

# Reimagining the Internal Research Grants

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Information/Overview

September 2022



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG

# Background

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This document provides an overview of the proposal to reimagine the internal research grants at UWinnipeg. Researchers are encouraged to fill out the survey via the link below, and/or attend one of two virtual Town Hall Meetings on either October 31 or November 4. More information is below.

The changes are organized into 5 main areas:

- Available grants
- Grant distribution and competitiveness
- Grant review process
- Eligibility expansion
- Student research grant availability

Survey: [https://uwinnipeg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_a3mVwsENZQp6NEi](https://uwinnipeg.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_a3mVwsENZQp6NEi)

Town Halls: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/research-events-and-workshops/2022/10/town-hall-1-reimagining-the-internal-research-grants.html>

# Current State: Concerns Raised by Faculty

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- Current applications are too much work for too little money for both researchers and departments.
- Researchers don't have the flexibility to make changes to their grant budget if they need to shift the expenses on a specific project.
- The intake schedule doesn't work for travel grants and it is not clear when other grants are available.
- There is no mechanism to fund emergency/unexpected funding requests that are time sensitive and of a smaller value.
- Postdoctoral Fellows and Senior Research Associates do not have access to any internal research funds.
- The evaluation criteria are not clearly set out for the adjudication committee and a more thorough rubric needs to be developed to guide which research projects should be prioritize. The adjudication committee needs to be expanded to allow for more cross-faculty representation.
- There are not enough internal research grant opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student researchers.

## Current funds and grants available:

Grant	Amount	Intake Date(s)
Major Research Grant	\$7,500	June / Jan.
Discretionary Grant	\$1,000	June / Sept. / Jan. / Mar.
Research Workshop & Conference Grant	\$2,000	June / Sept. / Jan.
Partnership Development Grant	\$1,500	June / Sept. / Jan.
Travel Grant	\$1,250 / \$1,500 / \$2,000	Sept. / Mar.
Distinguished Travel Grant	\$2,000	Sept. / Mar.
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	\$6,000	Sept.
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	\$7,000	Jan.
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	Dependent on CRA	June / Sept. / Jan.

## Proposed funds and grants available:

Grant	Amount	Intake Date(s)
Major Research Grant (MRG)	\$9,000	June / Jan.
Rapid Response Grant (RRG)	\$1,000	Rolling deadline
Standard Research Grant (SRG)	\$3,000	June / Sept. / Jan. / Mar.
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	\$6,000	Sept.
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	\$7,000	Mar.
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	Dependent on CRA	June / Sept. / Jan. / Mar.

- This would mean there would be travel/research funds available every intake, more funds available in one application, and 1 larger grant to adjudicate each intake by the committee.

# Proposed Changes

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- Standard Research Grant (SRG)
  - New, combination of Partnership Development Grant, Research Workshop and Conference Grant, Distinguished Faculty Travel Grant, Travel Grant
  - For partnership activities, conference and workshop support (virtual/on campus), travel for research purposes, travel/registration for conferences, publishing costs, etc.
  - Researchers can apply for any of the above purposes in 1 grant, so they will need to be strategic in what they request funds for based on their research needs/activities in a given year.
  - This will also allow for flexibility in spending, especially as researchers need to pivot their projects.
  - Researchers can hold two SRGs annually.
- Rapid Response Grant
  - Adjudicated by the VPRI on a rolling basis
  - Intended to respond to an immediate need for research-related funds, funds for unexpected or last minute research needs
  - Eligible expenses will remain the same as the current Discretionary Grant

## Current grant distribution and success rate/competitiveness:

Grant	% of Annual RO Funds	Approx. # of Awards Annually
Major Research Grant	43%	15
Discretionary Grant	16%	40
Research Workshop & Conference Grant	13%	15
Partnership Development Grant	8%	15
Travel Grant	18%	30
Distinguished Travel Grant	2%	5
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	Separate Fund	2-3, dependent on funds available
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	Separate Fund	5-10, dependent on funds available
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	No allocation	Dependent on researcher need

<b>% of Successful Applications</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>
Major Research Grant	65%	70%	79%	93%	78%
Discretionary Grant	98%	100%	97%	98%	98%
Research Workshop & Conference Grant	91%	92%	100%	100%	100%
Partnership Development Grant	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Travel Grant	88%	86%	73%	N/A	100%
Distinguished Travel Grant	50%	50%	N/A	N/A	100%
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	50%	33%	43%	50%	60%
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Please note: the COVID-19 Pandemic skewed the success rates from 2020-2022, as more funds opened up due to a lack of travel grants in 2020-21 to allow for a higher success rates in the MRG, and low application numbers in travel in 2021-22 led to there being enough funds to award all applications.



# Proposed grant distribution and competitiveness:

While increasing the amount available for the MRG and SRG would allow researchers to apply for more funds in a single grant, it would make both grants more competitive with fewer grants given out overall (since the total amount of funding available is not currently increasing).

Grant	% of Annual RO Funds	Approx. # of Awards Annually
Major Research Grant (MRG)	43%	12
Standard Research Grant (SRG)	42%	35
Rapid Response Grant (RRG)	15%	40
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	Separate Fund	2-3, dependent on funds available
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	Separate Fund	5-10, dependent on funds available
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	No allocation	Dependent on researcher need

## Current review process:

Grant	Reviewed by...
Major Research Grant	Full Committee, DRC Chair, Department Chair
Discretionary Grant	1 Member of the Committee
Research Workshop & Conference Grant	2 Members of the Committee
Partnership Development Grant	2 Members of the Committee
Travel Grant	Full Committee, DRC Chair, Department Chair
Distinguished Travel Grant	Full Committee, DRC Chair, Department Chair
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	2 Faculty Members + 1 Community Rep, all appointed by VPRI
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	2 Members of the Committee
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	Committee Chair

## Proposed review process:

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With the potential shift of the Research Committee into a sub-committee of the Senate Research Policy Committee, there is currently a proposal to Senate to expand the newly proposed Research Adjudication Committee (RAC) to 15 members to ensure more expertise in reviewing grants across faculties and better distribution of grant-reviewing workloads.

For the MRG and SRG, there is also the proposal to request review at the department level only by the Chair of the Department Research Committee, rather than by both the Department Research Committee Chair and Department Chair.

See the next slide for the overview.

## Proposed review process:

Grant	Evaluation
Major Research Grant (MRG)	3-5 Members of the new Research Adjudication Committee (RAC) + Department Research Committee Evaluation
Rapid Response Grant (RRG)	Evaluated by the VPRI and Research Office
Supplementary Research Grant (SRG)	3-5 Members of the RAC + Department Research Committee Evaluation
Knowledge Mobilization and Community Impact Grant	3-5 Members of the RAC + Community Rep
SSHRC Explore/Exchange	3-5 Members of the RAC
Research Grant in Lieu of Salary	Dependent on CRA, reviewed by the Chair of the RAC

# Current eligibility:

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Funding is currently offered in support of research by University of Winnipeg Faculty Association (UWFA) Members who are Regular Academic Staff (RAS), as defined by the UWFA Collective Agreement, including the following: Faculty/Counselor members

- Librarian members; and
- Instructor or Coach members.

There are some special cases for eligibility which may include:

- UWFA Members who do not have a contractual research obligation;
- Tenured Faculty without a research obligation in their contract;
- Part-time teaching Faculty appointed on a continuing basis;
- Faculty with shared appointments with the University of Manitoba (minimum 50% appointment at UWinnipeg); and
- Others on a case-by-case basis, as decided by the Research Committee.

## Proposed eligibility would expand to include:

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- Postdoctoral Fellows (individuals in training who have completed a doctoral degree within the last 5 years and are engaged in research and training at the University under the supervision of a faculty member; not unionized; may teach courses)
- Senior Research Associates (individuals who have completed a doctoral degree or have equivalent qualifications and experience who are involved in setting research program objectives, and may be responsible for managing a research team and project funds under the supervision of a faculty member; unionized under PSAC; considered staff and do not usually teach courses)

# Current student research grants

Grant	Amount	Intake Date(s)
Undergraduate Student Research Award – Humanities and Social Sciences	\$5,000	March
Undergrad Student Research Travel Grant	\$750	March

- USRA-HSS currently has no requirement for matching funds (different than the NSERC USRAs)
- Student funds are drawn from a separate internal fund that is made up of internal recoveries (separate funds from researcher grants)
- Usually give out 2-4 USRA-HSS grants and 3-5 USRTGs annually
- All student grants are currently reviewed by the full Research Committee
- Funds available to undergraduate students in good standing; graduate students apply for grants through grad studies

# Proposed student research grants

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The research funds available to students would expand to include an Undergraduate Student Research Award for international students, a Graduate Student Research Award) in all disciplines, and an award for undergraduates and graduate students who do research in Northern and remote locations (rather than just Northern locations, which was the case with the NSTP).

The award amounts would also be increased to bring them in line with other internal student awards such as the NSERC USRA.

See the next slide for the overview.



# Proposed student research grants

Grant	Amount	Intake Date(s)
Undergraduate Student Research Award – Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)	\$6,000 + \$2,500 from Researcher	March 15
Undergraduate Student Research Award – International, HSS/Science	\$6,000 + \$2,500 from Researcher	March 15
Graduate Student Research Award – All Disciplines	\$6,000 + \$2,500 from Researcher	March 15
Remote Research Student Fund (RRSF)	\$4,000	January 15
Undergrad Student Research Travel Grant	\$750	September 15 / March 15

- Adjudicated by a separate student-funding committee/subcommittee of RAC
- Matching funds from researchers would bring these internal USRAs in line with the NSERC USRAs
- New internal RRSF to replace the Northern Studies Training Program and available to undergrads and grad students
- Number of each available would be dependent on the funds available in student fund