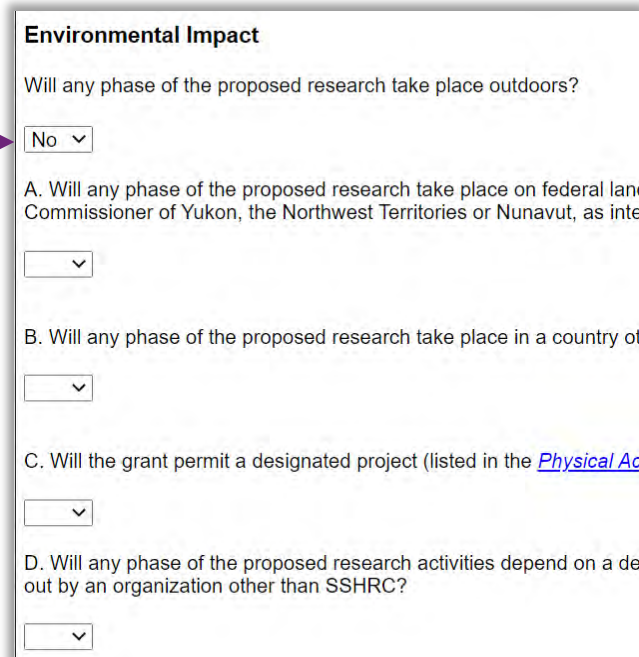
- Tips
- IDG vs IG comparison table
- Adjudication committee information and examples

A small tip

In the IG application, in the section called “Research Activity”, there is a sub-section concerning “Environmental Impact”

If you answer “No” to the first question (“Will any phase of the proposed research take place outdoors?”), then you are not required to answer questions A, B, C and D below that, so just leave them blank.

Many applicants answer “No” to the first question, but then (believing they have to answer A-D) answer “Yes” to question B (“Will any phase of the proposed research take place in a country other than Canada?”). But this is only relevant if you answer “Yes” to the first question.



Environmental Impact

Will any phase of the proposed research take place outdoors?

No ▾

A. Will any phase of the proposed research take place on federal land, land of the Crown, or land of the Commissioner of Yukon, the Northwest Territories or Nunavut, as intended?

▾

B. Will any phase of the proposed research take place in a country other than Canada?

▾

C. Will the grant permit a designated project (listed in the [Physical Access to Research](#) section)?

▾

D. Will any phase of the proposed research activities depend on a designated project (listed in the [Physical Access to Research](#) section) funded by an organization other than SSHRC?

▾

If you answer “No” to the first question, but you also choose to answer questions A-D, and you answer “Yes” to (for example) question B, then you won’t be able to submit the application until you complete and upload the Environmental Impact form (but if you answered “No” to the first question, then the form is not relevant to your proposal)

Tips from previous committee members:

- Coherence: connect goals of new or continuing projects with past/ongoing research
- Provide sufficient detail to allow informed assessment by committee members
- Be explicit as to whether or not the research is new, emerging, or a continuation
- Take time to address/define your outcomes (traditional/activities/community partnerships)
- 'Educate' the committee - persuasive in demonstrating a range of research goals and objectives
- Have your grant proposal read by colleagues who have had successful applications
- Present a challenging topic (originality)- but novelty alone not enough, why important?
- Convey and inspire confidence, and clearly establish the need for the research and funds
- Strike a balance between ambition and realism
- If you are an emerging scholar, discuss why you can do the proposed project
- Plan, organize and monitor your project well
- Methodology (specific in describing data, resources and procedures: who, what, where, how?)
- **Write the proposal for the project that you want to do, not for the kind of project that you think (or were told) has a better chance of being funded.**

Budget tips from UofT Research Administrators/Facilitators

- **Students:** SSHRC emphasizes student training and engagement throughout the life of one's project, so don't underbudget for students: but all personnel costs must be fully justified, in terms of student level (e.g., why a PhD?), activities and duration of employment, and must be directly related to the IG project being proposed – don't be vague.
- **PDF or non-student personnel:** why are they necessary? Committee may wonder if a student trainee could perform the work, so make sure the activities to be completed match the person's level/expertise/credentials (budget cuts are common when funds are requested for PDFs without airtight justification)
- **Dangers of overestimating:** don't pad or inflate costs. Are 10 RAs needed? Could the work be performed by fewer trainees? **But don't underestimate either**, as this could bring down the feasibility score as well. What is *essential* to the project, but also what is most *effective*? (but not necessarily cheapest)
- **Dissemination costs** in the 1st year of a grant, or 2-3 conference and/or research trips per year – are all of these essential? Don't over-ask on travel.
- **Travel costs for the same location multiple times:** why? Is this effective? Justify these multiple trips.
- **Major activities or purchases late in the grant:** How essential or effective is significant fieldwork or equipment costs in the final year of the project? (e.g., if funds for a laptop are requested in year 1, why is a second laptop needed in the 4th year of a 4-year grant?)

Budget tips from UofT Research Administrators/Facilitators cont'd

- **Alignment with other sections of the application:** Budget table and Budget Justification must be consistent with one another (and with the rest of the application) – strive for clarity and consistency, and don't surprise reviewers with unexpected costs in your Budget/Budget Justification that aren't aligned with the objectives of the project or the work described (e.g., a reviewer should not be surprised by funds being requested in your budget for a PhD student, or a PDF, or non-student personnel, etc., after having read through the other sections of the proposal).
- **Typical costs:** Know the kinds of costs typical in your field, as those should be emphasized (especially if your application will be reviewed by a committee made up of people in your field).
- **Ineligible items:** Don't include them! (e.g., compensation-based costs for Research Team members (Applicant, Co-Applicants, Collaborators), research expenses for collaborators, conference organization costs, overhead, etc. See slide entitled "Ineligible Expenses")
- **Try not to "ballpark" costs:** try to get real numbers (e.g., for costs associated with open access fees, dissemination and travel expenses (e.g., per diem rates), personnel costs) – how were the costs calculated and where are you quoting them from? Speak to Business Officer for rates of pay (including benefits and vacation pay).
- **Institutional rates:** when using them (e.g., per diem rates, rates of student pay (if applicable)), state that they are institutional UofT (or departmental) rates in order to give a basis for the costs.
- **Math errors:** Avoid them!

Insight Grant in brief - Committees

	Committees
435-01	Philosophy, mediaeval studies, classics, religious studies
435-02	History
435-03	Fine Arts, Research-Creation
435-04	Literature
435-07	Economics
435-08	Sociology, demography and related fields
435-09	Geography, urban planning and related fields
435-10	Psychology
435-11	Political science and public administration
435-12	Education and social work
435-13	Anthropology and archaeology
435-14	Business, management and related fields
435-16	Communications, media studies, gender studies, library and information science, related fields
435-17	Law and criminology
435-21	Indigenous Research
435-22	Multidisciplinary or Interdisciplinary Humanities
435-23	Multidisciplinary or Interdisciplinary Social Sciences
435-24	Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee

Insight Grant in brief - Committees

18 Discipline-based committees, including multidisciplinary

special committees:

- Committee 435-03: **Fine Arts, Research-Creation**
- Committee 435-21: **Indigenous research**
(Applications involving Indigenous research may undergo a more [tailored adjudication](#).)
- Committee 435-22: Multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary **humanities**
- Committee 435-23: Multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary **social sciences**
- Committee 435-24: Tri-Agency **Interdisciplinary** Peer Review Committee

IG	IDG
Potentially large-scale initiatives that are more aligned with past research contributions	Short term projects, early stage research, clearly delimited
Challenge = 40%, Feasibility = 20%, Capability = 40%	Challenge = 50%, Feasibility = 20%, Capability = 30%
2-5 years, \$10,000 - \$500,000	1-2 years, \$10,000 - \$100,000
Int'l co-applicants not allowed	Int'l co-applicants allowed
No reserved funding envelope for Emerging or Established scholars, but Stream A has higher targeted success rate.	50% of funding envelope reserved for Emerging scholars
Applications assessed by both SSHRC IG adjudication committee members and external assessors	Single-stage IDG adjudication committee review (no external assessors)
CV requirement for IG application: SSHRC CV (as part of the SSHRC application site)	CV requirement for IDG application: Canadian Common CV

Adjudication Committee

- Applicants select their **preferred adjudication committee** (choose the committee that is most appropriate based on subject/discipline) – see [here](#) for past adjudication committees
- **Multi/interdisciplinary evaluation:** if you select this, you must complete a one-page justification (explaining how your research will integrate elements (eg, theories, methodologies) from two or more disciplines)
- [Tri-Agency Interdisciplinary Peer Review Committee](#): intended for applications proposing research across disciplines/subject areas related to two or more of (1) social sciences & humanities, (2) natural sciences and engineering, and (3) health and wellness (subject matter still needs to fall under [SSHRC's mandate](#)). Will be composed of peer reviewers active in interdisciplinary research who will be recruited in response to the applications that are submitted, using its own [Evaluation Criteria](#) (select “Committee 24” and complete one-page justification)
- Indigenous Research: if your proposal falls under [SSHRC's definition](#) of Indigenous Research, then your proposal can be identified as such, and would be adjudicated under SSHRC's [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Indigenous Research](#)
- [Research-Creation](#): please see SSHRC's [definition](#) of Research Creation (an approach to research that combines creative and academic research practices, where “creation” is situated within research with a resultant creative/artistic work). If your proposal aligns with SSHRC's definition, then you can denote this (and, if appropriate, you could choose to have your proposal adjudicated by a Fine Arts-Research Creation committee).

Adjudication Committee

Past IG Literature adjudication committee – example of diverse research interests

Chair: Literary and cultural history of the long 18th century in Britain, narrative studies, gender and sexuality theory

Member 1: Victorian literature and culture, the history of media and technology, sound studies, contemporary American poetry, and Canadian poetry

Member 2: 19th century literature, Literature and Anthropology, French literature

Member 3: Old English, Middle English, Renaissance Literature, History of the Book

Member 4: AI/Robotics and literature, Modern/Postmodern novel

Member 5: 19th and 20th century French literature, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Québec and francophone literatures

Member 6: Romanticism, 18th and 19th century literature and visual culture, history of museums and collections

Adjudication Committee

Past IG Multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary social sciences adjudication committee – example of diverse research interests

Chair: language variation and change, linguistic heterogeneity, varieties of English

Member 1: social and political implications of new media, global communications, media and crime, and Arab media and politics

Member 2: attention and memory, auditory and visual perception, psychology and sport

Member 3: intellectual property, health law, and bioethics

Member 4: surveillance studies, smart cities and ubiquitous computing, urban studies, literature and film

Member 5: resilience and psychosocial stressors, family caregiving for persons with Dementia or recovering from stroke, disaster response and high risk populations

Member 6: Canadian and American foreign policy, Latin American and Caribbean politics with an emphasis on Cuba, and international relations