

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

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Insight Development Grants

February 2017 Competition

Overview	
Value	\$7,000 up to \$75,000
Duration	1 to 2 years
Application deadline * (8 p.m. eastern)	February 3, 2017 (Closed)
Results announced	June 2017
Apply	CCV , CCV instructions , and application form

* **Note:** If a deadline falls on a weekend or a Canadian public holiday, the online application system will remain open until 8 p.m. (eastern time) on the next business day.

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Description

Insight Development Grants proposals are expected to respond to the objectives put forward in the call for proposals for the [Insight](#) program. The objectives of the Insight program are to:

- build knowledge and understanding from disciplinary, interdisciplinary and/or cross-sector perspectives through support for the best researchers;
- support new approaches to research on complex and important topics, including those that transcend the capacity of any one scholar, institution or discipline;
- provide a high-quality research training experience for students;
- fund research expertise that relates to societal challenges and opportunities; and
- 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.

Insight Development Grants support research in its initial stages. The grants enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas. Funding is provided for short-term research development projects, of up to two years, proposed by individuals or teams.

Insight Development Grants foster research in its early stages, but are not intended to support large-scale initiatives. Long-term support for research is offered through SSHRC's [Insight Grants](#).

Proposed projects may involve, but are not limited to, the following types of research activities:

- case studies;
- pilot initiatives; and
- critical analyses of existing research.

Projects may also involve national and international research collaboration, and the exploration of new ways of producing, structuring and mobilizing knowledge within and across disciplines and sectors.

SSHRC welcomes applications involving [Aboriginal research](#), as well as those involving [research-creation](#).

Within the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity, funding is available for two distinct categories of scholars: [emerging scholars](#) and [established scholars](#).

Emerging scholars: This funding supports high-quality research projects by [emerging scholars](#) to develop new research questions and/or approaches. Such projects may build on and further the applicant's (or team's) graduate work and/or represent a continuation of their overall research trajectory.

Established scholars: Funding for [established scholars](#) provides support to explore new research questions and/or approaches that are distinct from the applicant's previous/ongoing research. Research projects should be clearly delimited and in the early stages of the research process. Insight Development Grant funding is not intended to support ongoing research for established scholars.

Related opportunities

SSHRC and its partner organizations offer several initiatives that complement the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity. Please consult [SSHRC's Funding page](#) to learn more about specific joint initiatives.

Future Challenge Areas

SSHRC invites all applicants to review [Imagining Canada's Future's](#) six [future challenge areas and subquestions](#), and to consider addressing one or more of these areas in their research proposal. While this is not an evaluation criterion for merit review, research that addresses one or more of the future challenge areas further positions the value of the social sciences and humanities to meet Canada's future, long-term societal challenges and opportunities.

SSHRC monitors research capacity in these areas, and develops and implements strategies and knowledge mobilization activities, including a series of [Knowledge Synthesis Grants](#) funding opportunities, to enhance the contribution of humanities and social sciences across the six challenge areas.

Value and Duration

The maximum value of an Insight Development Grant is \$75,000 over one to two years. A minimum budget of \$7,000 in at least one of the years is required.

For the current competition, at least 50 per cent of funds will be reserved for applications from emerging scholars.

Eligibility

Subject Matter

Most SSHRC funding is awarded through open competitions.

Proposals may involve any disciplines, thematic areas, approaches or subject areas eligible for SSHRC funding. Please see [Subject Matter Eligibility](#) for more information.

Projects whose primary objective is curriculum development, organization of a conference or workshop, digitization of a collection, or the creation of a database are not eligible for funding.

An application will be **declared ineligible** if it is determined that more than 30 per cent of the requested budget has been allocated to ineligible expenses.

Applicants

Insight Development Grant applications may be submitted by an individual researcher or by a team of researchers (consisting of one [applicant](#) and one or more [co-applicants](#) and/or [collaborators](#)). All team members must meet the eligibility criteria specific to their category (see below).

Applicants should consult SSHRC's definition of [emerging scholar](#) to determine eligibility to apply as such.

Applicants (except postdoctoral researchers and PhD students) must be affiliated with an [eligible Canadian postsecondary institution](#) at the time of application. If the Canadian postsecondary institution with which they are affiliated is not a [SSHRC eligible institution](#), the institution must meet the requirements to administer grants and awards, as outlined in the [Institutional Eligibility Requirements for the Administration of Grants and Awards](#), and must [contact SSHRC](#) at least five business days prior to the application deadline to begin the eligibility process. Applicants successful in the Insight Development Grants competition must be affiliated with an eligible institution 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 within the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity.

Applicants (or project directors, where applicable) who have received a SSHRC grant of any type but have failed to submit a [final research report](#) or final activity 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.

Postdoctoral researchers are eligible to be applicants for an Insight Development Grant. However, in order for SSHRC to release grant funds, successful applicants must formally establish an affiliation with an [eligible Canadian postsecondary institution](#) within three months of the grant start date (i.e., by September 2017 for the current competition), and maintain such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period.

Co-applicants

Researchers whose primary affiliation is with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution or with a non-Canadian postsecondary institution are eligible to participate as co-applicants. In the case of international co-applicants, the rationale for international collaboration must be clearly outlined in the application.

Collaborators

Any individual who will make a significant contribution to the project is eligible to be a [collaborator](#). Collaborators do not need to be affiliated with an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution.

Students

Students enrolled in a program of study are not eligible to apply for an Insight Development Grant. However, a PhD candidate is eligible to apply if he or she:

- will have met all requirements for the PhD before the grant is awarded (i.e., before June 1, 2017, for the current competition), including all course work and successful defense of their dissertation;
- establishes a formal affiliation with an [eligible Canadian postsecondary institution](#) within three months of the grant start date (i.e., by September 2017 for the current competition); and
- maintains such an affiliation for the duration of the grant period.

Multiple Applications

Researchers may not apply, **as applicant**, for an Insight Development Grant and an Insight Grant within the same calendar year. For instance, a researcher who applies for an Insight Development Grant in February 2017 may not apply for an Insight Grant in October 2017, whether successful in the competition or not. However, a researcher who applied for an Insight Grant in October 2016 may apply for an Insight Development Grant in February 2017, provided that the objectives of the research are significantly different.

Researchers may apply for and hold, **as applicant**, only one Insight Development Grant at a time.

Please refer to SSHRC's [regulations regarding multiple applications](#) for more information.

There is no limit to the number of SSHRC applications on which a researcher may be listed as a co-applicant or collaborator.

Institutions

Grant funds may only be administered by an eligible Canadian postsecondary institution. Institutions proposing to administer any grant awarded under this funding opportunity must hold or obtain [institutional eligibility](#).

Monitoring

Insight Development Grant holders will be expected to report on the [use of grant funds](#), on research and related activities undertaken during the period of the grant, and on outcomes. Successful applicants will be informed of reporting requirements upon receiving their Notice of Award.

Application Process

Applicants must complete the [application form](#) in accordance with the accompanying instructions. Applications must be submitted electronically by an authorized research grants officer, or equivalent, from the applicant's institution.

Eligible PhD students and postdoctoral researchers may submit their applications directly to SSHRC.

Note: Applicants will be required to complete the [Canadian Common CV](#) as part of their application to this funding opportunity. Applicants are encouraged to begin work on their CV early.

Evaluation and Adjudication

Insight Development Grant applications are adjudicated, and available funds are awarded, through a competitive process. SSHRC is committed to ensuring high-quality adjudication of all proposals, in particular by ensuring an appropriate mix of skills and expertise on merit review committees.

For general information on SSHRC's adjudication process, see [Merit Review](#).

Insight Development Grant applications are evaluated through a single-stage committee review process that does not involve external assessments.

The adjudication committees include national and international scholars from the research community and may include experts from other sectors as needed. Participants in the review process, if not in a conflict of interest with the applicant or any team members, are asked to evaluate the proposal based on the evaluation criteria below.

SSHRC makes funding decisions based on the recommendations of the adjudication committees and on the funds available. Committee discussions will be guided by the principle of minimum essential funding.

Research Groups

Insight Development Grants are adjudicated by academic and/or other experts drawn from, but not limited to, the following research fields:

Group 1: History; medieval studies; classics; literature; fine arts; philosophy; religious studies; and related fields.

Group 2: Anthropology; archaeology; linguistics; translation; political science; public administration; geography; urban planning and environmental studies; and related fields.

Group 3: Business and management; economics; and related fields.

Group 4: Sociology; demography; law; criminology; communication studies; journalism; media studies; gender studies; cultural studies; library and information science; and related fields.

Group 5: Education; [psychology](#); career guidance; social work; and related fields.

In the application form, applicants will be asked to indicate which of the five groups they consider most appropriate for their proposal, and to select a

primary discipline and area of research from a detailed list available on the application form.

Merit Review and Committee Structure

SSHRC will create four types of committees:

- discipline-based;
- groups of disciplines;
- multidisciplinary (one humanities-focused and one social sciences-focused); and
- thematic (Aboriginal research).

SSHRC may create discipline-based committees where the volume of applications received demands. Where it does not, SSHRC will form committees based on groups of disciplines. In addition, SSHRC will also establish thematic and multidisciplinary committees if warranted by the volume of applications.

The **research group and primary discipline** indicated in an application **will be the main information** used to determine the application's committee assignment. Applicants who have indicated they would prefer a multidisciplinary review should also indicate secondary and tertiary disciplines and areas of research relating to their proposal, and include a rationale. SSHRC will use the research group and primary discipline indicated by the applicant, as well as the applicant's rationale, to determine whether the application should be reviewed by the humanities-focused or the social sciences-focused multidisciplinary committee. Relevant expertise to review the proposal may also be sought from within the larger pool of Insight Development Grants committee membership.

Applicants will also be asked to identify whether their proposal involves research-creation or Aboriginal research. SSHRC strongly encourages applicants to consult its definitions of [research-creation](#) and [Aboriginal research](#) before deciding whether to identify their application as such.

Research-creation applications will be reviewed by SSHRC staff to ensure consistency with SSHRC's definition of research-creation, and to determine whether the application is best suited to the fine arts and research-creation committee or best directed to the most appropriate committee available based on the applicant's selected research group and discipline.

Aboriginal research applications will be reviewed by SSHRC staff to ensure consistency with SSHRC's definition of Aboriginal research, and to determine whether the application is best suited to a multidisciplinary Aboriginal research committee dedicated exclusively to Aboriginal research, or best directed to the most appropriate committee available based on the applicant's selected research group and discipline.

SSHRC's [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#) are relevant for researchers (applicants and project directors) and students preparing SSHRC applications related to [Aboriginal research](#). SSHRC provides these guidelines to merit reviewers to help build general understanding of Aboriginal research and research-related activities, and to assist committee members in interpreting SSHRC's specific Challenge, Feasibility and Capability evaluation criteria in the context of Aboriginal research. SSHRC relies on a community of merit reviewers with experience and expertise in Aboriginal research to judge the extent to which the guidelines may be applied to a particular research proposal. The guidelines may also be of use to external assessors, postsecondary institutions and partner organizations that support Aboriginal research.

Note: SSHRC will make efforts to accommodate applicant preferences. However, SSHRC reserves the right to determine an application's review process and committee assignment. SSHRC does not accept appeals based on the composition of an adjudication committee, which also includes the assignment of applications to a particular committee.

Applicants may [contact SSHRC](#) to discuss group selection.

Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

The following criteria and scoring scheme are used to evaluate Insight Development Grant applications:

1. Challenge—The aim and importance of the endeavour (50%):

- originality, significance and expected contribution to knowledge;
- appropriateness of the literature review;
- appropriateness of the theoretical approach or framework;
- appropriateness of the methods/approach;
- [quality of training and mentoring](#) to be provided to students, emerging scholars and other highly qualified personnel, and opportunities for them to contribute; and
- potential for the project results to have influence and impact within and/or beyond the social sciences and humanities research community.

2. Feasibility—The plan to achieve excellence (20%):

- probability that the objectives will be met within the timeline proposed;
- appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of proposed costs;
- indications of financial and in-kind contributions from other sources, where appropriate;
- quality and appropriateness of knowledge mobilization plans, including for effective dissemination, exchange and engagement with

- stakeholders within and/or beyond the research community where applicable; and
- appropriateness of the strategies for conducting the activity/activities proposed.

3. Capability—The expertise to succeed (30%):

- quality, quantity and significance of past experience and published and/or creative outputs of the applicant and any co-applicants, relative to their roles in the project and their respective stages of career;
- evidence of other knowledge mobilization activities (e.g., films, performances, commissioned reports, knowledge syntheses, experience in collaboration / other interactions with stakeholders, contributions to public debate and media), and of impacts on professional practice, social services and policies, etc.;
- evidence of contributions to the [development of talent](#); and
- potential of the applicant/co-applicant to make future contributions.

Note: Adjudicators will only consider information regarding the **last six years** of research contributions. Any career interruptions indicated will be taken into consideration.

Scoring table

Adjudication committee members assign a rating for each of the three criteria listed above, based on the following table. The descriptors are as follows:

Excellent
Very good
Good
Satisfactory
Moderate
Unsatisfactory

Communication of Results

Research offices will be informed of the competition results pertaining to their applicants by way of SSHRC's secure site. All applicants will receive, in addition to SSHRC's notice of decision, a summary of the adjudication committee's evaluation of their proposal, where applicable.

Regulations, Policies and Related Information

All applicants and grant holders must comply with the [Regulations Governing Grant Applications](#) and with the regulations set out in the [Tri-Agency Financial Administration Guide](#).

Grant holders must also comply with the [Tri-Agency Open Access Policy on Publications](#). See SSHRC's Open Access overview for more information. SSHRC also encourages researchers to manage data arising from their research, in accordance with both community standards and best practices.

Guidelines and related support material

All applicants for SSHRC funding should consult the following guidelines while preparing their applications:

- For guidance on connecting with research users to create impact, see SSHRC's definition of [knowledge mobilization](#) and [Guidelines for Effective Knowledge Mobilization](#).
- Applicants should consult the [Guidelines for Effective Research Training](#). These guidelines may also be useful to reviewers and postsecondary institutions.
- SSHRC, in alignment with its [Aboriginal Research Statement of Principles](#), welcomes applications involving [Aboriginal research](#). It also provides [Guidelines for the Merit Review of Aboriginal Research](#).
- For information on preparing applications involving research-creation, see SSHRC's [Resource Centre](#).
- For descriptions of SSHRC terms, see [Definitions of Terms](#).

Contact Information

For more information about the Insight Development Grants funding opportunity, please contact:

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Program officer contact list

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For **more information** on the Insight Development Grants application forms and process, please read the [Research Portal FAQs](#) and [Canadian Common CV FAQs](#).

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