

Research Support Fund Program – 2024-25

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 2024-25 is \$5,014,474.

[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 2024-25 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 2020-21, 2021-2022 and 2022-23 fiscal years, and according to the 2024-25 RSF, IPG and research security funding budgets totaling \$369,403,000 and \$58,235,090, \$24,720,000 respectively.

More details about the Program can be found at http://www.rs-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 2024-25 allocation is as follows:

Facilities	\$1,624,030
Resources	\$323,962
Management & Administration	\$2,777,402
Regulatory Requirements & Accreditation	\$129,080
Intellectual Property	\$160,000
Total Research Support Fund 2024-25	\$5,014,474

Affiliation

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

Incremental Project Grant – 2024-25

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, totaling \$231.3 million over five years (\$28.75 million in 2018-19) and \$58.8 million per year after that.

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

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 2024-25 is \$536,581. 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 – 2024-25

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 2024-25 is \$268,172.

Performance Objectives 2024-25 - 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 2024-25 - IPG

Project Title	IPG Priority Area	Output (investment of IPG grant funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator
Open Research Strategic Reach and Impact Expansion 2025	Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases	\$50,000 invested to enhance research repository, data readiness, policy, procedure and workflows, to develop and design the portal	<p>Maximizing the reach and impact of TMU research and researchers</p> <p>Ensuring that research follows the best practices for openness</p> <p>Building of robust national research repositories</p> <p>Advancement of equitable inclusive and diverse research practices across all disciplines</p> <p>Centring EDI in SRC for researches, students, librarians, and the wider university and community</p> <p>Providing resources to help ensure that EDI informed SRC continues</p>	<p>Participation in national repository technical development and implementation</p> <p>Preparation of guidelines, policy and procedures for output deposit including training materials and programs</p> <p>Data preparation and migration planning readiness and testing</p> <p>Local reporting analysis and related support</p> <p>Design and development of a Dimensions portal</p> <p>Portal policy and guidelines development</p> <p>Gathering, reviewing and adding of content from</p>

			to be part of all teaching, learning and research activities	Dimensions Leads and Dimension Coordinator
Strengthen, Grow and Advance the EIR Program	Innovation and commercialization activities	\$356,581 invested to raise awareness, interest and literacy in the areas of innovation, commercialization and IP	Expand pool of EIRs through strategic sector and expertise based recruitment Increased, deepened and broadened interaction with and engagement of researchers.	Number of disclosures Number of internal and external clients Number of internal and external interactions and tangible outcomes
Implementation of tool to measure inclusion	Equity, diversity and faculty renewal	\$50,000 invested for an implementation of tool to measure inclusion	Collect and analyze qualitative data on inclusion to help better understand the challenges, opportunities and successes of our EDI-related efforts Support scholars to develop diverse and inclusive SRC teams Promote better quality SRC, including in federally funded research, through engaged and inclusive	Identification and implementation of the tool, with protocols for use by researchers and teams

<p>Research Integrity – Outreach, Awareness and Education</p>	<p>Information resources, including digital resources, open access and databases</p>	<p>\$80,000 invested for research integrity</p>	<p>Enhanced engagement and continued institutionalization of strong research integrity practices across the university through a continued comprehensive evaluation exercise resulting in updates to educational resources, the delivery of an inaugural research integrity day and policy implementation infrastructure</p>	<p>Strong engagement with review process by faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows of the online training module</p> <p>Key takeaways and revisions of the online training module</p> <p>Key takeaways for additional research integrity resources</p> <p>Strong attendance and engagement at the inaugural research integrity day</p> <p>Implementation and appropriate use of the submission form for allegations of a breach of research integrity, which meets the standards of Policy 118</p>
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Performance Objectives 2024-25 – Research Security

Project Title	Output (investment of research security funds)	Performance Objective	Performance Indicator	Target Outcome
Enhance Research Security – Planning and Implementation	\$268,172 invested in hiring research security staff and research security training for staff, faculty and others	<p>Develop and implement a research security strategy for TMU that includes appropriate organizational framework, infrastructure and supports</p> <p>Engage with all levels of the University and Faculties to strengthen risk management and research security by examining, advocating and advancing research security matters in SRC activities, internationalization, and commercialization at the University</p> <p>Engage with provincial and federal governments, granting agencies and other research security stakeholders to share best practices and ensure</p>	<p>Development of plan to incorporate research security into TMU’s existing enterprise risk management framework</p> <p>Development of research security organizational framework and infrastructure that aligns with and enhances TMU’s enterprise risk management framework</p> <p>Creation and delivery of training workshops, research security briefings / guidance issued / tools</p> <p>Number of <i>National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships</i> Risk Assessment Forms (or comparable documents) completed</p>	<p>TMU SRC enterprise and broader community is well informed of new funding requirements and the drivers behind them (basic threat landscape and risk awareness)</p> <p>Faculties and researchers are well equipped to understand and identify research security risks (including cyber) and develop appropriate mitigation strategies</p> <p>Due diligence is applied consistently for all government grant applications before submission</p> <p>Staff is trained and supported on how to conduct due diligence and draft mitigation plans</p> <p>Researchers are supported with risk identification and mitigation and overall funding success rate is improved</p>

		<p>compliance and alignment of research security related policies, programs and procedures</p>	<p>Number of successful grant applications subject to new research security requirements</p> <p>Number of tailored consultations and advice provided to faculties and researchers</p> <p>Development and implementation of risk-based due diligence reviews for partnerships and grant applications</p> <p>Active participation and contribution to national and international research security conferences</p> <p>Leadership role in both the regional and national research security community of practice</p>	<p>Improved efficiency and accuracy of due diligence with the appropriate use of the tools</p> <p>The TMU SRC enterprise and broader community is supported through accessible, user friendly online resources</p> <p>Research Security Risks are recognized as one of the top emerging institutional wide risks</p> <p>A research security governance framework is established with appropriate policies and guidance</p> <p>TMU SRC Enterprise and broader community are empowered to conduct research in a trusted environment</p> <p>TMU's reputation is protected by not engaging with high risk entities and institutions</p> <p>TMU's positive security posture attracts talents and is trusted by the broader research ecosystem and their stakeholders</p> <p>Long term resilience is strengthened</p>
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