
Prepared by Gareth Corry, Research Partner (College of Health Sciences) on October 18, 2024

Important deadlines:

CIHR registration: February 5, 2025
RAS/internal administrative review: February 21, 2025
CIHR application: March 5, 2025

CIHR Project Grant: Basic Information

Mandate: As per CIHR's [website](#), "The Project Grant program is designed to capture ideas with the greatest potential to advance health-related fundamental or applied knowledge, health research, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes. It supports research projects proposed and conducted by individual researchers or groups of researchers in all areas of health."

Award value: No minimum or maximum. The average value of UofA Project Grants in the Spring 2024 competition was \$815,024/award.¹

Award length: Up to 5 years

Applicant eligibility: The [Nominated Principal Applicant](#) (NPA) must be an [independent researcher](#) or [knowledge user](#) affiliated with a Canadian post-secondary institution and whose academic/research appointment must commence by the effective date of funding. The NPA must also be eligible as per the UofA's [Eligibility to Apply for and Hold Research Funding Policy](#).

Content: Project Grants include the following components:

- Summary of the research project
- Detailed description of the project, including feasibility and methods
- Supporting publications
- Budget
- Canadian Common CV
- Most significant contributions
- Response to previous reviewers' feedback (if the application is a resubmission)

Application review: Project Grants are assessed by a peer review committee. Reviewers rank the application on a scale of 0-4.9. Applications are adjudicated based on two criteria: **Concept** (significance and impact of the research) and **Feasibility** (approaches and methods; expertise, experience, and resources). Click [here](#) for a quick reference guide to the evaluation criteria. More information about the peer review process can be found [here](#).

How to Apply

Typically, Project Grant competitions are held every Spring (March) and Fall (September). Each competition has two phases: registration and full application. Proposals are not evaluated at the registration phase; the intent during this phase is to gather information about peer review committees selected so that CIHR can coordinate reviews after full applications are submitted.

1. REGISTRATION PHASE: [Institutional review and approval is NOT required at this stage](#)

¹ Note that final funding amounts follow a 23.5% across-the-board cut to funded budgets by CIHR. As such, it is recommended that applicants account for this cut when developing their budgets.

**A Registration must be submitted to be eligible to submit a full application.

CIHR registration deadline: February 5, 2025 6:00 pm (Edmonton time)

Please review the [CIHR Project Grant Reference guide - Registration](#) for detailed information on completing the registration. Full registration instructions can be found [here](#).

IMPORTANT: In the registration stage, you will select up to two [peer review committees](#) that are best suited to reviewing your application. Note that you cannot change your selected committees between registration and application. If you are unsure about which committee is most appropriate, you may wish to contact UofA researchers who have recently served on that committee to ask for advice; a list of UofA researchers who have been members of the committees in the past three years can be found [here](#).

2. FULL APPLICATION PHASE Institutional review and approval IS required at this stage

IMPORTANT: Research Administrative Services (RAS) internal review deadline: February 21, 2025 4:30 pm (Edmonton time)

Applicants must submit the complete PDF of the application via [Researcher Home Page](#) (RHP) by the above deadline in order to receive a full administrative review by the RAS application review team. Applicants are encouraged to submit the project in RHP a few days in advance of this deadline so that department and Faculty approvals can be obtained before the application reaches RAS. Applicants should confirm any departmental and/or Faculty deadlines prior to submitting in RHP.

More information about institutional approval for grant applications can be found [here](#).

CIHR application deadline: March 5, 2025 6:00 pm (Edmonton time)

****RAS will be submitting the application to CIHR via ResearchNet on your behalf. Therefore, you must submit the final version of your application in ResearchNet by 10:00 am on March 4 so that RAS can confirm that the application package is complete with no outstanding issues.**

Please review the [CIHR Project Grant Reference guide - Application](#) for detailed information on completing the application. Full application instructions can be found [here](#). A reference guide to the Project Grant evaluation criteria can be found [here](#).

***NEW* Research Security Requirements applicable to CIHR applications**

The [National Security Guidelines for Research Partnerships](#) will be applied to the Project Grant competition in Fall 2024. This means that a [Risk Assessment Form](#) must be submitted with an application where there is a private sector, industry association, or producer group partner. Completion of this form is an integral part of the application; support is available through the UofA **Safeguarding Research Office** (SRO). If you have a private sector partner and require a RAF, your draft RAF should be submitted to the SRO by **Friday, February 14, 2025** to allow time for institutional review and approval. Please reach out to safegrd@ualberta.ca to find out more.

The [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern](#) also applies to all CIHR grant programs launched on or after May 1, 2024, except for those focused solely on knowledge mobilization or individual awards. These requirements will not apply retroactively to previously funded grants. These measures *do not apply* to any awards competitions.

Please reach out to the SRO with any questions on these new requirements. The SRO is responsible for the review and approval process for Risk Assessment Forms. You can find more information via the [SRO website](#) or by emailing safegr@ualberta.ca.

Summary of Resources

**Note that additional resources may be in place prior to the competition.

- Research Partner Network contact for CIHR programs: Gareth Corry (gcorry@ualberta.ca)
- Previous information sessions:
 - From January 2024: **"Integrating sex and gender and EDI in health research"** [Recording](#) and [slideshow](#)
 - From May 2024: **Tips and advice on writing a CIHR Project Grant application** [Recording](#) and [slideshow](#)
 - From June 2024: **Ask the Experts: Perspectives on Health Services Research at CIHR** [Recording](#)
 - From June 2024: **Choosing a Peer Review Committee for your CIHR Project Grant application** [Recording](#) and [slideshow](#)
- UofA Resources:
 - [UofA RAS Project Grant web page](#)
 - [CIHR successful grant library – Project Grants](#)
 - [UofA CIHR peer review committee members \(2021-2023\)](#)
 - [CIHR Project Grants awarded to UofA applicants \(last 5 years\)](#)
 - [FAQ: Completing and submitting your CIHR Project Grant](#)
 - [Checklist: Project Grant submission for internal administrative review](#)
 - [CIHR Project Grant patient-oriented research \(CIHR Pillars 2-4\) supplemental guide](#)
- CIHR Resources:
 - [What is Health Research?](#)
 - [The Art of Writing a CIHR Application](#)
 - [The Top Eight Things to Do to Write Great Grants](#)
 - [How to integrate sex and gender in research](#)
 - [Acceptable application formats and PDF attachments](#)
 - [Biosketch Quick Reference Guide](#)
 - [And more!](#)
- Government of Canada: [Selecting the most appropriate funding agency](#)
- Check with your Faculty, Department, or Institute for any other resources they might be providing.